

Stop Out Survey Report 2014

September 24, 2014

Survey Results

Prepared by: Office of Assessment

About the Stop Out Survey:

Every summer, the Office of Assessment at North Carolina State University (NCSU) e-mails a survey to students who were enrolled at NCSU during the previous school year, but did not re-enroll for the following academic semester. Students leave college for a variety of reasons, and the Stop Out Survey seeks to gain a better understanding of why our students decide to dis-enroll.

The following is a summary of the results of that survey. The questions provided students with a list of reasons they may have decided to leave; students were asked to rank the effect of each particular reason on their decision to dis-enroll. They were also provided space to share reasons that may have not been on the list provided. Students were asked to name any office or person on campus who they reached out to for assistance with their decision. A few other factors were addressed as well, including employment status while at NCSU, future plans to continue their postsecondary education, and their overall experience while enrolled.

The response rate was 7.66 percent (N=82). The demographic characteristics of students who responded were not significantly different from the overall demographic characteristics of the student population at NCSU.

Participants (N=82):

The demographics of the participants are not significantly different from the demographics across the institution.

Figure 1. Gender of 2014 Stop Out Participants, Stop Out Population, and NCSU Undergraduate Population

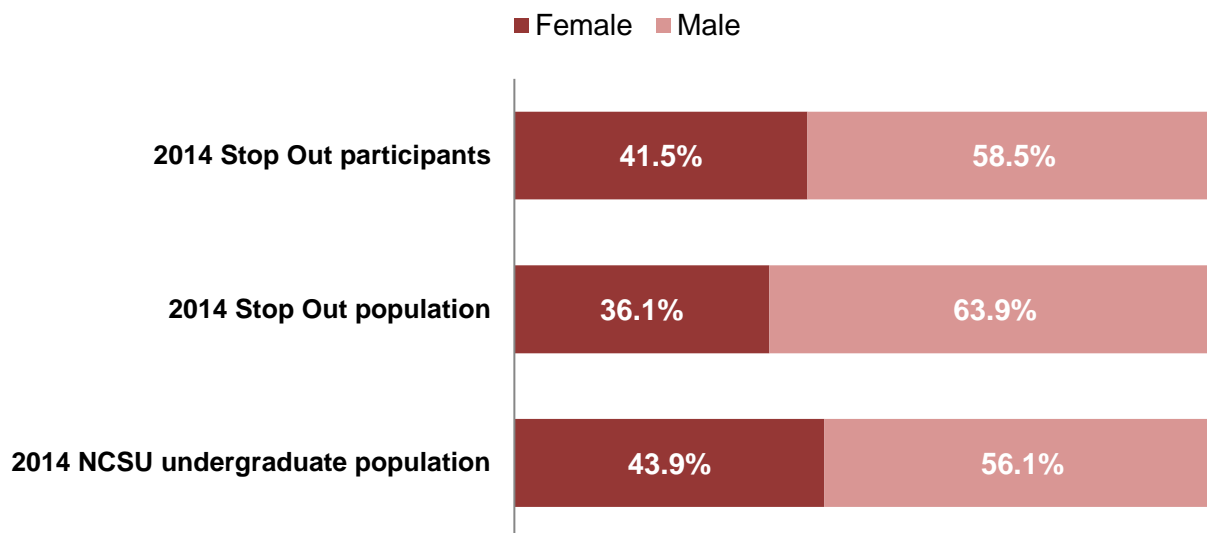


Figure 2. Academic Performance of 2014 Stop Out Survey Participants

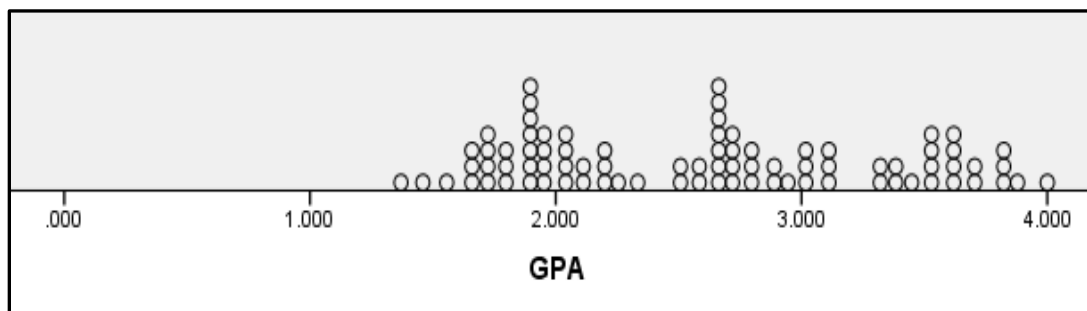
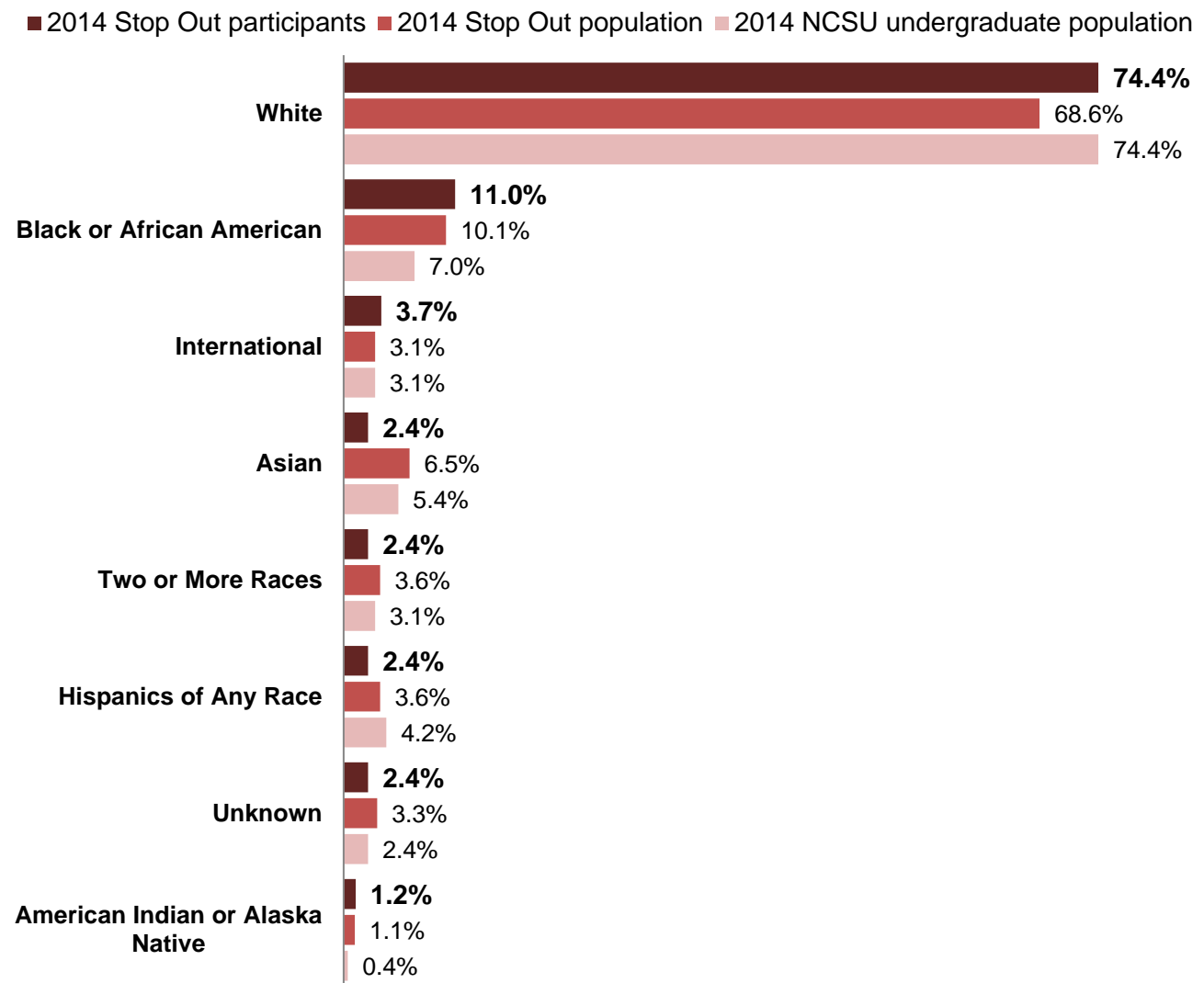


Figure 3. Race/Ethnicity of 2014 Stop Out Survey Participants, Stop Out Population, and NCSU Undergraduate Population

