

2015 Campus Climate Survey: Graduate Students:
h1: What do you think is working well at NC State to support diversity on campus?
Open-End Comments (Topic: Campus Environment)

h1	Race	Gender
The generally easy-going attitude coupled with immediate responses to problems within the community.	Other/Unknown	MV
The fact that your office continues to assess the climate and receive useful feedback from students.	AfAmer/Black	Female
The culture of respect for different races and ethnicity works well on NC State Campus. The Management, faculty and staff members are doing a good job overall. I think the issues lies among the students mostly. So, the student should be constantly reminded of the need to accomodate each other regardless of race or ethnicity.	AfAmer/Black	Male
I haven't been engaged enough to have a strong opinion, but generally the atmosphere on campus is friendly to people of all backgrounds.	AfAmer/Black	Male
Professors' attitude toward diversity as well as school administrators' supportive measures about diversity are working very well.	Asian	Female
Everything is working well, I have had no issues so far. It is good environment here.	Asian	Female
I think the current support offered by NC state is pretty good. What I feel is that the social life here as a graduate student is pretty dull. While all the activities take place on the main campus there is very little activity that goes on in the Centennial campus. I would encourage more activities to be held on this campus. As a graduate student, there is very little time and energy to go to main campus and engage in those activities. // Overall, I think the environment is very diversity-friendly and safety-oriented.	Asian	Female
OIS programs are really good they help during the initial days to ease up to the difference in culture and lifestyle.	Asian	Female
Various ethnic/racial groups and communities are allowed to hold communal gatherings and cultural showcases where people from other ethnic/racial groups are more than welcome. This makes them understand and respect each other's cultures.	Asian	Female
It is very supportive	Asian	Female
Staff and office administrative are extremely supportive. Staff at OIS is helpful and polite. Students at NC State get along well with each other irrespective of their racial/ethnic/socioeconomic backgrounds.	Asian	Female
I don't really follow much of what goes on at NCSU campus because of my commute and long-distance relationship. I'm in nyc everytwo-three weeks. I was in a student group during my first and second year and I did see a lot of activities and support on campus, which I think still goes on. I think more student events that foster a friendly atmosphere, especially in the brickyard, might be more supportive of diversity on campus. ** / ** I would like to make a seperate note that there are two religious people who lecture in the brickyard and on the way to tally. I am not opposed to any other religions, as I haven't done my share of soul searching. However, I become uncomfortable when those opinions are imposed involuntarily on me. I've been bringing my lunch from home since then so I can avoid them. One of them used to frequently visit my building as well, but he no longer appears there. There was also a homophobic protest on the brickyard last year. Again, while I am not opposed to diverse opinions, it becomes an issue when large groups of people make settings uncomfortable for others.	Asian	Female
Faculty and Staff at NC State do not discriminate between students of different race/gender/ethnicity. That is the most important factor where students feel welcome and confident to work with their peers who are different from them. In general all the students are treated with equal respect that encourages students to do the same.	Asian	Female
Campus community displays a very tolerant attitude towards people from different backgrounds. Multicultural events celebrate different cultures.	Asian	Female
It's good that administrators at NC State are aware that diversity is an important value. However, tolerance and empathy should be as highly valued and sought after as whether or not I see others like me in my social environment. (Note: I identify as a racial minority, so my responses about "everyone is different from my race" is not an indication of diversity but rather that my department largely accepts white graduate students.) This awareness is a pertinent issue in my department as graduate students are prepared to teach and discuss social inequality and privilege, which should be fostered in a variety of other undergraduate courses as well.	Asian	Female

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Nothing really. I'm a minority, and I was told that my program was "known" for graduating minorities. When I got here, I was the only minority in my class. I find this appalling especially since this department's faculty preach about inequality, anti-racism, and "embrace" diversity when in fact, the way that minorities are treated is appalling. I've spoken with two other minority women who are farther along in this program and they have been subject to egregious acts against them politically within this department.	Asian	Female
There is a lot of tolerance among the students and the faculty towards students from different backgrounds. I would like to see more awareness created about the diverse nature of the students who attend NC State so that people are careful to understand each other's culture and preferences better. This will foster a professional and social relationship among all the parties concerned.	Asian	Male
NC State makes others aware of all the things which helps students from different cultures to learn and also adapt in the society.	Asian	Male
