

2014 First Year First Term Survey

2/5/2015

Executive Summary

Survey Overview

The First Year First Term Survey was administered from Monday, October 6 until Friday, October 31 to all new first year students at NC State. This is the sixth year the survey was administered to these students. 4,485 students were contacted and given the opportunity to take the survey and 1,889 unique valid responses were received; a response rate of 42.1% which is substantially higher than the response rate in previous years (response rate was 27.8% in 2013).

There were more female respondents (53.7%) than male respondents (46.3%). Female respondents are over-represented in the sample, as new female undergraduates only make up 45.3% of the population. Respondents were distributed between the academic colleges at NC State roughly in line with the overall undergraduate population. The race/ethnicity of respondents also roughly match the overall population of new undergraduate students with white students slightly over-represented and other races/ethnicities slightly under-represented. See the tables below for specifics.

Table 1: Survey respondents by college of enrollment

College	Survey Respondents		All New FY Students*
	n	%	%
AGI	22	1.16	2.8
CALS	147	7.78	7.1
CED	33	1.75	1.6
CHASS	168	8.90	9.1
CNR	59	3.12	3.2
COE	636	33.67	32.6
COS	255	13.50	11.5
DASA	341	18.05	18.7
DN	40	2.12	2.2

MGMT	124	6.56	7.6
TEX	60	3.18	3.6
Missing	4	0.21	NA
Total	1,889	1.16	100.0

**Data from NC State Office of Institutional Research and Planning*

Table 2: Survey respondents by race/ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Survey Respondents		All New FY Students*
	n	%	%
Intl	64	3.4	3.0
Unknown	22	1.2	1.2
Hispanic	97	5.1	4.4
Am Ind/Alaskan	7	0.4	0.3
Asian/As Am	133	7.1	5.8
Black/Afr Am	116	6.2	5.8
White	1,366	72.5	74.9
Two or More	78	4.1	4.6
Total	1,883	100.0	100.0

Data on survey respondents was merged with data from SIS

**Data from NC State Office of Institutional Research and Planning*

Table 3: Survey respondents by self-reported* race/ethnicity

Survey respondents by self-reported* race/ethnicity	n	%
Other	16	3.3
Hispanic	30	6.2
Am Ind/Alaskan	4	0.8
Asian	45	9.3
Black/Afr Am	26	5.4
White	338	70.0
None selected	48	9.9

**Self-reported data from survey; respondents were allowed to select multiple categories so percentages do not sum to 100%*

Survey Results

The tables below provide an overview of selected survey questions and responses.

Table 4: How prepared were you for your classes at NC State?

How prepared were you for your classes at NC State?	n	%
Not at all prepared	18	1.0
Slightly prepared	108	6.2
Moderately prepared	722	41.2
Very prepared	751	42.9
Extremely prepared	153	8.7
Total	1,752	100.0

Table 5: When you started at NC State, how did the difficulty of university coursework compare to the expectations you had prior to starting?

When you started at NC State, how did the difficulty of university coursework compare to the expectations you had prior to starting?	n	%
I expected it to be much less difficult	44	2.5
I expected it to be somewhat less difficult	333	19.0
The difficulty of coursework matched my expectations	773	44.2
I expected it to be somewhat more difficult	449	25.7
I expected it to be much more difficult	126	7.2
I had no expectations	25	1.4
Total	1,750	100.0

Table 6: When you started at NC State, how did the difficulty of adjusting to daily life on campus compare to the expectations you had prior to starting?

When you started at NC State, how did the difficulty of adjusting to daily life on campus compare to the expectations you had prior to starting?	n	%
I expected it to be much less difficult	105	6.0
I expected it to be somewhat less difficult	286	16.4
The difficulty of adjusting matched my expectations	633	36.4
I expected it to be somewhat more difficult	470	27.0
I expected it to be much more difficult	184	10.6
I had no expectations	63	3.6
Total	1,741	100.0

Table 7: If the following programs were offered to you to assist in your transition to NC State, how likely would you have been or would you be to participate?

