

2013 Transfer First Term Survey

February, 2014

Overview and Results Summary

Overview

The First Term Transfer Survey was administered for the second time in the fall of 2013 to new transfer students during their initial semester at NC State. Students were able to access the survey for just over three weeks (10/2 – 10/26). A total of 339 students completed the survey, a response rate of 27.9%. The 2013 response rate and number of respondents were essentially equal to the those in 2012 (27.6% and 334 respectively). However, unlike in 2012, female and male students responded to the survey in almost equal numbers (the respondents were 50.7% female and 49.3% male compared to 56% and 44% in 2012). The percentage of the total respondents from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) dropped by more than 10 percentage points while the percentage of respondents that came from the College of Science (COS, formerly the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences) more than doubled from 3.9% to 8.3%. This is likely a reflection of the changed composition of the majors in each college, with some majors moving from CALS to COS. The College of Engineering (COE – 22.2%) and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS – 26.6%) remained the colleges with the highest representation among survey respondents.

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 deviations from 2012 responses.

Notable Information

- **Educational Experience Prior to NC State** – As was the case in 2012, the overwhelming majority of 2013 respondents indicated that they had attended one institution prior to enrolling at NC State (63.1%). Approximately 29% attended two. Respondents to the 2013 survey had largely attended two-year community colleges in North Carolina (62.5%) and four-year public institutions in North Carolina (23.3%) prior to attending NC State. Both numbers were much higher than in 2012 (46.9% and 14.9%, respectively)
- **Reasons for Transferring** – When asked which statement best represented their reason for transferring out of their previous school, responses were consistent with 2012. The two most common responses were *intended major/program not available* (35.7%) and *wanted to go to NC State initially* (35.4%). Accordingly, *academic reputation* (35.3%) and *availability of major/program* (31.5%) were cited as the most influential factors in respondents' decision to attend NC State. These two factors were also the top two in 2012, though the order was reversed with academic reputation (29.0%) coming in second to availability of major/program (35.6%) in 2012.
- **Missing Class** – As was the case with incoming first year students, new transfer students in 2013 reported missing fewer classes compared to 2012. Slightly higher percentages of students missed no classes (32.6% in 2013, 28.9% in 2012) or only one class (19.5% in 2013, 17.4% in 2012).

- **Sense of Belonging/Community** – Slightly higher percentages of new transfer students in 2013 said that a sense of belonging or community was very important (49.4% in 2013, 42.6% in 2012), but a slightly lower percentage said it was moderately important (34.3% in 2013, 40.9% in 2012). Although close to 85% of students report that a sense of belonging or community was moderately or very important in 2013, only 63.5% said they actually experienced a sense of belonging or community at NC State in 2013, which was up slightly from 2012 (59.9%).
- **Confidence** – New transfer students were a little more confident in their ability to deal with the transition to NC State or to identify resources for support in 2013. Greater percentages of new transfer students said they were very confident in their ability to cope with stress, relieve or reduce homesickness, effectively manage time, and identify resources for academic support and groups that support an important identity. They had less confidence in their ability to find their way around campus, identify an activity or group to get involved with, and use online course management systems.

Consistent with 2012, however, they were least confident in their ability to cope with stress (17.9% were not at all or not very confident) and effectively manage their time (14.5% were not at all or not very confident) in 2013, and they were the most confident in their ability to cope with homesickness (71.4% were very confident) and use course management systems (60.3% were very confident).

- **Feelings** – There were mixed results for this section in 2013. Transfer students in 2013 expressed lower levels of negative feelings in several categories when compared to 2012. They felt less overwhelmed, less homesick, less concerned about financial and family issues, and were less likely to feel academically underprepared. However, 2013 transfer students were also more likely to report feeling lonely, more likely to say they *often/constantly* feel depressed, and more likely to *often/constantly* feel that NC State was not a good fit.

Despite the lower levels of respondents experiencing negative feelings in many categories in 2013, transfer students in general still experience higher levels of negative feelings than first year students that were surveyed at the same time, with one exception – transfer students reported feeling homesick slightly less often than first year students (6.8% of transfer students felt homesick *often/constantly* compared to 8.8% of first year students). In many cases, the difference was large – 35% of transfer students *often/constantly* feel concerned about financial issues compared to 20% of first year students; 34.3% of transfer students *often/constantly* feel overwhelmed compared to 25.2% of first year students; and 20.1% of transfer students *often/constantly* feel lonely compared to 13.1% of first year students.

