

## 2012 Transfer First Term Survey

April, 2013

### Overview and Results Summary

#### Overview

The First Term Transfer Survey was administered for the first time in the fall of 2012 to new transfer students during their initial semester at NC State. Students were able to access the survey for just over three weeks (10/3 to 10/26). A total of 334 students completed the survey, a response rate of 27.6%. Females are overrepresented in the data. The greatest percentage of respondents came from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs – 25.1%), the College of Engineering (COE – 22.2%), and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS – 26.6%).

This summary includes an overview report that includes information about the survey respondents, as well as their actions and attitudes in several areas. Notable exceptions will be discussed below, as will unique points of comparison with first year students.

#### Notable Information:

- **Educational Experience Prior to NC State** – The overwhelming majority of respondents indicated that they had attended one institution prior to enrolling at NC State (65.6%). Approximately 23% attended two. The types of institutions from which students transferred varied. Despite this variation, *two-year community college in North Carolina* was the most commonly selected response (N = 205).
- **Reasons for Transferring** – When asked the best reason for transferring out of their previous school, the most common responses were *intended major/program not available* (31.0%) and *wanted to go to NC State initially* (31.0%). Accordingly, *academic reputation* (29.0%) and *availability of major/program* (35.6%) were cited as the most influential factors in respondents' decision to attend NC State.
- **Sense of Belonging/Community** – Although 42.6% of survey respondents said that a sense of belonging/community at NC State was *very important*, only 18.6% said that they had experienced a sense of belonging/community *a great deal*. The level at which transfer students experienced a sense of belonging/community varied (18.6% - *a great extent*; 41.3% - *some*; 30.7% - *a little*). Only 9.5% of transfer students reported experiencing a sense of belonging/community *not at all*.

First-term transfer students also responded to a sub-series of sense of belonging/community questions. The vast majority of 2012 first term transfer students said that it was *moderately or very important* to have a sense of belonging/community in small groups (84.1%). However, only 58.4% said that they had actually experienced belonging/community *some* (35.9%) or *a great extent* (22.5%). When asked about the importance of a sense of belonging/community in formal organizations, 58.4% of first-term 2012 transfer students said that it was *moderately or very important*. Approximately 39% reported experiencing belonging/community in formal organizations *some* (30.2%) or *a great deal* (9.1%).

- **Confidence** – First-term transfer students were asked about their confidence in their ability in several personal and campus-related areas. Their responses were as follows:
  - Although 93.2% of new transfer students said that they feel *somewhat confident* (48.4%) or *very confident* (44.8%) about their ability to find their way around campus, the degree to which they felt confident differed from that of first year students. When asked the same question, 70.5% of first year students said that they feel *very confident* about their ability to find their way around campus. Twenty-eight percent said that they felt *somewhat confident*.
  - Approximately 32% of first-term transfer students reported feeling *very confident* about their ability to cope with stress by identifying and implementing healthy stress relief strategies. Compared to first year students, transfer students expressed lower levels of confidence in their ability to cope with stress (new transfers – 23.2% *not very confident* or *not at all confident*; first year students – 17.7% *not very confident* or *not at all confident*).
  - The majority of first term transfer students said that they feel *very confident* (68.2%) about their ability to relieve or reduce homesickness. In this regard, transfer students appear to be more confident. When asked the same question, 61.3% of first year students said they felt *very confident* in their ability to relieve or reduce homesickness.
  - Ability to identify at least one campus resource for academic support is one area in which stark differences appear between first term transfers and first year students. Although the majority of new transfer students said that they feel *somewhat confident* or *very confident* about their ability to identify academic support resources (83.2%), higher percentages of first year students responded in the same way (94.2%). The most notable difference is in the percentage of students who responded *very confident* (transfer students – 45.8%; first year students – 64%).
  - Transfer and first year students also differ in the levels at which they express confidence in identifying ways to get involved on campus. In contrast to 94.5% of first year students, 85.1% of transfer students said that they were *somewhat confident* or *very confident* about identifying at least one activity/group on campus in which they might like to get involved. Similarly, 70.3% of transfer students said that they were *somewhat confident* or *very confident* about identifying a group on campus that supports an identity important to them. When posed the same question, 80.9% of first year students responded in that way.
  - Transfer students were asked to report on confidence in their ability to identify at least one campus resource for personal/psych/health support. 42.9% of respondents said that they were *very confident*. 39.4% indicated that they were *somewhat confident*. As was the case with their confidence in identifying other campus-based resources, transfer students were less confident than first year students (62.7% – *very confident*; 26.6% – *somewhat confident*).
- **Feelings** – When comparing the expressed feelings of first term transfer students to first year students at NC State in 2012, a number of differences emerged. First term transfer students were more likely than first year students to feel overwhelmed *sometimes* or *often/constantly* (71.3% compared to 66.9%), more likely to feel concerned about financial issues *sometimes* or *often/constantly* (68.1% compared to 56.5%), and more likely to feel that NC State is *not* a good fit *sometimes* or *often/constantly* (15.4% compared to 13.7%).