If the following programs were offered to you to assist in your transition to NC State, how likely would you have been or would you be to participate?	Very unlikely		Unlikely		Likely		Very Likely		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	Mean
Leadership conference	159	9.6	539	32.7	667	40.5	283	17.2	1,648	2.65
Transfer success workshop series or academic bootcamp (e.g., study skills, testing taking strategies, note taking)	192	11.7	482	29.3	636	38.7	333	20.3	1,643	2.68
Service-based experience (i.e., community service projects, pre-orientation trips, exclusive first-year alternative service break trips)	103	6.2	329	19.9	743	45.0	476	28.8	1,651	2.96
Peer mentoring program (first-year student paired with an upperclass student)	130	7.9	499	30.4	670	40.8	342	20.8	1,641	2.75
Specialty institute (i.e., programs focusing on specific populations or identities like males, first generation students, military veterans)	380	23.3	780	47.9	346	21.3	122	7.5	1,628	2.13
Local arts and culture trips (e.g., trips to museums, concerts, athletic events)	180	11.0	333	20.4	672	41.1	449	27.5	1,634	2.85
Trips with faculty (i.e., course-based trips with a professor)	125	7.7	401	24.8	771	47.6	322	19.9	1,619	2.80
Traditions-based programs (e.g., learn the songs, university history, homecoming traditions)	195	11.9	463	28.2	660	40.2	322	19.6	1,640	2.68
Career-focused programs (e.g., resume workshops, how to get an internship)	41	2.5	178	10.8	801	48.7	626	38.0	1,646	3.22
Personal financial management programs (e.g., budgeting)	151	9.2	472	28.8	672	41.0	344	21.0	1,639	2.74

Table 8: How confident are you in your ability to:

How confident are you in your ability to:	Not at all confident		Not very confident		Somewhat confident		Very confident		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	Mean
Find way around campus	0	0.0	26	1.6	486	29.0	1,163	69.4	1,675	3.68
Cope with stress by identifying and implementing healthy stress relief strategies	56	3.4	259	15.6	794	47.7	555	33.4	1,664	3.11
Relieve or reduce homesickness	30	1.8	142	8.5	505	30.3	987	59.3	1,664	3.47
Effectively manage your time	50	3.0	280	16.9	890	53.7	437	26.4	1,657	3.03
Identify at least one campus resource for academic support	24	1.4	100	6.0	541	32.6	994	59.9	1,659	3.51
Identify at least one activity/ group on campus in which you might like to get involved	20	1.2	105	6.3	427	25.7	1,109	66.8	1,661	3.58
Identify a group on campus that supports an identity important to you	97	5.9	286	17.3	477	28.8	797	48.1	1,657	3.19
Use online course management systems	11	0.7	58	3.5	523	31.4	1,075	64.5	1,667	3.60
Identify at least one campus resource for personal/ psychological/health support	27	1.6	147	8.9	497	30.0	986	59.5	1,657	3.47
Connect to other individuals on campus	51	3.1	183	11.0	605	36.5	820	49.4	1,659	3.30

Table 9: To what extent have you done each of the following during your time thus far at NC State?

To what extent have you done each of the following during your time thus far at NC State?	Not at all		A little		Some		A great deal		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	Mean
Made friends with other students	36	2.2	205	12.4	545	32.9	869	52.5	1,655	3.36
Used upper-class students to learn about campus/activities	252	15.3	429	26.0	583	35.4	385	23.3	1,649	2.67
Gotten involved in campus activities	113	6.9	292	17.8	620	37.8	615	37.5	1,640	3.06
Developed a relationship with a faculty member	458	27.9	533	32.4	503	30.6	149	9.1	1,643	2.21
Developed a relationship with a staff member	499	30.4	468	28.5	489	29.8	184	11.2	1,640	2.22
Sought out academic assistance for help with school work	390	23.8	416	25.4	529	32.3	305	18.6	1,640	2.46
Used services offered by the Counseling Center	1,313	80.2	124	7.6	123	7.5	77	4.7	1,637	1.37
Used Student Health Services	929	56.5	265	16.1	319	19.4	130	7.9	1,643	1.79

Table 10: How important it is to you that you experience a sense of belonging or community in each of the following settings?