- **Actions to Engage with NC State** – Students were asked about several areas where they could engage with individuals on campus. 2013 results are generally consistent for those in 2012. Respondents were slightly less likely to feel very confident about their ability to find their way around campus, and to identify an activity or group on campus to get involved with, but showed increasing confidence in their ability to cope with stress, effectively manage their time, identify a campus resource for academic support, and identify a campus group that supports an important identity. Transfer respondents were less likely to have confidence about their ability to identify campus resources (for academic support, involvement, and personal/psychological/health support) than first year respondents. In some cases, the differences were large – the percentage of transfer students that were *very confident* were 10-20 points lower.
- In contrast to 89.8% of first year students, 72.6% of transfer students said that they had made friends with other students *some* or *a great deal*, though this number was up from 61.9% in 2012. In all of the activities explored, transfer students were less engaged than first year students. Though around half of transfer students reported that they had gotten involved in campus activities *some* or *a great deal* (51.0%), or sought out academic assistance for help with school work (48.7% – *some* or *a great deal*), more than half reported that they had not developed a relationship with a staff member at all (51.0%).

- Facility Usage** – Transfer students also responded to a series of questions related to the frequency with which they used campus facilities or their programs/services for the second year. 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 do utilize NC State Libraries frequently – 71.6 percent used the libraries at least once a week, with more than a third (38.7%) using them daily; lounges in academic buildings – 56.2% use them at least once a week; and dining facilities – half (49.8%) use them at least once a week with almost 30% using dining facilities daily.

Results

2012 Survey Details

Dates: October 3rd through October 26th
 Population: 1,210 New Freshman
 Return Rate: 27.6% (334)

2013 Survey Details

Dates: October 2nd through October 26th
 Population: 1,213 New Freshman
 Return Rate: 27.9% (339)

Table 1: What is your gender?

What is your gender?	2012		2013	
	N	%	N	%
Female	187	56.0	172	50.7
Male	147	44.0	167	49.3

Table 2: What is your race/ethnicity?

What is your race/ethnicity?	2012		2013	
	N	%	N	%
International	14	4.2	20	5.9
African American/Black	22	6.6	13	3.8
American Indian/Alaska Native*	4	1.2	2	0.6
Asian/Asian American	20	6.0	18	5.3
Hispanic/Latino	22	6.6	23	6.8
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	0.3	0	0.0
White/Caucasian	232	69.5	238	70.2
Multiple races*	8	2.4	14	4.1
Race unknown	11	3.3	11	3.2

Table 3: College/School of Enrollment?

College/ School of Enrollment?	2012		2013	
	N	%	N	%
CALS	84	25.1	50	14.7
Design	4	1.2	12	3.5
CED	9	2.7	8	2.4
COE	74	22.2	89	26.3
CNR	20	6.0	22	6.5
CHASS	89	26.6	80	23.6
PAMS/COS	13	3.9	28	8.3
COT	7	2.1	6	1.8
PCOM	33	9.9	42	12.4
DASA*	1	0.3	2	0.6

**DASA (formerly DUAP) includes respondents from the First Year College, Transition Program, and Environmental Sciences Program.*

Table 4: How many hours have you worked per week at an on-campus job?

How many hours have you worked per week at an on- campus job?	2012		2013	
	N	%	N	%
None	242	89.6	269	92.1
10 hours or less	14	5.2	16	5.5
11-19 hours	10	3.7	3	1.0
20-29 hours	2	0.7	4	1.4
30 or more hours	2	0.7	0	0.0

Table 5: How many hours have you worked per week at an off-campus job?

How many hours have you worked per week at an off- campus job?	2012		2013	
	N	%	N	%
None	172	58.1	173	56.4
10 hours or less	33	11.1	42	13.7
11-19 hours	40	13.5	39	12.7
20-29 hours	27	9.1	28	9.1
30 or more hours	24	8.1	25	8.1

Table 6: How many individual class meetings have you skipped this semester?