Transfer students were asked to provide information on the frequency with which they felt certain things. The categories examined included: loneliness, homesickness, depression, feelings of being overwhelmed, boredom, concern about financial issues, feelings of being academically underprepared, concern about family issues, and fit at NC State. Of those, transfer students most often struggled with feeling overwhelmed (71.3% – *sometimes* or *often/constantly*), feeling concern about financial issues (68.1 – *sometimes* or *often/constantly*), and feeling academically underprepared (44% – *sometimes* or *often/constantly*).

- **Actions to Engage with NC State** – Students were asked about several areas where they could engage with individuals on campus. In contrast to 86.1% of first year students, 61.9% of transfer students said that they had made friends with other students *some or a great deal*. In all of the activities explored, transfer students were less engaged than first year students. However, when looking solely at the transfer population and the extent to which they did certain things, the following were done at the greatest levels: getting involved in campus activities (47.5% – *some or a great deal*), seeking out academic assistance for help with school work (44.5% – *some or a great deal*), and using other students to learn about campus/activities (35.9% – *some or a great deal*).
- **Facility Usage** – Transfer students responded to a series of questions related to the frequency with which they used campus facilities or their programs/services. The Student Health Center, Career Development Center, residence halls, and athletic facilities were not highly utilized by transfer students. For each of those spaces, more than half of the respondents had never before used them. Transfer students used the following facilities most often: NC State Libraries (64.8% – *weekly or daily*), open lounges in academic buildings (59.3% – *weekly or daily*), dining facilities (49.8% – *weekly or daily*), outdoor spaces (44.2% – *weekly or daily*), Carmichael Complex (41% – *weekly or daily*), and University Student Centers (35.2% – *weekly or daily*),

## Results Summary

**Dates:** October 3 – October 26, 2012

**Population:** 1,209

**Return Rate:** 27.6% (334)

**Respondents:** Women are overrepresented among survey respondents.

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### What is your gender?

	N	%
Female	187	56.0
Male	147	44.0

### What is your race/ethnicity?

	N	%
African American/Black	22	6.6
American Indian/Alaska Native	4	1.2
Asian/Asian American	20	6.0
Hispanic/Latino	22	6.6
White/Caucasian	232	69.5
Multiple races	8	2.4
Race unknown	11	3.3

### College/School of Enrollment?

	N	%
CALS	84	25.1
Design	4	1.2
CED	9	2.7
COE	74	22.2
CNR	20	6.0
CHASS	89	26.6
PAMS	13	3.9
COT	7	2.1
COM	33	9.9
FYC	1	0.3

**How many hours have you worked per week at an on-campus job?**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
None	242	89.6
10 hours or less	14	5.2
11-19 hours	10	3.7
20-29 hours	2	0.7
30 or more hours	2	0.7

**How many hours have you worked per week at an off-campus job?**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
None	172	58.1
10 hours or less	33	11.1
11-19 hours	40	13.5
20-29 hours	27	9.1
30 or more hours	24	8.1

**About how many individual class meetings have you missed this semester (total for all classes combined)?**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
None	88	28.9
One	53	17.4
Two to three	99	32.5
Four to five	46	15.1
Six to nine	16	5.2
10 or more	3	1.0

**How many schools (community college, technical school, college or university) have you attended prior to NC State?**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
1	219	65.6
2	76	22.8
3	31	9.3
4	4	1.2
5	1	0.3
6 or more	3	0.9

**At what type of institution(s) have you attended prior to NC State? (choose all that apply)**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
2-year community college in NC	205	46.9
2-year out-of-state community college	42	9.6
2-year technical college in NC	15	3.4
2-year out-of state technical college	6	1.4
4-year public college/university in NC	65	14.9
4-year out-of-state public college/university	47	10.8
4-year private college/university in NC	27	6.2
4-year out-of-state private college/university	25	5.7
Other	5	1.1

**Which of the following best represents your reason for transferring out of your previous school?**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Intended major/program not available	103	31.0
Wanted to go to NC State initially	103	31.0
Was too far away from home	13	3.9
Did not feel connected to previous institution	41	12.3
Other	72	21.7