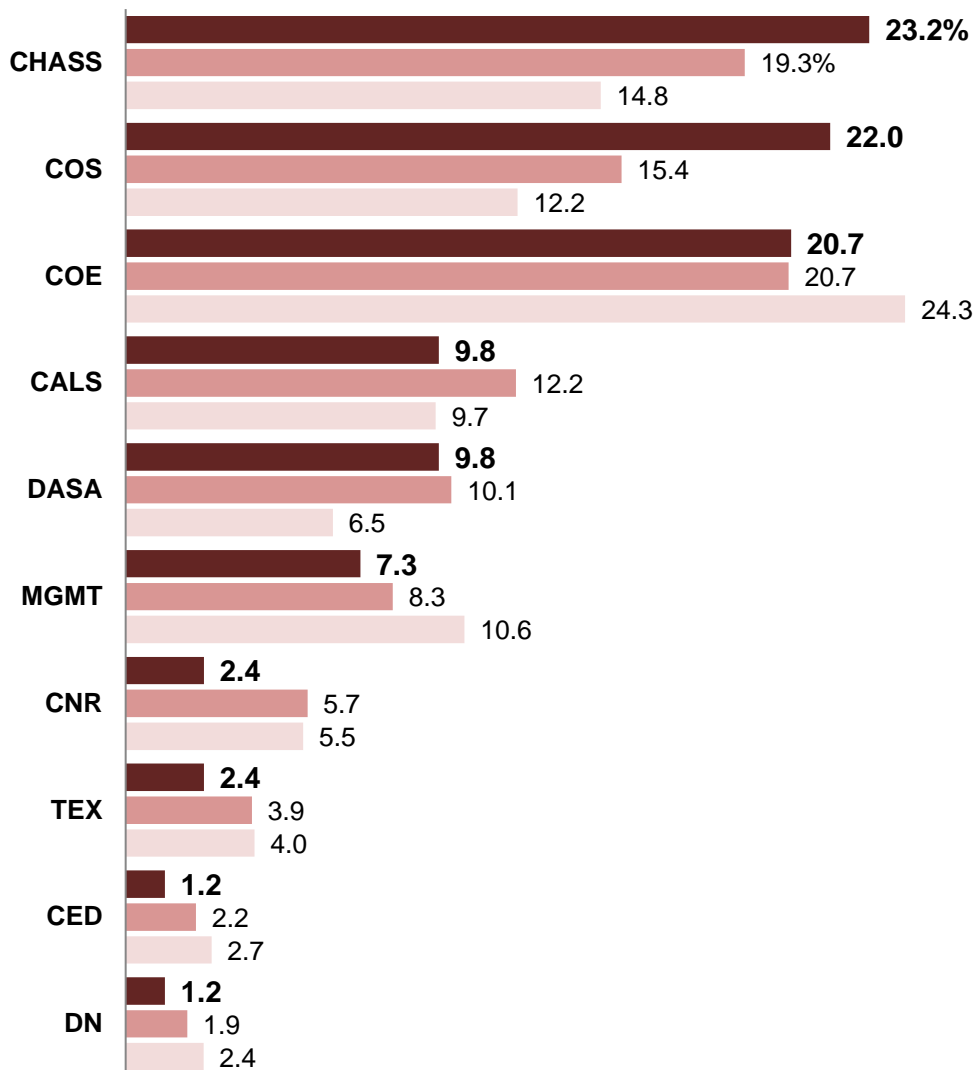


Note: Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander race category not included due to lack of representation among 2014 Stop Out survey participants

- 74.4 % of survey participants were White.
- 11%* of survey participants were Black/African American.
- 3.7% of survey participants were International
- 2.4 % of survey participants were Asian.
- 2.4 % of survey participants identified with two or more races.
- 2.4% of survey participants were Hispanic.
- 2.4% of survey participants were of Unknown race/ethnicity.
- 1.2% of survey participants were American Indian or Alaska Native

Figure 4. Academic College of 2014 Stop Out Survey Participants and NCSU Undergraduate Population

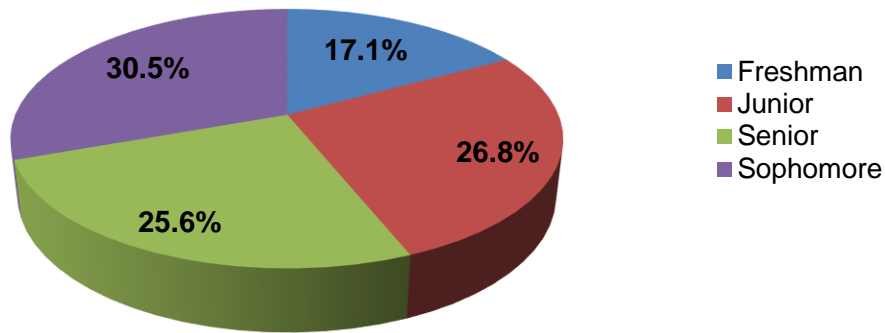
■ 2014 Stop Out participants ■ 2014 Stop Out population ■ 2014 NCSU undergraduate population



- 23.2% of survey participants were from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS).
- 22% of survey participants were from the College of Sciences (COS).
- 20.7% of survey participants were from the College of Engineering (COE).
- 9.8% of survey participants were from the Department of Academic and Student Affairs (DASA).
- 9.8% of survey participants were from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS).
- 7.3% of survey participants were from the College of Management (MGMT).

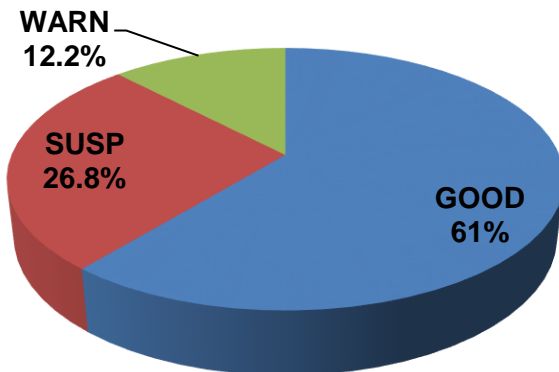
- 2.4% of survey participants were from the College of Natural Resources (CNR).
- 2.4% of survey participants were from the College of Textiles (TEX).
- 1.2% of survey participants were from the College of Education (CED).
- 1.2% of survey participants were from the College of Design (DN).

Figure 5. Academic Year of 2014 Stop Out Survey Participants



- 30.5% of survey participants were sophomores.
- 26.8% of survey participants were juniors.
- 25.6% of survey participants were seniors.
- 17.1% of survey participants were freshman.

Figure 6. Academic Standing of 2014 Stop Out Survey Participants



- 61% of survey participants were in "GOOD" academic standing
- 26.8% of survey participants were in "SUSPENDED" academic standing
- 12.2% of survey participants were in "WARNING" academic standing

Survey Highlights:

Students noted the desire to “transfer to another institution” as being the most significant factor for not returning (37.8% of students responded that this influenced their decision not to return “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”). Additionally, a large number of students indicated their **poor academic choices (e.g. poor time management, skipping class, not completing assignments)** (32.9%) and **dissatisfaction with their academic performance** (32.9%) as being central to their decision to not persist.