Firstly, the school has to build more groups or organizations to protect the minority. / Secondly, in some part, school has not pay more attention to promote/encourage to increase of the diversity. / Thirdly, it is a common atmosphere is US universities that the diversity is not really more important than academy. /	Asian	Male
NC State has a diverse set of people who are very helpful, friendly and supportive at all times.	Asian	Male
Most of graduate programs have people from diverse background. There are students from China, India, Pakistan, Europe, Middle East. I feel this creates a balanced diversity group where we get to interact with different kind of people and learn about their culture, their socio-economic structures, culture, etc. I will be happy if this is maintained in coming year as well.	Asian	Male
Education about equality and embracing diversity	Asian	Male
Awareness and respect of different race/culture/ethnicity/religion	Asian	Male
NC state has an all-inclusive environment, which provides equal opprtunity to everyone to express their identity without any inhibitions. This is an important aspect of humanity and should be replicated in the society at-large.	Asian	Male
Proportion of the faculty, staff and student is doing well. More native culture spreading activities are needed.	Asian	Male
At the 4 months at NC state so far, I never had a bad experience with any one, be it teaching faculty, students or support staff. Every one is pleasant and welcoming. Only once , I had a lady behaving rudely and not telling us the route when me and my friends were lost. But i attribute that to that individual and not the race. / / Being an outsider , i dont have any rights to say these. But still, I feel, people shouldnt be grouped as Afro-Americans or Whites. / I feel its Absurd to associate the word 'Afro' to them when they were born as an american all their life. / / Also grouping them and giving them a name bonds them automatically and it is almost like society is encouraging to form groups based on their appearances. / / Also , I have chosen not to answer any question in the survey based on religion or sexual orientation because, those doesnt define a person's individual traits. Every religion has good persons and bad persons. Questions based on religion has somewhat offended me to say the least. / / Its great that NC state is serious about providing a healthy environment in campus for all the diversified students studying here. / I feel, the best way to keep the campus that way is to remove all the malicious elements that try to ruin the good environment in campus and keep all the other good people unaffected by these incidents. I am sure NC state mostly has socially responsible community if not all and everyone would welcome harsh measures taken in this regard. / / Hope I haven't said anything politically wrong. If not, please pardon my ignorance.	Asian	Male
There are no presumptions made in official or social situations; for me that is the important thing that allows people from different backgrounds to feel welcome.	Asian	Male
I know that CHASS has a department of diversity and a diversity coordinator, who I know personally. I also know he completes many programs with the students. I also know there are different cultural events that take place in the building that I work take classes in. So, even if I don't attend, I am aware of events that are going on that promote culture or diversity. I also am aware that there are formal mechanisms in place (like the department of diversity/diversity coordinator) that help to foster diversity.	Hispanic/Latino	Female

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I think it's the students who do the best job by creating organizations that support diversity with the backing of the overall university. I'm not as involved since I am a graduate student in the school community as i was as an undergrad. School support of those organizations I think has been working well. // I think honestly that diversity is important but admissions should be blind to 'diversity' i.e. don't ask about gender, race, or sexual orientation to build numbers and try to make the university look better. If you reflect what the experience here is like and make it a good one - the students will want to be here and we might surprise ourselves with the demographics that emerge once schools base their acceptance solely on merit - not on reaching quotas. It's also been shown to help students because they are more likely to succeed in a place they want to be and deserve to be and are ready to be at - rather than accepting a student who cannot handle the school.	Hispanic/Latino	Female
By ensuring that as many people as possible feel welcome and accepted, diversity is supported. I do feel NC State does fairly well in not allowing for discrimination of people based off of any particular trait.	Hispanic/Latino	Female
Accepting the best applicants and fostering an non-discriminatory, comfortable and neutral environment.	White	Female
THE LGBT center rocks ! And the environment on the CVM campus in regards to diversity is absolutely awesome.	White	Female
I do not see anything which is not working well. But I also think as a graduate student we are in a environment which consists of international students thus we are surrounded by minorities. So as long as we are working in this environment I do not think I will feel any adverse effects.	White	Female
There seem to be a lot of events and organizations dedicated to diverse populations on campus. These events seem aimed towards creating a safe and welcoming environment.	White	Female
