

Stop Out Survey Report 2021

October 4, 2021

Prepared by: **DASA** Assessment

Survey Overview

Every summer, DASA Assessment emails a survey to students who were enrolled at NC State 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 and provide any resources that may be needed to help a student become re-enrolled.

The 2021 Stop Out sample consisted of 1,143 students. Approximately 8% (N=94) of the students in the 2021 Stop Out sample submitted a complete or partial response.

The questions provided students with a list of reasons why they may have decided to leave. Students were asked to rate the effect of each particular reason on their decision to dis-enroll. They were also provided space to share reasons that may not have been on the pre-populated list. Students were asked to name any office or person on campus they may have reached out to for assistance with their decision. Other factors were addressed as well, including employment status while at NC State, future plans to continue their postsecondary education, and overall experience while enrolled.

Highlights

Representativeness

Female students were overrepresented at 54.3% of respondents but only 33.4% of the Stop Out population. Differences between the sample and survey population with respect to race/ethnicity and college were all <5%, with the exception of the College of Engineering which was underrepresented and University College which was overrepresented. Sophomore students were overrepresented (32.1% of the sample versus 24.5% of the population) and seniors were underrepresented (23.4% of the sample versus 34.2% of the population). Survey respondents were disproportionately in good academic standing (85.1%) compared to the population (74.6%) with a higher mean GPA compared to non-respondents (3.1 versus 2.7).

Reasons for Dis-enrolling

Students were asked to choose the single most important reason they were not enrolled for fall 2021 (Tables 11-12). **The most common primary reasons for not enrolling were: Wanted to transfer to another institution (25.3%), emotional health-related problem (12.6%), Other (12.6%), and desired major not offered (10.3%).** The "Other" category gave students the option to type in their reason for not enrolling. Upon qualitative analysis of these responses, assessment staff found no emerging themes and observed that responses were related to various reasons already provided as options for this question.

Students were also asked to report other contributing factors to their decision to dis-enroll other than their primary reasons. Common responses included various forms of academic difficulty and feeling alone/isolated. See Tables 9-10 for specifics.

Future Plans

36.9% of respondents "strongly" or "somewhat" agreed that they planned to return to NC State. Students who reported that they were not attending and did not plan to attend another postsecondary institution for fall 2021 (39.4% of the sample) were asked if they plan to attend another postsecondary institution in the future. 35.1% reported "No" (Table 18). Finally, 86.9% of students who took the survey strongly or somewhat agreed that they could succeed at NC State.

Table 1: Gender Demographics

Gender	Survey Respondent		Survey Population		Undergraduate Population	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
Male	45.7%	43	66.6%	761	51.1%	12769
Female	54.3%	51	33.4%	382	48.9%	12213
Total	100.0%	94	100.0%	1143	100.0%	24982

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 2: Race/Ethnicity Demographics

Race/Ethnicity	Survey Respondent		Survey Population		Undergraduate Population	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.1%	1	1.4%	16	0.4%	98
Asian American	11.7%	11	6.9%	79	8.1%	2033
Black or African American	6.4%	6	6.9%	79	6.0%	1487
Hispanic	7.4%	7	8.7%	99	6.9%	1730
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.1%	21
Non-Resident Alien	3.2%	3	5.2%	59	3.2%	788
Two or More Races	4.3%	4	6.3%	72	4.3%	1074
Unknown	3.2%	3	4.5%	51	3.7%	918
White	62.8%	59	60.2%	688	67.4%	16833
Total	100.0%	94	100.0%	1143	100.0%	24982

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 3: College Demographics

College	Survey Respondent		Survey Population		Undergraduate Population	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences	9.6%	9	10.8%	124	11.8%	2939
College of Education	3.2%	3	1.1%	13	2.3%	564
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	20.2%	19	17.2%	197	14.8%	3708
College of Natural Resources	5.3%	5	5.8%	66	6.0%	1504
College of Engineering	16.0%	15	27.1%	310	25.6%	6397
College of Sciences	9.6%	9	11.6%	133	11.6%	2910
College of Design	4.3%	4	3.0%	34	2.3%	576
Poole College of Management	9.6%	9	12.4%	142	13.3%	3314
Wilson College of Textiles	5.3%	5	2.2%	25	3.1%	778
University College	17.0%	16	8.7%	99	4.4%	1109
Other	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	4.7%	1183
Total	100.0%	94	100.0%	1143	100.0%	24982

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 4: Grade Level Demographics

Grade Level	Survey Respondent		Survey Population		Undergraduate Population	
	%	N	%	N	%	N
First Year Undergrad	18.1%	17	15.3%	175	9.7%	2425
Second Year Undergrad	35.1%	33	24.5%	280	19.8%	4950
Third Year Undergrad	23.4%	22	26.0%	297	26.9%	6731
Fourth Year Undergrad	23.4%	22	34.2%	391	37.7%	9412
Fifth Year or More	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.1%	26
Unclassified	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	5.8%	1438
Total	100.0%	94	100.0%	1143	100.0%	24982