Moreover, students often indicated that the **stress of school work** (30.5%) and their **dissatisfaction with academic advising** (30.5%) influenced their decision to stop out; while others expressed that an **emotional health related problem** (29.3%) influenced their decision “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”. Other responses with higher response rates were: **“Felt alone or isolated” (29.3%)**, **“Lack of connection to faculty and staff” (26.8%)**, **“Suspended Academically” (25.6%)** **“Needed a break from school” (25.6%)**,

Notably, 84.1% of students indicated they “Strongly Agree[d]” or “Somewhat Agree[d]” with the statement “I could succeed at NC State”. **A majority (56.1%) said they plan to return to NCSU.**

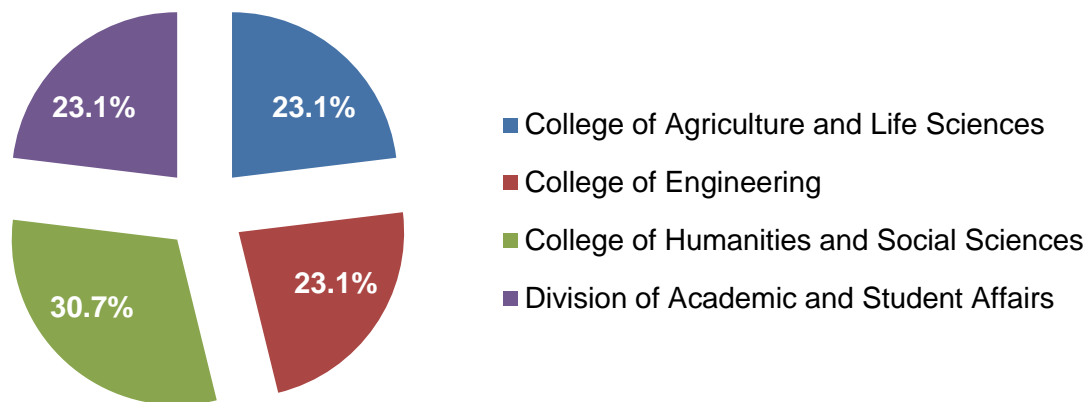
Reasons for not Returning:

Students were asked to indicate the extent to which each of the following was a reason in deciding not to enroll for fall 2014.

Academic Policy Reasons***Desired major not offered:***

- 15.9% of students responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 84.1% of students responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.

Figure 7. Distribution by College of 2014 Stop Out Participants Who Indicated the Desired Major not Being Offered Mattered “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat” in Their Decision not to Reenroll in Fall 2014

***A problem with academic policy (i.e. withdrawal policies, etc.):***

- 25.6% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 74.4% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.

Unable to get courses needed:

- 24.4% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 75.6% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.

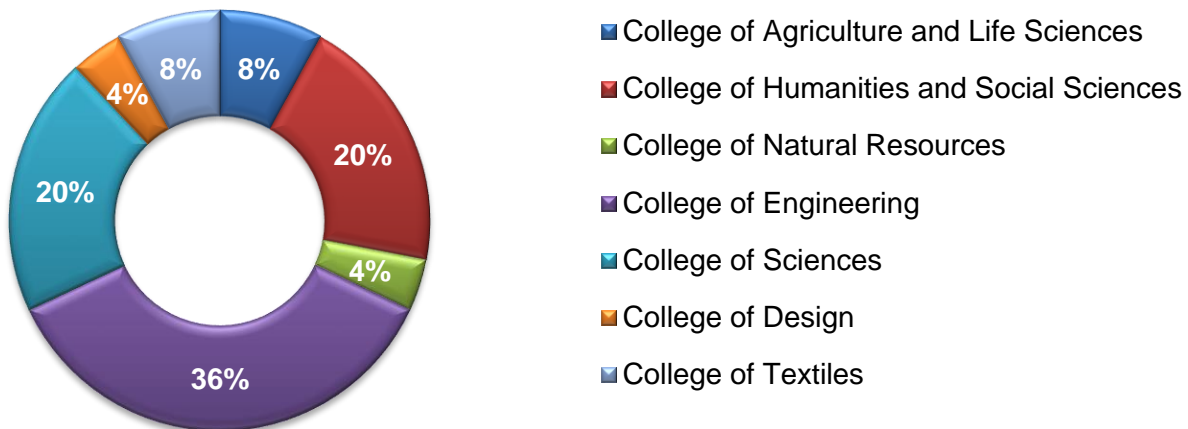
Dissatisfaction with major or program:

- 20.7% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 78% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Dissatisfaction with academic advising:

- 30.5% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 68.3% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Figure 8. Distribution by College of 2014 Stop Out Participants Who Indicated Dissatisfaction with Academic Advising Mattered “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat” in Their Decision not to Reenroll in Fall 2014



Lack of connection to faculty and staff:

- 26.8% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 72% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Dissatisfaction with quality of academic instruction:

- 23.2% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 75.6% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Dissatisfaction with size of classes:

