

**2021 Alumni Survey
Highlights**

The NC State Alumni Survey, administered from January 11, 2021 until April 1, 2021, asks baccalaureate alumni who graduated from Summer 2015 through May 2018 a wide range of questions about their satisfaction with their NC State experience; their post-graduation activities, including employment and further education; and their sense of how well NC State prepared them for life after graduation. Of the 14,591 baccalaureate eligible to complete the survey, 2,527 did so, for a response rate of 17.3%.

Over 90 percent of alumni respondents “strongly agree” (64.4%) or “agree” (24.7%) that they would choose to attend NC State again if they were starting over, “strongly agree” (73.5%) or “agree” (21.7%) that they are proud to have graduated from NC State, and would recommend NC State to a friend (92.1%). In addition, over 90 percent rated their overall undergraduate education as “very strong” (53.1%) or “strong” (40.0%), and believe that NC State prepared them “a great deal” (56.3%) or “somewhat” (33.2%) to be competitive with graduates from other institutions.

Alumni remain connected to NC State, with two-thirds of those who say it is “very important” to feel connected saying they actually feel “very” (25.7%) or “moderately connected” (39.2%) to the institution.

Seventy percent of Alumni Survey respondents indicated that their primary activity during the first year after they graduated was full-time employment (70.2%), while 13 percent said they were working part-time. Nearly one-in-five alumni said their primary activity was attending graduate/professional school either full-time (17.4%) or part-time (2.1%) in the year after graduation. Another five percent said they were self-employed (2.8%), serving in the military (1.1%), or in a service program (1.3%).

Over 40 percent of all alumni reported that they had accepted an offer for a full-time permanent position by commencement day (41.7%), and another eight percent said they continued in a job that they had begun prior to graduation (8.2%). Fifteen percent said they had secured a position within three months of graduating (14.9%). Not surprisingly, alumni who went on to graduate/professional school were more likely than those who did not to report taking longer to obtain a position after receiving their undergraduate degree, or having not yet looked for a full-time permanent position.

Overall, alumni reported feeling well prepared by NC State for their first post-graduation job. More than one-third said they had “excellent” preparation by NC State (34.3%), and an additional 43 percent rated their preparation by NC State as “good” (43.0%). While starting salaries varied widely by the college from which one graduated, overall respondents reported earning an average starting salary of \$49,004 in their first full-time permanent position. Over one-fourth of alumni reported earning \$60,000 or more in their first full-time job (27.0%), with 13 percent of them earning \$70,000 or more (13.1%). Fifteen percent reported earning under \$30,000 (14.6%).

The large majority of 2015 Summer Session II through May 2018 baccalaureate alumni reported being employed full-time in spring 2021 when they completed the survey. Sixty percent of them

said they were working in the private, for profit sector (60.3%), 17 percent work in education (17.1%), 9 percent for the federal, state, or local government (8.7%), and five percent for a private non-profit organization (4.6%). Seventy percent work in North Carolina, with 30 percent in the Triangle. Overall, alumni reported earning an average salary of \$62,119 in their current full-time position, with 40 percent reportedly earning \$70,000 or more (39.5%) and one-in-five earning less than \$40,000 per year (19.3%).

Over one-third of Alumni Survey respondents have attended graduate/professional school since receiving their bachelor's degree from NC State. Twenty percent have already completed an advanced degree (19.7%), including two percent have already completed one advanced degree and are currently pursuing another (1.9%). Meanwhile, 15 percent are currently seeking their first graduate/professional degree (15.2%). The majority of those who completed a graduate degree earned a Master's degree (88.1%), while close to 10 percent earned a Professional degree (9.1%), and two percent earned a Doctoral degree (1.5%). Among those currently enrolled in graduate/professional school, just over half are seeking a Master's degree (53.3%), one-fourth a Doctoral degree (26.0%), and 22 percent a Professional degree (22.2%). The majority of those going on to seek a graduate/professional degree stayed in North Carolina (63.3%), with close to half of them earning or seeking an advanced degree from NC State (46.4%). The vast majority of alumni who already completed an advanced degree said their undergraduate education did an "excellent" (53.2%) or "good" (33.4%) job preparing them for graduate/professional school.

A notable number of alumni reported having had an international experience while an undergraduate at NC State, with 15 percent participating in a study abroad for a summer or short-term session (15.1%), and eight percent for a semester or longer (8.4%). Another five percent said they went on an international service trip organized by NC State (4.8%). Three-fourths of alumni with international experience said it did a "great deal" to help them better appreciate people with diverse perspectives or from different cultures (77.9%), and nearly two-thirds said it did "a great deal" to help them better understand problems and issues facing the world (63.6%). Over half of those who had not participated in a study abroad said "financial constraints" kept them from doing so (54.9%), as did over 40 percent of those not participating in an international service trip (42.9%).

Alumni reported having had a number of different work-related experiences while an undergraduate at NC State. Over half of respondents reported that they participated in an internship while an undergraduate (55.2%). About one-in-five said they worked in a full- or part-time job related to their major (20.6%), or participated in a research project with faculty (21.8%).

Overall, alumni believe a wide range of educational goals NC State has for undergraduate students (e.g., communication, problem solving, professionalism, general education, diversity/global awareness) are important to them in their current life, and that NC State did a good job in helping them develop such skills. Skills related to communication, professionalism, and problem solving tended to be more highly rated both in importance and development than were those related to general education and diversity/global awareness. With few exceptions, alumni on average gave higher ratings to the importance of a skill than to the extent to which NC State contributed to their development of that skill. However, in general, alumni gave similar relative rankings to the importance of a skill and NC State's contribution to their development of that skill.