Having the conversation is a good start. Because I am a graduate student who does not live on campus, and I spend very little time on campus or in the campus culture, it's hard for me to say what is and what isn't working. I think the best way to reach students is through their professors. We are all inundated with information, especially via email and posters in the buildings. There's so much going on that it all kind of becomes background noise, so if you're not looking for it, or experiencing some issue concerning diversity firsthand, it just kind of takes a backseat to everything else. I would say my professors are the only people at NC State that ever actually have my undivided attention and respect.	White	Female
good culture awareness activities	White	Female
The counseling center is a supportive environment, but it seems understaffed	White	Female
Engineering is a tough field for women/diversity, but has a lot of potential because of so many international students and worldwide collaborations. NCSU has had a more welcoming climate than my brief experience in industry. I was very impressed by NCSU's swift and emotional response to the murders of the three muslim students/alumni. //	White	Female
There is definitely an environment tolerance of cultures and ethnicities from foreign countries. The LGBT community is pretty much championed, and treated special, not equal.	White	Female
Visibility is much more available; I am aware of ethnic groups and cultures, religions, and sexual orientations different from my own.	White	Female
I think there is intent to create a diverse climate at NCState.	White	Female
Regular communication from the chancellor and student body president. Inclusive events in the brick yard.	White	Female
I think NC State tries to make people feel welcome on campus. However, since I am a white student I don't see a lot of this diversity support at work. I think students of other cultures may be aware of the way NC State supports diversity.	White	Female
There are several clubs and activities hosted by the school that embrace diversity on campus. The diversity in the student population and the faculty/staff population helps increase awareness and acceptance of differences.	White	Female
There are a lot of clubs and organizations for diversity. These organizations provide a lot of events to learn about its culture. CHASS pushes diversity down your throat, while PCOM appropriate integrates it into the class work.	White	Female

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Due to my commute, I don't spend a large amount of time on campus outside of classes and Wofline bus schedules, but it does appear to me that NCSU has a much stronger focus on diversity currently than it did when I was an undergraduate at NCSU many years ago. It's possible that this perception may be due to my involvement in education classes where diversity in the classroom is an important topic for students who will be entering the teaching profession vs. classes in computer science and math. Nevertheless, I believe the overall social climate both in and outside of the university environment is more tolerable towards diversity than it used to be, so the college campus would reflect that as well. I still believe there is a ways to go in our attitudes and actions towards each other based on some gender and racial events that have been happening on college campuses that have appeared in the news, not to mention within local and federal politics.	White	Female
I can see massive efforts to promote diversity. I would like to see a more balanced approach. It sometimes seems diversity has taken over and accomplishments and culture of white Americans is now shoved to the background the way those of other cultures used to be and I think that misses the point. Marginalization of any race should not be tolerated -- not even that of white folk.	White	Female
I definitely feel like NC State is working hard to make sure all the students feel comfortable and that they are trying to create an atmosphere of tolerance. I have not personally witnessed any discriminatory incidents, but I know I could find the appropriate place to report it if I did. I teach undergraduate labs and the students seem very tolerant of other students who are obviously from different backgrounds. I think the atmosphere at NC State may be contributing to that somewhat.	White	Female
I think NCSU is doing a good job, but I do think that there should be more programs to inform teachers about different cultures. Also, a PC way to refer to the LGBT community and how teachers should describe people (like black or african american).	White	Female
I have not sought out any specific diversity events here on campus but I have seen emails and flyers about them. I assume that those type of events are accessible and enjoyable for those who wish to attend them. Personally, I have learned a great deal about the perspectives of other cultures through day-to-day interactions with my friends, colleagues and professors. I believe simply having a diverse community working together is the best experience.	White	Female
I wasn't really exposed to diversity until graduate school. I think that by perhaps having a safer environment for international students to interact with U.S. residents (who probably haven't had exposure to their difference in opinion or culture) it would be a great way to interact more. I have found that internationals try to stick with their own cultures even here in the U.S. which makes learning from some of them difficult. By having a pathway to combine and make people more comfortable it would greatly help the diversity at NCSU.	White	Female
I really appreciate that you have lactation rooms in many of your buildings. This is very supportive of students who are also moms.	White	Female