How many individual class meetings have you skipped this semester?	2012		2013	
	N	%	N	%
None	88	28.9	102	32.6
One	53	17.4	61	19.5
Two to three	99	32.5	91	29.1
Four to five	46	15.1	41	13.1
Six to nine	16	5.2	12	3.8
10 or more	3	1.0	6	1.9

Table 7: Reason for missing class? (select all that apply)

Reason for missing class? (select all that apply)	2012		2013	
	N	%	N	%
Overslept/Lack of sleep	80	37.0	67	31.8
Health	92	42.6	94	44.5
Attendance not taken/ does not influence grade	38	17.6	28	13.3
To finish other academic work	57	26.4	51	24.2
Personal/Family Issue	68	31.5	56	26.5
Just didn't feel like going	33	15.3	32	15.2
Travel	38	17.6	23	10.9
Don't understand professor/ Don't like class	24	11.1	23	10.9
To attend social/athletic event	5	2.3	13	6.2
To participate in student club/org	9	2.7	5	2.4
Transportation/Parking	39	18.1	36	17.1
Forgot/Made a mistake			1	0.5
Work (on or off campus)	11	5.3	10	4.7
Don't need class for major/minor	3	1.4	3	1.4
Other	18	8.3	17	8.1

Table 8: Importance of sense of belonging or community at NC State?

Importance of sense of belonging or community at NC State?	2012		2013	
	N	%	N	%
Not at all important	10	3.3	18	5.8
Slightly important	40	13.2	33	10.6
Moderately important	124	40.9	107	34.3
Very important	129	42.6	154	49.4

Table 9: Extent to which you experience a sense of belonging/community at NC State?

Extent to which you experience a sense of belonging/community at NC State?	2012		2013	
	N	%	N	%
Not at all	25	9.5	34	11.1
A little	81	30.7	78	25.4
Some	109	41.3	135	44.0
A great deal	49	18.6	60	19.5

Table 10: Since arriving at NC State how often have you:

Since arriving at NC State how often have you:		Never/Once in a While		Sometimes		Often/Constantly	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Felt lonely	2012	184	60.3%	67	22.0%	54	17.7%
	2013	180	58.4%	66	21.4%	62	20.1%
Felt homesick	2012	235	77.3%	43	14.1%	26	8.6%
	2013	260	84.4%	27	8.8%	21	6.8%
Felt depressed	2012	215	80.0%	61	20.1%	27	8.9%
	2013	230	74.9%	49	16.0%	28	9.1%
Felt overwhelmed	2012	88	28.7%	96	31.3%	123	40.1%
	2013	112	36.2%	91	29.4%	106	34.3%
Felt bored	2012	200	65.8%	72	23.7%	32	10.5%
	2013	229	74.4%	56	18.2%	23	7.5%
Felt concerned about financial issues	2012	98	31.9%	79	25.7%	130	42.3%
	2013	130	41.8%	72	23.2%	109	35.0%
Felt academically underprepared	2012	172	56.0%	80	26.1%	55	17.9%
	2013	196	63.2%	66	21.3%	48	15.5%
Felt concerned about family issues	2012	186	60.6%	67	21.8%	54	17.6%
	2013	194	62.8%	65	21.0%	50	16.2%
Felt that NC State is not a good fit	2012	259	84.6%	27	8.8%	20	6.5%
	2013	252	81.3%	30	9.7%	28	9.0%
Felt very distressed	2012						
	2013	209	67.4%	51	16.5%	50	16.1%

Table 11: 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	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Find way around campus	2012	5	1.6%	16	5.2%	150	48.4%	139	44.8%
	2013	2	0.6%	22	6.9%	158	49.8%	135	42.6%
Cope with stress by identifying and implementing healthy stress relief strategies	2012	13	4.2%	59	19.0%	139	44.8%	99	31.9%
	2013	13	4.1%	44	13.8%	144	45.1%	118	37.0%
Relieve or reduce homesickness	2012	7	2.3%	18	5.9%	72	23.6%	208	68.2%
	2013	6	1.9%	17	5.5%	65	21.1%	220	71.4%
Effectively manage your time	2012	9	2.9%	49	15.8%	165	53.2%	87	28.1%
	2013	6	1.9%	40	12.6%	154	48.6%	117	36.9%
Identify at least one campus resource for academic support	2012	9	2.9%	43	13.9%	116	37.4%	142	45.8%
	2013	9	2.8%	40	12.6%	117	36.9%	151	47.6%
Identify at least one activity/ group on campus in which you might like to get involved	2012	17	5.5%	29	9.4%	92	29.8%	171	55.3%
	2013	17	5.4%	30	9.5%	105	33.3%	163	51.7%
Identify a group on campus that supports an identity important to you	2012	25	8.1%	67	21.6%	104	33.5%	114	36.8%
	2013	24	7.7%	61	19.5%	100	31.9%	128	40.9%
Use online course management systems	2012	2	0.6%	5	1.6%	110	35.5%	193	62.3%
	2013	1	0.3%	12	3.8%	113	35.6%	191	60.3%
Identify at least one campus resource for personal/ psychological/health support	2012	13	4.2%	42	13.5%	122	39.4%	133	42.9%
	2013	12	3.8%	51	16.2%	117	37.3%	134	42.7%