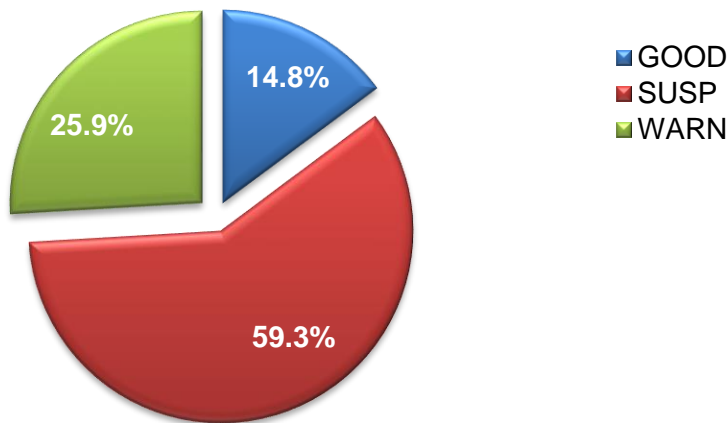
- 14.6% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 84.1% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Personal Academic Reasons

Poor academic choices (e.g. poor time management, skipping class, not completing assignments):

- 32.9% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 67.1% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.

Figure 9. Academic Standing of 2014 Stop Out Participants Who Indicated Poor Academic Choices Mattered “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat” in Their Decision not to Reenroll in Fall 2014



Dissatisfaction with my academic performance:

- 32.9% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 65.8% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Courses were too difficult:

- 18.3% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 81.7% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.

Stress of school work:

- 30.5% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 68.3% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Didn't meet GPA requirements to declare/change major:

- 23.2% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 76.8% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.

Suspended Academically:

- 25.6% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.

- 74.4% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.

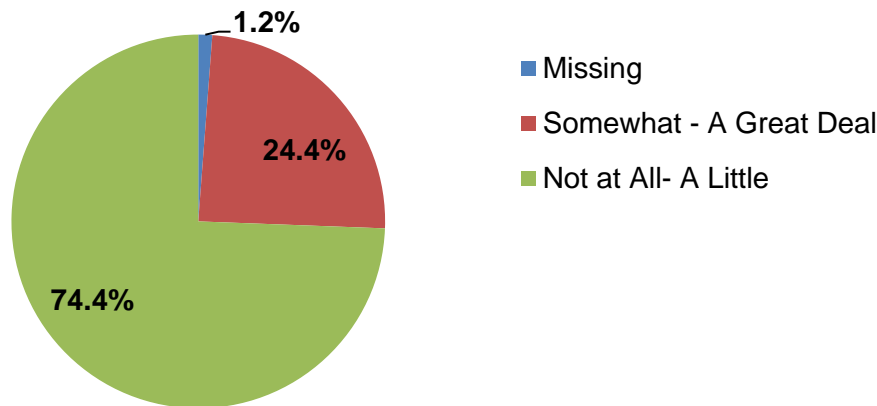
Dis-enrolled due to lack of progress toward degree:

- 19.5% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 76.8% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 3.7% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Personal Environment Reasons

Financial Reasons:

Figure 10. 2014 Stop Out Participants’ Endorsements of the Importance of Financial Reasons in Their Decision not to Reenroll in Fall 2014



- 24.4% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 74.4% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Wanted to transfer to another institution:

- 37.8% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 60.9% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Needed a break from school:

- 25.6% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 73.2% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Poor personal choices (e.g. alcohol or drug abuse, unhealthy relationships):

- 12.2% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 86.6% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.

- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Suspended for Disciplinary reasons:

- No survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- All (100%) survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.

Had to work- not enough time for classes:

- 12.19%* of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 86.58%* of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.22%* of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Not sure what I want to do:

- 18.3% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 80.5% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Felt alone or isolated:

- 29.3% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 69.5% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Wanted to live closer to family, friends, significant other, etc.:

- 19.5% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 78% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 2.4% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Family Crisis:

- 20.7% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 78% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Physical health-related problem:

- 12.2% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 86.6% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Emotional health related problem:

- 29.3% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.

- 69.5% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Military obligations:

- 4.9% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 93.9% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

New or revised job requirements:

- 4.9% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 93.9% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Difficulties with being a commuter student:

- 4.9% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 93.9% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

College Environment Reasons***Lack of connection to my peers:***

- 21.95%* of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 76.82%* of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.22%* of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Not enough support for minority students:

- 1.2% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 97.6% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Dissatisfaction with activities outside the classroom:

- 9.8% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 89% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Dissatisfaction with overall atmosphere at NC State:

- 20.7% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 78% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Dissatisfaction with urban environment:

- 6.1% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 91.5% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 2.4% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Dissatisfaction with size of institution:

- 9.8% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 89% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Dissatisfaction with campus appearance:

- 9.8% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 89% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