I don't know -- I generally feel very disconnected from campus climate as a graduate student.	White	Female
By far the largest ethnic groups other than my own that I have worked with at NC State are Asians. Although in the past I did not interact with Asians much, I have really gone out of my way to meet and understand those from Asia more. I have gained understanding and respect for their cultures--I now I understand it is more than one culture as China is different than Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and India. This has also led to the exposure of different religious thinking. / / While I find the coordinated events and offices at NC State supportive of diversity education efforts, there really is not much room in the curriculum in my technical degree program to talk about diversity. But by pairing students together on small projects and teams, we get an excellent opportunity to work together and see first-hand how a different culture's thinking can lead to outside-the-box thinking that helps solve even the most technical of problems. This working experience is more valuable than any campus-initiated or required events. / / For both of the positive examples above, the cohort structure of my program has really enabled such experiences to happen for me; much more than what can occur in a regular classroom environment. I have found this to be highly effective in learning respect for and how to work with different types of people.	White	Male
I can't speak to effectiveness. But official communications certainly make it clear that the administration is committed to inclusiveness.	White	Male
Public awareness and an overall welcoming environment that provides opportunitis for all students from a variety of backgrounds.	White	Male

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<p>I personally have not seen any discrimination on campus, and having attended the University 25 years ago I can say that it has definitely improved. But just because I haven't seen any doesn't mean that it doesn't exist. A large portion of the answers may be skewed because I am not interacting on a true social level with the other students because of the age and priority differences. However, there are a number of students and instructors in my department from a variety of backgrounds. Having worked in industry for over 25 years, I really appreciate a persons abilities and quite frankly have been trained not to engage in conversations about sex, sexual orientation, religion, or race (especially as a white male) - that is a good way of making other people feel uncomfortable thus leading to you being fired ! In business, they have diversity training, but do not want open conversations for fear of lawsuits. But, I have also learned to appreciate different cultures and views because if everyone thought the same way, then you would lose the ability to have different approaches to problems. In some ways, I think NCSU is doing a great job in having a diverse campus (and should be encouraging these interactions), but I wonder if that may not be a problem in the work place where open conversation can be an issue outside of a training class. Maybe some focus needs to be made on what to expect in a professional setting such as why it is not appropriate to have a cross, Star of David, Bible, Koran, or other religious items openly displayed in your office because it may be offensive to other workers. Some of the focus should be on when, where, and under what circumstances should these issues be addressed to prevent uncomfortable situations even when the intentions are to truly understand other cultures.</p>	White	Male
<p>As a graduate student, I'm honestly not 100% sure. My department seems to do a decent job of pulling people from many different countries and cultures, but that is presumably more about research fit than it is anything else. It creates for a diverse environmental in my research lab, however, and combined with the openness of all of the students I feel like everyone is generally comfortable expressing themselves and sharing their own cultural identities. / / I appreciate that there doesn't appear to be any meddling with my graduate curriculum in the interest of promoting diversity. There's definitely a place for that at the university, but graduate courses in engineering really aren't it. To a remarkable extent, "people" just don't come up in the conversation at all. The only person's name who seems to get mentioned more than once is Euler, the 18th-century mathematician. Even then, it's the math, not the person, that matters.</p>	White	Male
<p>Strong tradition of acceptance and good infrastructure / supportnetwork.</p>	White	Male
<p>Diversity will naturally occur when you focus instead on the important of part of a university: it's quality of education. When more funds are being poured into the engineering, science and physics departments, more spots for research are open and will attract minds from around the world. Focusing on diversity for the sake of diversity is irrational and counter-productive. People will generally make their core group of friends people they are comfortable with, despite the diversity of the environment. An intro course for the ECE department attempts to encourage students to talk to random people in the course the very first class, and it fails as a class activity. The relationships people build with one another working on research, discussing important topics from courses and fields of interest, does more to generate diverse friendships than any of these programs and diversity centers the university pumps money in to. Let people be free, let them find a common focus and goal, and diversity evolves naturally.</p>	White	Male