How important it is to you that you experience a sense of belonging or community in each of the following settings?	Not at all important		Slightly important		Moderately important		Very important		Mean
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
With NC State overall	29	1.8	109	8.4	491	38.1	1,022	61.9	3.5
In formal organizations (e.g., student organizations, residence halls, learning villages, athletic groups)	62	3.8	221	13.4	637	38.7	726	44.1	3.2
In your academic college or major	22	1.3	113	6.9	479	29.1	1,032	62.7	3.5
In small groups (e.g., with friends)	11	0.7	49	3.0	252	15.3	1,330	81.0	3.8

Table 11: To what extent do you actually experience a sense of belonging or community in each of the following settings?

To what extent do you actually experience a sense of belonging or community in each of the following settings?	Not at all		A little		Some		A great extent		Mean
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	
With NC State overall	57	3.5	228	13.9	675	41.2	678	41.4	3.2
In formal organizations (e.g., student organizations, residence halls, learning villages, athletic groups)	164	10.0	342	20.9	670	41.0	459	28.1	2.9
In your academic college or major	144	8.8	399	24.4	702	42.9	390	23.9	2.8
In small groups (e.g., with friends)	46	2.8	151	9.3	458	28.1	972	59.7	3.5

Table 12: Since arriving at NC State how often have you felt:

Since arriving at NC State how often have you felt:	Never/ Once in a While		Sometimes		Often/ Constantly		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	Mean
Felt lonely	934	56.6	428	26.0	287	c	1,649	c
Felt homesick	1,202	72.9	288	17.5	159	9.6	1,649	1.37
Felt depressed	1,251	76.0	271	16.5	125	7.6	1,647	1.32
Felt overwhelmed	577	35.0	588	35.7	483	29.3	1,648	1.94
Felt bored	1,037	63.0	421	25.6	187	11.4	1,640	1.44
Felt concerned about financial issues	928	56.5	327	19.9	387	23.6	1,645	1.48
Felt academically underprepared	927	56.3	451	27.4	268	16.3	1,642	1.67
Felt concerned about family issues	1,181	71.9	271	16.5	190	11.6	1,646	1.60
Felt that NC State is not a good fit	1,411	85.6	130	7.9	108	6.5	1,642	1.40
Felt very distressed	1,106	67.4	340	20.7	194	11.8	1,649	1.21

Table 13: About how many individual class meetings have you missed this semester (total for all classes combined)?

Classes Missed	n	%
None	688	41.20
1	363	21.74
2-3	401	24.01
4-5	140	8.38
6-9	54	3.23
10 or more	24	1.44
Total	1,670	100.0

Table 14: For which of the following reasons have you missed class? (mark all that apply)

Reason for missing class	n	%
Overslept/lack of sleep	442	45.0
Personal physical health reasons	356	36.3
To finish other academic work	205	20.9
Attendance is not taken or does not influence my grade	192	19.6
Just didn't feel like going	166	16.9
Travel	105	10.7
Personal or family issue	101	10.3
Personal mental/psychological health reasons	93	9.5
Don't understand the professor/ don't like the class	69	7.0
To participate in a student club/organization	68	6.9
Transportation/parking problems	51	5.2
To attend a social or athletic event	40	4.1
I don't need the class for my major/minor	24	2.4
Work on or off campus	17	1.7
Religious observance	8	0.8
Required court attendance	6	0.6
Required military duty	5	0.5
Other (please describe)	100	10.2

Table 15: On average, about how many hours per week are you currently working?

On average, about how many hours per week are you currently working?	None		10 hours or less		11-19 hours		20-29 hours		30 or more hours	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
At an on-campus job for pay	1,488	93.2	85	5.3	22	1.4	0	0.0	2	0.1
At an off-campus job for pay	1,419	88.9	119	7.5	44	2.8	11	0.7	3	0.2
As an unpaid intern or volunteer, or in another unpaid job/position	1,408	89.3	156	9.9	10	0.6	3	0.2	0	0.0

Table 16: Overall trends for working/volunteering/interning... (on or off campus and/or as an unpaid volunteer, intern, etc.)

Overall trends for working/volunteering/interning...	n	%
Not working	1,201	74.6
Working one job (paid or unpaid)	369	22.9
Working two	34	2.1
Working all three	6	0.4