

NC State University 2015 Alumni Survey Highlights

NC State conducted its triennial survey of alumni during the Spring of 2015. Alumni who received a bachelor's degree from NC State between Summer 2009 and Spring 2012 (N=14,091) were asked to participate in the online survey. A total of 2,589 surveys were completed, for a response rate of 18.5 percent.

Alumni are very satisfied with the undergraduate education they received at NC State... Over 90 percent of respondents say the undergraduate education they received from NC State was either "very strong" or "strong," that they would still choose NC State again if starting over, and that they would recommend NC State to a friend.

NC State alumni pursue advanced degrees, and feel well prepared for their graduate/professional school studies... Almost 40 percent of respondents have attended graduate/professional school, with close to 40 percent of them doing so at their alma mater, NC State. Honors and awards are not uncommon, with more than one-half of respondents who attend receiving some type of scholarship, honor, award, or assistantship while in graduate/professional school. Close to 90 percent of those who are or were enrolled in graduate/professional school say they received "excellent" or "good" preparation through their program of study at NC State for their continued studies.

NC State alumni get jobs after graduation, and feel well prepared for them... Over two-thirds of NC State graduates who sought employment had a full-time permanent position either before or immediately upon graduation (42%) or within six months after graduating (27%). Three-fourths of currently employed alumni are working in areas either "directly" or "somewhat related" to their major field of study while at NC State. More than three-fourths of respondents reported either "excellent" or "good" preparation by NC State for both their first job and their current position, and 90 percent agree that their NC State education prepared them to be competitive with graduates from other institutions.

While alumni believe that NC State has done well in meeting a wide range of goals related to their undergraduate education, there is room for improvement... Large majorities of respondents are very satisfied with the extent to which NC State helped them develop numerous skills related to communication, critical and creative thinking, professionalism, general education, and diversity and global awareness. However, there are differences in the extent to which alumni feel they were prepared, and how important several particular skills are to them in their current profession and/or personal lives. Specifically, *communication skills overall, adapting to changing circumstances, keeping current with skills/knowledge in my field, professional skills overall, and effectively leading and guiding others* are all rated notably higher in "importance" than in "preparation".

Alumni reap benefits from experiential and extra-curricular programs available at NC State... A majority of alumni had a work-related experience at NC State, such as through an internship, a cooperative education program, or research with a faculty member, and almost 90 percent of them say the experience had a positive impact on their career. About 20 percent had an international experience through an NC State Study Abroad or service trip, with a majority of those participants saying the experience did "a great deal" to help them better understand world problems and issues and to better appreciate diverse perspectives and different cultures. About two-thirds participated in a community service or service learning project while an undergraduate, something that three-fourths of them agree had a positive impact on their commitment to helping to improve society.

Alumni believe it is important to stay connected to NC State, but not all feel as connected as they would like... Over two-thirds the alumni respondents say it is "very" or "moderately important" for them to feel connected to NC State, but less than half of all respondents say they currently feel either "very" or "moderately connected" to the University.

For more information on the 2015 Alumni Survey contact:
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