<p>There are many international students in graduate programs. I feel that personal interactions with these students is the best and most effective way for others to gain knowledge of other cultures.</p>	White	Male

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<p>Domestically, a more diverse grouping of students are now attending university and graduate student. Additionally, the graduate programs attract a large number of international students. Between this, the university is naturally accruing a larger and larger melting pot of students. And the natural interactions that occur when you mix people inherently bring with them questions, understanding, friendships, and an eventual sense that we are all the same. I'm a believer that letting us all come together naturally and make best friends with people from different parts of the world or background by ourselves is an effective strategy. AND, we are doing this. That is something that is absolutely working well on campus. / / However, expending resources to "force fit" isn't the answer- and NC State has been consistently paying lip service and money to try to generate an image that we are an overly inclusive environment simply isn't necessary. Instead of force fitting us, let us naturally find a way for all of our pieces to come together. It's 2015 and I believe my generation and younger does this on their own. However, if you keep force fitting us, then all of us younger folks will feel like we aren't free to ask questions. We aren't free to speak our mind. We aren't free to discover ourselves or question the decisions and mindsets of previous generations. / / So, what NC State isn't doing well is the act of speeding up the process. The process of making NC State "one whole campus" of students is well underway, and will succeed. But if we go so far as to restrain some groups of students in order to prop up others, then we've simply reversed the original problem.</p>	White	Male
<p>NC State is doing everything it should and more to contribute to a diverse climate. But you have to realize that you're going to have a difficult time getting Americans and foreigners who are straight from another country to have a close connection. People are going to assimilate with whom they're most familiar and of the two most prominent foreign students here, Indians and Chinese, they're going to stick to themselves as they do. They can speak the same language as one another and have similiar background and for most of them who are only here to get their degree and then go back to their own country, they're not going to place much of an emphasis on making good relationships with Americans. They're here for the education. It's still a good thing to give Americans and foreigners the potential exposure to one another, but you aren't really going to get many significant relationships.</p>	White	Male
<p>The campus allows many different student groups to hold lots of events related to the various cultures of the student body and so therefore it exposed the students to many different types of diversity occurrences.</p>	White	Male
<p>The work NC State is doing is moving the culture in a positive direction. More should be done, especially for LGBTQIA students.</p>	White	Male
<p>I am in the master's of social work program, so these issues are on the forefront of our curriculum and discussions. My biggest criticism of our campus environment is the lack of security presence. My undergraduate school was a large state landgrant university - not unlike NCSU. Every large school is going to have it's share of crime, but I think we could do more to enhance our security presence in the near off-campus area. Be it in the form of lighting, patrolling, community watch programs, etc. I would like to see us do more in this space.</p>	White	Male
<p>Outreach by the Chancellor. I don't think graduate students are a large concern when assessing diversity and making the campus inclusive.</p>	White	Male
<p>The intellectual climate is some how prevalent.</p>	White	Male
<p>Seems to be an inclusive environment. Don't know a lot about what's going on because I am a graduate student that lives off campus.</p>	White	Trans
<p>A sincere interest in improving the campus climate as evidenced by this survey. The questions were thoughtful.</p>	Mult race	Female

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<p>Based on my knowledge of NC State's Diversity-related goals, I cannot be completely sure of what is working and what is not working. However, based on my own experiences and observations, there appears to be a supportive environment for some groups and not others. I believe might be visibly observed by comparing the at least the racial/ethnic make-up of students across the different campuses. On the graduate level, my experiences as a person from an underrepresented background has become increasingly more salient. This might be because there is less than a handful of people in my program who are from underrepresented backgrounds that I may interact with on a week-to-week basis. Most days, I feel out-of-sync with the rest of my peers and cohort. I believe support (not just financial support) for diverse students is lacking. I have not really gained a sense of community within my graduate program that is related to my personal needs and experiences as an underrepresented student. I think this sense of community is also absent at the graduate student organizational level. I wonder if mentoring between colleges or disciplines is a possibility on an intra-institutional level. My impression is that there are more resources for diverse students in the STEM fields, but not so much so for students in the behavioral sciences.</p>	Mult race	Female
General atmosphere.	Mult race	Male