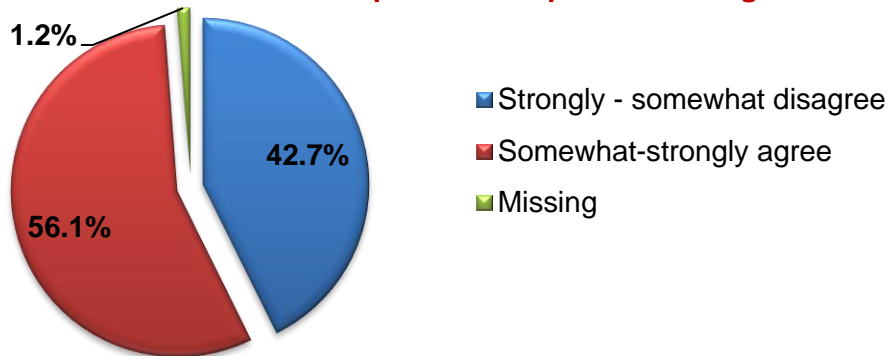
Dissatisfaction with living environment:

- 13.4% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Somewhat”.
- 84.1% of survey participants responded “Not at all” or “A Little”.
- 2.4% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

NC State Experience

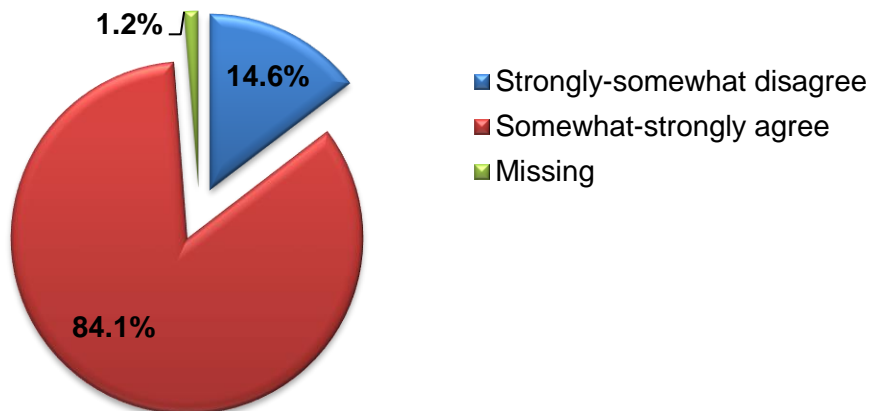
Students were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed with the statements “I plan to return to NC State”, “I could succeed at NC State”, and “When I first enrolled at NC State, I intended to complete a degree from NC State”.

Figure 11. Percent of 2014 Stop Out Participants Planning to Return to NC State



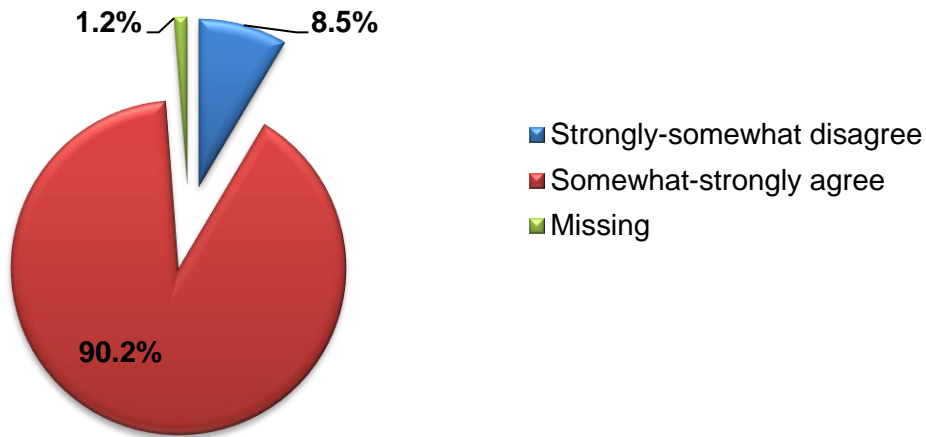
- 56.1% of survey participants responded “Strongly Agree” or “Somewhat Agree”.
- 42.7% of survey participants responded “Strongly Disagree” or “Somewhat Disagree”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Figure 12. Percent of 2014 Stop Out Participants Who Thought They Could Succeed at NC State



- 84.1% of survey participants responded “Strongly Agree” or “Somewhat Agree”.
- 14.6% of survey participants responded “Strongly Disagree” or “Somewhat Disagree”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Figure 13. Percent of 2014 Stop Out Participants Who Intended to Complete a Degree from NC State When They First Enrolled at NC State:

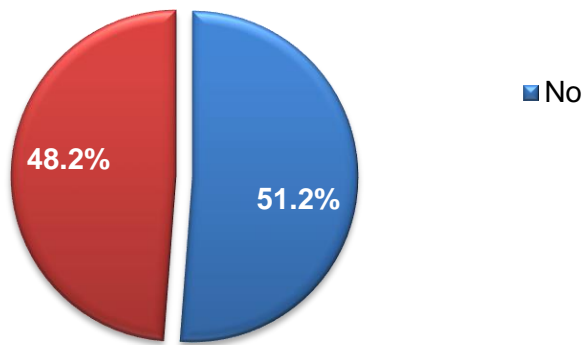


- 90.2% of survey participants responded “Strongly Agree” or “Somewhat Agree”.
- 8.5% of survey participants responded “Strongly Disagree” or “Somewhat Disagree”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Employment while at NC State

Students were asked if they were “employed during the 2013-2014 school year while still a student at NC State.