**What was the most influential factor in your decision to enroll at NC State?**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Academic reputation	96	29.0
Availability of major/program	118	35.6
Knew someone already enrolled at NC State	18	5.4
Location	51	15.4
Size	2	0.6
Cost	21	6.3
Availability of scholarships/financial aid	4	1.2
Number of hours transferred/credited	5	1.5
Contact with faculty/staff member	4	1.2
Other	12	3.6

**Importance of sense of belonging or community at NC State?**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Not at all important	10	3.3
Slightly important	40	13.2
Moderately important	124	40.9
Very important	129	42.6

**Importance of sense of belonging or community in formal organizations?**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Not at all important	43	14.1
Slightly important	84	27.5
Moderately important	97	31.8
Very important	81	26.6

**Importance of sense of belonging or community in small groups?**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Not at all important	12	4.0
Slightly important	36	11.9
Moderately important	105	34.8
Very important	149	49.3

**Extent to which you experience a sense of belonging/community at NC State?**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Not at all	25	9.5
A little	81	30.7
Some	109	41.3
A great deal	49	18.6

**Extent to which you experience a sense of belonging/community in formal organizations?**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Not at all	105	39.6
A little	56	21.1
Some	80	30.2
A great extent	24	9.1

**Extent to which you experience a sense of belonging/community in small groups?**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Not at all	39	14.9
A little	70	26.7
Some	94	35.9
A great extent	59	22.5

**How confident are you in your ability to:**

		Not at all confident		Not very confident		Somewhat confident		Very confident	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Find way around campus	<b>Transfer</b>	5	1.6%	16	5.2%	150	48.4%	139	44.8%
	<b>FY</b>	0	0.0%	18	1.5%	340	28.0%	856	70.5%
Cope with stress by identifying and implementing healthy stress relief strategies	<b>Transfer</b>	13	4.2%	59	19.0%	139	44.8%	99	31.9%
	<b>FY</b>	31	2.6%	184	15.1%	572	47.1%	428	35.2%
Relieve or reduce homesickness	<b>Transfer</b>	7	2.3%	18	5.9%	72	23.6%	208	68.2%
	<b>FY</b>	36	3.0%	92	7.6%	341	28.1%	743	61.3%
Effectively manage your time	<b>Transfer</b>	9	2.9%	49	15.8%	165	53.2%	87	28.1%
	<b>FY</b>	36	3.0%	202	16.7%	627	51.7%	347	28.6%
Identify at least one campus resource for academic support	<b>Transfer</b>	9	2.9%	43	13.9%	116	37.4%	142	45.8%
	<b>FY</b>	8	0.7%	62	5.1%	366	30.2%	775	64.0%
Identify at least one activity/ group on campus in which you might like to get involved	<b>Transfer</b>	17	5.5%	29	9.4%	92	29.8%	171	55.3%
	<b>FY</b>	13	1.1%	53	4.4%	243	20.0%	904	74.5%
Identify a group on campus that supports an identity important to you	<b>Transfer</b>	25	8.1%	67	21.6%	104	33.5%	114	36.8%
	<b>FY</b>	70	5.8%	162	13.3%	323	26.6%	659	54.3%
Use online course management systems	<b>Transfer</b>	2	0.6%	5	1.6%	110	35.5%	193	62.3%
	<b>FY</b>	5	0.4%	32	2.6%	344	28.3%	834	68.6%
Identify at least one campus resource for personal/ psychological/health support	<b>Transfer</b>	13	4.2%	42	13.5%	122	39.4%	133	42.9%
	<b>FY</b>	26	2.1%	105	8.6%	323	26.6%	762	62.7%

Since arriving at NC State, how often have you:

		Never/Once in a While		Sometimes		Often/Constantly	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Felt lonely	Transfer	184	60.3%	67	22.0%	54	17.7%
	First Year	708	58.6%	326	27.0%	174	14.4%
Felt homesick	Transfer	235	77.3%	43	14.1%	26	8.6%
	First Year	845	70.1%	213	17.7%	147	12.2%
Felt depressed	Transfer	215	80.0%	61	20.1%	27	8.9%
	First Year	924	76.6%	187	15.5%	95	7.8%
Felt overwhelmed	Transfer	88	28.7%	96	31.3%	123	40.1%
	First Year	397	33.1%	377	31.4%	428	35.6%
Felt bored	Transfer	200	65.8%	72	23.7%	32	10.5%
	First Year	702	58.2%	336	27.9%	168	13.9%
Felt concerned about financial issues	Transfer	98	31.9%	79	25.7%	130	42.3%
	First Year	525	43.5%	282	23.4%	399	33.1%
Felt academically underprepared	Transfer	172	56.0%	80	26.1%	55	17.9%
	First Year	636	52.7%	331	27.4%	239	19.9%
Felt concerned about family issues	Transfer	186	60.6%	67	21.8%	54	17.6%
	First Year	766	63.4%	243	20.1%	198	16.4%
Felt that NC State is not a good fit	Transfer	259	84.6%	27	8.8%	20	6.5%
	First Year	1041	86.3%	99	8.2%	67	5.5%