Table 12: 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 applicable*		Not at all		A little		Some		A great deal	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Made friends with other students	2012	7	2.3%	25	8.1%	86	27.7%	125	40.3%	67	21.6%
	2013			23	7.3%	64	20.2%	147	46.4%	83	26.2%
Used upper-class students to learn about campus/activities	2012	40	12.9%	91	29.4%	67	21.7%	77	24.9%	34	11.0%
	2013			108	34.6%	67	21.5%	89	28.5%	48	15.4%
Gotten involved in campus activities	2012	17	5.5%	96	31.0%	50	16.1%	87	28.1%	60	19.4%
	2013			76	24.2%	78	24.8%	97	30.9%	63	20.1%
Developed a relationship with a faculty member	2012	9	2.9%	106	34.5%	98	31.9%	59	19.2%	35	11.4%
	2013			87	27.7%	89	28.3%	102	32.5%	36	11.5%
Developed a relationship with a staff member	2012	32	10.4%	144	46.6%	57	18.4%	54	17.5%	22	7.1%
	2013			160	51.0%	62	19.7%	69	22.0%	23	7.3%
Sought out academic assistance for help with school work	2012	17	5.5%	84	27.1%	71	22.9%	83	26.8%	55	17.7%
	2013			100	32.1%	60	19.2%	98	31.4%	54	17.3%
Used services offered by the Counseling Center ¹	2012										
	2013			261	82.9%	15	4.8%	23	7.3%	16	5.1%
Used Student Health Services ¹	2012										
	2013			207	65.9%	35	11.1%	54	17.2%	18	5.7%

*Not applicable was not an answer choice in the 2013 TRFT Survey

¹These questions were not asked on the 2012 TRFT Survey

Table 13: During your time thus far at NC State, about how frequently have you used the following facilities or their programs/ services?

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	2012	82	26.7%	42	13.7%	75	24.4%	42	13.7%	56	18.2%
	2013	140	45.2%	58	18.7%	36	11.6%	27	8.7%	24	7.7%	25	8.1%
Student Health Center	2012	177	58.0%	71	23.3%	44	14.4%	10	3.3%	3	1.0%	0	0.0%
	2013	199	64.0%	55	17.7%	44	14.1%	8	2.6%	3	1.0%	2	0.6%
Dining facilities	2012	68	22.1%	43	14.0%	43	14.0%	32	10.4%	61	19.9%	60	19.5%
	2013	84	27.4%	36	11.7%	34	11.1%	27	8.8%	35	11.4%	91	29.6%
NC State Libraries	2012	24	7.8%	26	8.5%	58	18.9%	48	15.6%	75	24.4%	76	24.8%
	2013	24	7.7%	17	5.5%	47	15.2%	46	14.8%	56	18.1%	120	38.7%
Open lounges in academic buildings	2012	50	16.3%	25	8.1%	50	16.3%	46	15.0%	71	23.1%	65	21.2%
	2013	66	21.4%	28	9.1%	41	13.3%	44	14.3%	53	17.2%	76	24.7%
Carmichael Complex	2012	119	38.8%	25	8.1%	37	12.1%	28	9.1%	71	23.1%	27	8.8%
	2013	147	47.9%	17	5.5%	28	9.1%	25	8.1%	33	10.7%	57	18.6%
Athletic facilities	2012	197	64.0%	36	11.7%	31	10.1%	14	4.5%	24	7.8%	6	1.9%
	2013	229	73.9%	25	8.1%	20	6.5%	8	2.6%	13	4.2%	15	4.8%
Outdoor spaces	2012	90	29.2%	39	12.7%	43	14.0%	39	12.7%	53	17.2%	44	14.3%
	2013	82	26.5%	30	9.7%	48	15.5%	38	12.3%	45	14.5%	67	21.6%
Career Development Center	2012	201	65.5%	50	16.3%	39	12.7%	11	3.6%	6	2.0%	0	0.0%
	2013	232	75.1%	43	13.9%	20	6.5%	8	2.6%	3	1.0%	0	0.0%
Residence halls	2012	218	70.8%	13	4.2%	10	3.2%	6	1.9%	13	4.2%	48	15.6%
	2013	217	70.7%	16	5.2%	6	2.0%	6	2.0%	5	1.6%	57	18.6%