Figure 14. Percent of 2014 Stop Out Participants Who Were Employed During the 2013-2014 School Year While Enrolled at NC State



- 48.8% (N=40) of survey participants responded “Yes”.
- 51.2% (N=42) of survey participants responded “No”.

Hours worked on campus

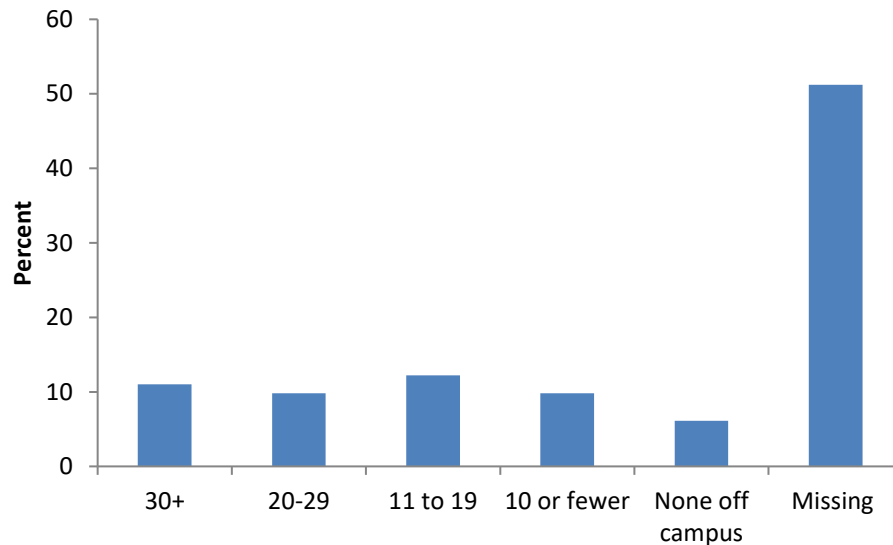
Students were asked how many hours they worked a week on campus.

- 6.1% (N=5) of survey participants said they worked “10 hours or fewer” on campus.
- 8.5% (N=7) of survey participants said they worked “11-19 hours” on campus.
- 3.7% (N=3) of survey participants said they worked “20-29 hours” on campus.
- 2.4% (N=2) of survey participants said they worked “30 or more hours” on campus.
- 28% (N=23) of survey participants said that they did not work on campus at all.
- 51.2% (N=42) of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Hours worked off campus

Students were asked how many hours they worked a week off campus.

Figure 15. Hours Worked off Campus by 2014 Stop Out Participants While Enrolled at NC State



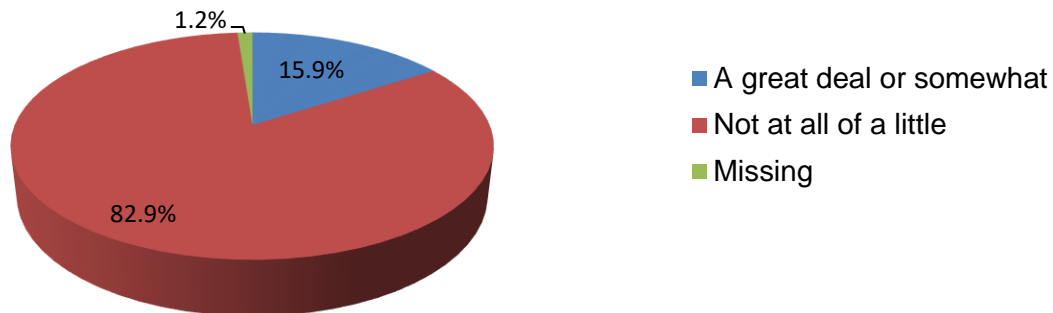
- 9.8% (N=8) of survey participants said they worked “10 Hours or less” off campus.
- 12.2% (N=10) of survey participants said they worked “11-19 hours” off campus.
- 9.8% (N=8) of survey participants said they worked “20-29 hours” off campus.
- 11% (N=9) of survey participants said they worked “30 or more hours” off campus.
- 6.1% (N=5) of survey participants responded that they did not work off campus.
- 51.2% (N=42) of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Assistance with Decision not to Re-enroll

Students were asked “how much assistance/guidance [they] receive[d] from each of the following”.

Financial Aid

Figure 16. How Much Assistance 2014 Stop Out Participants Received from Financial Aid Upon Deciding not to Reenroll



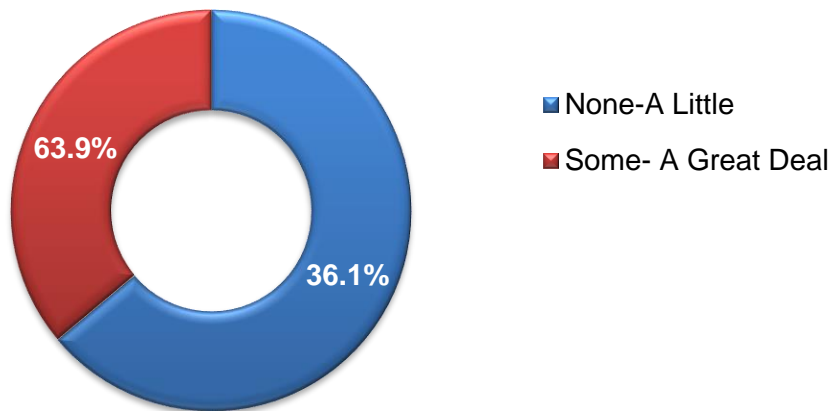
- 15.9% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Some”.
- 82.9% of survey participants responded “None” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond

Of the students who indicated “financial reasons” played a part in their decision to leave, 88% said they received “None” or “A Little” assistance/guidance from financial aid.