**To what extent have you done each of the following during your time thus far at NC State:**

		Not applicable		Not at all		A little		Some		A great deal	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Made friends with other students	<b>Transfer</b>	7	2.3%	25	8.1%	86	27.7%	125	40.3%	67	21.6%
	<b>First Year</b>	0	0.0%	17	1.4%	152	12.5%	420	34.7%	623	51.4%
Used upper-class students to learn about campus/activities	<b>Transfer</b>	40	12.9%	91	29.4%	67	21.7%	77	24.9%	34	11.0%
	<b>First Year</b>	17	1.4%	170	14.1%	294	24.3%	382	31.6%	346	28.6%
Gotten involved in campus activities	<b>Transfer</b>	17	5.5%	96	31.0%	50	16.1%	87	28.1%	60	19.4%
	<b>First Year</b>	5	0.4%	78	6.4%	207	17.1%	401	33.1%	521	43.0%
Developed a relationship with a faculty member	<b>Transfer</b>	9	2.9%	106	34.5%	98	31.9%	59	19.2%	35	11.4%
	<b>First Year</b>	7	0.6%	328	27.3%	402	33.4%	296	24.6%	170	14.1%
Developed a relationship with a staff member	<b>Transfer</b>	32	10.4%	144	46.6%	57	18.4%	54	17.5%	22	7.1%
	<b>First Year</b>	14	1.2%	302	24.9%	346	28.5%	357	29.5%	193	15.9%
Sought out academic assistance for help with school work	<b>Transfer</b>	17	5.5%	84	27.1%	71	22.9%	83	26.8%	55	17.7%
	<b>First Year</b>	34	2.8%	234	19.3%	283	23.4%	378	31.2%	281	23.2%

**During your time thus far at NC State, about how frequently have you used the following facilities or their programs/services?**

		Never		Less than once a month		Once or twice a month		Once a week		A few times a week		Daily	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
University Student Centers	Transfer	82	26.7%	42	13.7%	75	24.4%	42	13.7%	56	18.2%	10	3.3%
	First Year	67	5.5%	66	5.5%	162	13.4%	216	17.9%	523	43.3%	175	14.5%
Student Health Center	Transfer	177	58.0%	71	23.3%	44	14.4%	10	3.3%	3	1.0%	0	0.0%
	First Year	538	44.7%	324	26.9%	241	20.0%	52	4.3%	36	3.0%	12	1.0%
Dining facilities	Transfer	68	22.1%	43	14.0%	43	14.0%	32	10.4%	61	19.9%	60	19.5%
	First Year	46	3.8%	34	2.8%	33	2.7%	54	4.5%	182	15.0%	862	71.2%
NC State Libraries	Transfer	24	7.8%	26	8.5%	58	18.9%	48	15.6%	75	24.4%	76	24.8%
	First Year	23	1.9%	42	3.5%	167	13.8%	272	22.5%	432	35.7%	273	22.6%
Open lounges in academic buildings	Transfer	50	16.3%	25	8.1%	50	16.3%	46	15.0%	71	23.1%	65	21.2%
	First Year	161	13.4%	117	9.7%	206	17.1%	231	19.2%	315	26.1%	175	14.5%
Carmichael Complex	Transfer	119	38.8%	25	8.1%	37	12.1%	28	9.1%	71	23.1%	27	8.8%
	First Year	112	9.3%	63	5.2%	103	8.5%	156	12.9%	557	46.1%	218	18.0%
Athletic facilities	Transfer	197	64.0%	36	11.7%	31	10.1%	14	4.5%	24	7.8%	6	1.9%
	First Year	486	40.3%	154	12.8%	214	17.8%	128	10.6%	143	11.9%	80	6.6%
Outdoor spaces	Transfer	90	29.2%	39	12.7%	43	14.0%	39	12.7%	53	17.2%	44	14.3%
	First Year	113	9.3%	101	8.4%	187	15.5%	226	18.7%	332	27.5%	250	20.7%
Career Development Center	Transfer	201	65.5%	50	16.3%	39	12.7%	11	3.6%	6	2.0%	0	0.0%
	First Year	755	62.7%	205	17.0%	146	12.1%	51	4.2%	35	2.9%	13	1.1%
Residence halls	Transfer	218	70.8%	13	4.2%	10	3.2%	6	1.9%	13	4.2%	48	15.6%
	First Year	110	9.1%	20	1.7%	31	2.6%	28	2.3%	42	3.5%	976	80.9%