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 5: **First Generation Status Demographics - Fall 2020**

First Generation Status	Survey Respondent		Survey Population	
	%	N	%	N
First Generation	14.9%	14	22.2%	254
Not First Generation	75.5%	71	64.8%	741
Unknown	9.6%	9	12.9%	148
Total	100.0%	94	100.0%	1143

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 6: **Rural Status Demographics - Fall 2020**

Rural Status	Survey Respondent		Survey Population	
	%	N	%	N
Out of State or International	12.8%	12	11.8%	135
Rural	20.2%	19	30.6%	350
Urban	67.0%	63	57.6%	658
Total	100.0%	94	100.0%	1143

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 7: **Academic Standing**

Standing	Survey Respondent		Survey Population	
	%	N	%	N
Good Standing	85.1%	80	74.6%	853
Suspended	4.3%	4	8.7%	99
Warning	10.6%	10	16.7%	191
Total	100.0%	94	100.0%	1143

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 8: **Grade Point Average**

GPA	Survey Respondents	Survey Non-Respondents
Minimum	0.4	0.0
1st Quartile	2.7	2.2
Median	3.3	2.7
Mean	3.1	2.7
3rd Quartile	3.7	3.3
Maximum	4.0	4.0

Note 1: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Note 2: Survey respondents participated in the Stop Out survey, Survey non-respondents did not

Table 9: To What Extent Was Each of The Following a Reason In Your Decision Not to Enroll In The Fall 2021 Semester? (1 of 2)

To What Extent Was Each of The Following a Reason In Your Decision Not to Enroll In The Fall 2021 Semester?	Mean Rating	4. A Great Deal	3. Somewhat	2. A Little	1. Not at All	N
Desired Major Not Offered	1.7	13.0%	10.9%	8.7%	67.4%	92
Didn't Meet GPA Requirements to Declare Change Major	1.3	6.5%	3.3%	8.7%	81.5%	92
A Problem With Academic Policy (i.e: Withdrawal Policies, etc.)	1.3	3.3%	4.3%	9.8%	82.6%	92
Poor Academic Choices (e.g. Poor Time Management, Skipping Class, Not Completing Assignments)	1.5	7.6%	6.5%	13.0%	72.8%	92
Unable to Get Courses Needed	1.5	5.5%	12.1%	8.8%	73.6%	91
Courses Were Too Difficult	1.5	6.5%	12.0%	9.8%	71.7%	92
Suspended Academically	1.3	4.4%	4.4%	6.6%	84.6%	91
Suspended For Disciplinary Reasons	1.1	2.2%	0.0%	2.2%	95.7%	92
Wanted to Transfer to Another Institution	2.5	41.3%	10.9%	5.4%	42.4%	92
Needed a Break From School	1.9	18.7%	8.8%	14.3%	58.2%	91
Not Sure What I Want to Do	1.8	13.0%	14.1%	13.0%	59.8%	92
Financial Reasons	2.0	22.2%	12.2%	7.8%	57.8%	90
Stress of School Work	2.0	26.1%	9.8%	2.2%	62.0%	92
Family Crisis	1.8	16.1%	7.5%	11.8%	64.5%	93
Wanted to Live Closer to Family, Friends, Significant Other, etc.	1.6	8.9%	12.2%	7.8%	71.1%	90
Lack of Connection to My Peers	2.1	20.0%	16.7%	16.7%	46.7%	90
Lack of Connection to Faculty and Staff	2.1	16.9%	23.6%	15.7%	43.8%	89
Felt Alone or Isolated	2.3	30.3%	12.4%	19.1%	38.2%	89

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 10: To What Extent Was Each of The Following a Reason In Your Decision Not to Enroll In The Fall 2021 Semester? (2 of 2)