Your academic advisor

- 43.9% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Some”.
- 54.9% of survey participants responded “None” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Figure 17. How Much Assistance 2014 Stop Out Participants Received from University Counseling Center Upon Deciding not to Reenroll

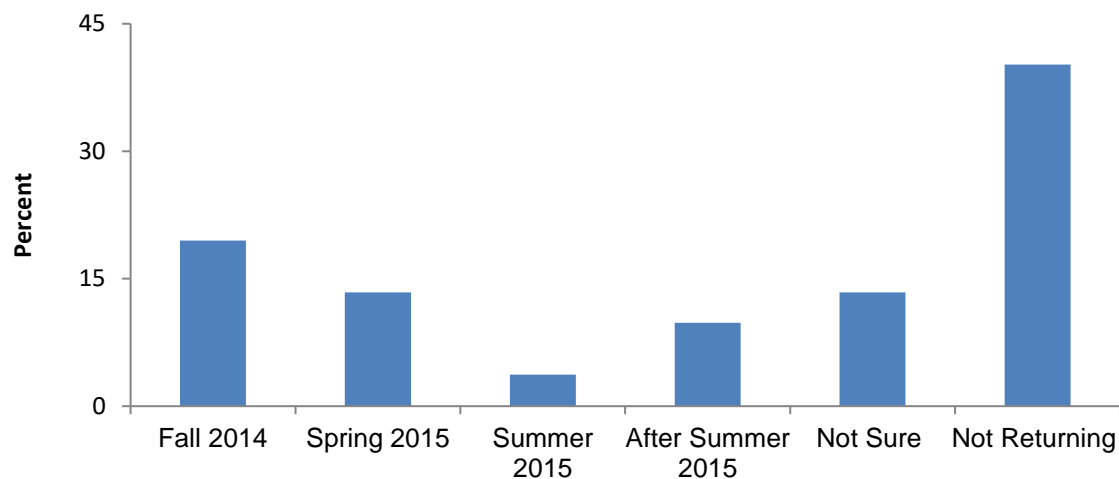


- 26.8% of survey participants responded “A Great Deal” or “Some”.
- 72% of survey participants responded “None” or “A Little”.
- 1.2% of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Of the students who indicated one or more of “emotional health related problem”, “poor personal choices”, or “family crisis” played a part in their decision to leave, 63.9% said they received “None” or “A Little” assistance/guidance from the University Counseling Center.

Future Intentions:

Figure 18. Semester in Which 2014 Stop Out Participants Intending to Return Planned to Re-enroll



Students were asked to indicate in which semester they will re-enroll if they plan to return.

- 19.5% of survey participants indicated they plan to return in the fall 2014 semester.
- 13.4% of survey participants indicated they plan to return in the spring 2015 semester.
- 3.7% of survey participants indicated they plan to return in the summer 2015 semester.
- 9.8% of survey participants indicated they plan to return after summer 2015.
- 13.4% of survey participants indicated they were unsure of whether or not they would return.
- 40.2% of survey participants indicated they would not be returning.

Immediate Persistence for 2014

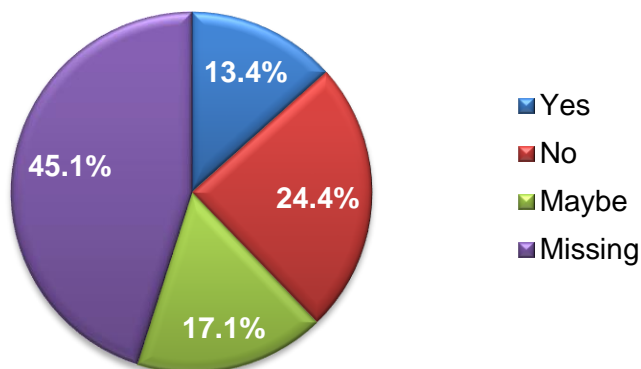
Students were asked if they are “currently attending another postsecondary institution or will [they] be attending another postsecondary institution in the fall”.

- 43.9% (N=36) of survey participants indicated “Yes”.
- 54.9% (N=45) of survey participants indicated “No”.
- 1.2% (N=1) of survey participants did not respond to this question.

Future Persistence for 2014

Students who answered “No” to the previous question were asked if they are “planning to attend another postsecondary institution in the future”.

Figure 19. Percent of 2014 Stop Out Participants not Attending Another Postsecondary Institution in Summer 2014 or Fall 2014 but Planning to Attend Another Postsecondary Institution in the Future



- 13.4% (N=11) of survey participants responded “Yes”.
- 24.4% (N=20) of survey participants responded “No”.
- 17.1% (N=14) of survey participants responded “Maybe”.
- 45.1% (N=37) of survey participants did not respond to this question.