To What Extent Was Each of The Following a Reason In Your Decision Not to Enroll In The Fall 2021 Semester?	Mean Rating	4. A Great Deal	3. Somewhat	2. A Little	1. Not at All	N
Poor Personal Choices (e.g. Alcohol or Drug Abuse, Unhealthy Relationships, etc.)	1.3	2.2%	2.2%	15.7%	79.8%	89
Physical Health-Related Problem	1.4	7.8%	4.4%	6.7%	81.1%	90
Emotional Health-Related Problem	2.2	23.3%	15.6%	16.7%	44.4%	90
Military Obligations	1.1	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	96.6%	89
Had to Work-Not Enough Time For Classes	1.7	12.4%	11.2%	10.1%	66.3%	89
New or Revised Job Requirements	1.4	6.8%	8.0%	8.0%	77.3%	88
Difficulties With Being a Commuter Student	1.3	5.6%	4.5%	6.7%	83.1%	89
Not Enough Support For Minority Students	1.3	3.4%	8.0%	4.5%	84.1%	88
Dissatisfaction With Overall Atmosphere at NC State	2.0	13.6%	18.2%	18.2%	50.0%	88
Dissatisfaction With Major or Program	1.8	11.4%	12.5%	19.3%	56.8%	88
Dissatisfaction With Quality of Academic Instruction	1.7	11.5%	12.6%	13.8%	62.1%	87
Dissatisfaction With Campus Appearance	1.3	1.1%	6.8%	15.9%	76.1%	88
Dissatisfaction With Urban Environment	1.3	2.3%	6.8%	11.4%	79.5%	88
Dissatisfaction With Academic Advising	1.6	9.1%	5.7%	18.2%	67.0%	88
Dissatisfaction With Activities Outside The Classroom	1.6	2.3%	14.8%	19.3%	63.6%	88
Dissatisfaction With Size of Classes	1.3	0.0%	11.4%	9.1%	79.5%	88
Dissatisfaction With Size of Institution	1.2	1.1%	8.0%	5.7%	85.2%	88
Dissatisfaction With My Academic Performance	1.7	13.6%	11.4%	5.7%	69.3%	88
Dissatisfaction With Living Environment	1.7	10.2%	11.4%	17.0%	61.4%	88
Dis-enrolled Due to Lack of Progress Toward Degree	1.5	8.0%	2.3%	17.0%	72.7%	88
Other	1.5	17.3%	0.0%	0.0%	82.7%	52

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 11: Please Select The Single Most Important Reason that Influenced Why You Chose Not to Enroll For Fall 2021. (1 of 2)

Please Select The Single Most Important Reason that Influenced Why You Chose Not to Enroll For Fall 2021.	%	N
Desired Major Not Offered	10.3%	9
Didn't Meet GPA Requirements to Declare Change Major	2.3%	2
A Problem With Academic Policy (i.e: Withdrawal Policies, etc.)	2.3%	2
Poor Academic Choices (e.g. Poor Time Management, Skipping Class, Not Completing Assignments)	2.3%	2
Unable to Get Courses Needed	1.1%	1
Courses Were Too Difficult	0.0%	0
Suspended Academically	0.0%	0
Suspended For Disciplinary Reasons	1.1%	1
Wanted to Transfer to Another Institution	25.3%	22
Needed a Break From School	3.4%	3
Not Sure What I Want to Do	1.1%	1
Financial Reasons	6.9%	6
Stress of School Work	0.0%	0
Family Crisis	1.1%	1
Wanted to Live Closer to Family, Friends, Significant Other, etc.	2.3%	2
Lack of Connection to My Peers	1.1%	1
Lack of Connection to Faculty and Staff	0.0%	0
Felt Alone or Isolated	1.1%	1

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 12: **Please Select The Single Most Important Reason that Influenced Why You Chose Not to Enroll For Fall 2021. (2 of 2)**

Please Select The Single Most Important Reason that Influenced Why You Chose Not to Enroll For Fall 2021.	%	N
Poor Personal Choices (e.g. Alcohol or Drug Abuse, Unhealthy Relationships, etc.)	0.0%	0
Physical Health-Related Problem	3.4%	3
Emotional Health-Related Problem	12.6%	11
Military Obligations	0.0%	0
Had to Work-Not Enough Time For Classes	2.3%	2
New or Revised Job Requirements	1.1%	1
Difficulties With Being a Commuter Student	0.0%	0
Not Enough Support For Minority Students	0.0%	0
Dissatisfaction With Overall Atmosphere at NC State	4.6%	4
Dissatisfaction With Major or Program	0.0%	0
Dissatisfaction With Quality of Academic Instruction	0.0%	0
Dissatisfaction With Campus Appearance	0.0%	0
Dissatisfaction With Urban Environment	0.0%	0
Dissatisfaction With Academic Advising	0.0%	0
Dissatisfaction With Activities Outside The Classroom	0.0%	0
Dissatisfaction With Size of Classes	0.0%	0
Dissatisfaction With Size of Institution	0.0%	0
Dissatisfaction With My Academic Performance	1.1%	1
Dissatisfaction With Living Environment	0.0%	0
Dis-enrolled Due to Lack of Progress Toward Degree	0.0%	0
Other	12.6%	11

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 13: Please Indicate If You Agree or Disagree With The Following Statements:

Please Indicate If You Agree or Disagree With The Following Statements:	Mean Rating	4. Strongly Agree	3. Somewhat Agree	2. Somewhat Disagree	1. Strongly Disagree	N
When I First Enrolled at NC State, I Intended to Complete a Degree From NC State	3.6	78.6%	10.7%	4.8%	6.0%	84
I Plan to Return to NC State	2.2	27.4%	9.5%	21.4%	41.7%	84
I Could Succeed at NC State	3.3	52.4%	34.5%	7.1%	6.0%	84

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 14: When You Made Your Decision Not to Enroll, Did You Seek Out Assistance/Guidance From Any of The Following?

When You Made Your Decision Not to Enroll, Did You Seek Out Assistance/Guidance From Any of The Following?	Mean Rating	4. A Great Deal	3. Some	2. A Little	1. None	N
University Counseling Center	1.6	13.3%	8.4%	7.2%	71.1%	83
Your Academic Advisor	2.3	23.8%	26.2%	8.3%	41.7%	84
Financial Aid	1.5	8.3%	4.8%	13.1%	73.8%	84
Other Faculty or Staff On Campus	1.1	4.5%	0.0%	1.5%	94.0%	67

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 15: When You Made Your Decision Not to Enroll, How Much Assistance/Guidance Did You Receive From Each of The Following:

When You Made Your Decision Not to Enroll, How Much Assistance/Guidance Did You Receive From Each of The Following:	Mean Rating	4. A Great Deal	3. Some	2. A Little	1. None	N
University Counseling Center	1.4	7.3%	6.1%	7.3%	79.3%	82
Your Academic Advisor	2.2	21.7%	15.7%	20.5%	42.2%	83
Financial Aid	1.3	4.9%	1.2%	12.2%	81.7%	82
Other Faculty or Staff On Campus	1.2	4.6%	1.5%	0.0%	93.8%	65

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 16: If You Plan to Return, In Which Semester Will You Enroll?

If You Plan to Return, In Which Semester Will You Enroll?	%	N
Not Returning	0.0%	0
Not Sure	29.0%	9
Fall 2021	29.0%	9
Spring 2022	32.3%	10
Summer 2022	0.0%	0
After Summer 2022	9.7%	3

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 17: Are You Currently Attending Another Postsecondary Institution or Will You Be Attending Another Postsecondary Institution this Fall?

Are You Currently Attending Another Postsecondary Institution or Will You Be Attending Another Postsecondary Institution this Fall?	%	N
Yes	55.4%	46
No	44.6%	37

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 18: Are You Planning to Attend Another Postsecondary Institution In The Future?

Are You Planning to Attend Another Postsecondary Institution In The Future?	%	N
Yes	16.2%	6
Maybe	48.6%	18
No	35.1%	13

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 19: Were You Employed In The 2020-2021 School Year While Still a Student at NC State?

Were You Employed In The 2020-2021 School Year While Still a Student at NC State?	%	N
Yes	61.9%	52
No	38.1%	32

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 20: If You Were Employed During The 2020-2021 School Year While Still a Student, How Many Hours a Week Did You Work On Campus?

If You Were Employed During The 2020-2021 School Year While Still a Student, How Many Hours a Week Did You Work On Campus?	%	N
None On Campus	69.2%	36
10 Hours or Fewer	19.2%	10
11-19	5.8%	3
20-29	1.9%	1
30 or More Hours	3.8%	2

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 21: If You Were Employed During The 2020-2021 School Year While Still a Student, How Many Hours a Week Did You Work Off Campus?

If You Were Employed During The 2020-2021 School Year While Still a Student, How Many Hours a Week Did You Work Off Campus?	%	N
None On Campus	15.4%	8
10 Hours or Fewer	17.3%	9
11-19	23.1%	12
20-29	17.3%	9
30 or More Hours	26.9%	14

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Table 22: How do You Identify In Terms of Your Gender? (Select All that Apply)

How do You Identify In Terms of Your Gender? (Select All that Apply)	%	N
Man	37.2%	35
Woman	47.9%	45
Transman	2.1%	2
Transwoman	2.1%	2
Genderqueer or Non-Binary	6.4%	6
Uncertain or Questioning	1.1%	1
I Identify Using a Different Term	0.0%	0
Prefer Not to Answer	0.0%	0

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Note: 'Select All that Apply' percentages calculated out of the number of total survey respondents

Table 23: How do You Identify In Terms of Your Sexual Orientation? (Select All that Apply)

How do You Identify In Terms of Your Sexual Orientation? (Select All that Apply)	%	N
Heterosexual or Straight	63.8%	60
Gay	2.1%	2
Lesbian	3.2%	3
Bisexual or Pansexual	16.0%	15
Asexual	0.0%	0
Uncertain or Questioning	1.1%	1
I Identify Using a Different Term	1.1%	1
Prefer Not to Answer	1.1%	1

Note: Percentages rounded to 1 decimal place

Note: 'Select All that Apply' percentages calculated out of the number of total survey respondents