

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: Free Expression)

h1	Race	Gender
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
Do not be so sensitive. Do not praise the diversity highly specially. Some speech relating recent incident sounded overreactedly. It sounded hypocritical, from a minority's viewpoint.	Asian	Male
Push towards ensuring diversity is maintained, cracking down on harmful activities, and increasing vigilance about intolerant speech/actions.	Asian	Male
NC State is working extremely well in this regard. Sometimes I see a few racist/sexist comments on the Wolfpack facebook page, but overall it's rare.	Asian	Male
Various student organizations, events, activities, ACM events, Bridges International free lunches, Seminars, Animeclub	Asian	Trans
I think meeting and interacting with people/students from diverse backgrounds is the best way to support diversity, but also some of the bigger events on the brickyard, movies and other such things seems to go well.	Hispanic/Latino	Female
Professors are knowledgeable and freely discuss, when appropriate, issues of diversity. The professors set the tone for the class, and most have been friendly, welcoming, accepting, and respectful of all students regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, etc.	White	Female
I think that if you are involved in a program like mine in CED chances are very high that you will feel a lot of support for diversity on campus. The professors really push is to investigate our own level of awareness and development which contributes to us being better at work with students who are from different demographics than us. I think that the Tunnel of Oppression is a GREAT initiative. I really enjoyed attending it and then being asked questions on how I will have a commitment to help. I think that programs like Pack Promise, WISE and the AACC are making great strides towards supporting students of diverse backgrounds.	White	Female
I don't spend much time on campus except for actual classes, so most of my experiences come from actual class time, when I imagine people are more guarded about what they say and do. I do personally know staff in some of the diversity departments, but I know them mostly from community organizations outside of the university. I am impressed with their competence and commitment, but have not interacted with them much within their jobs at NCSU. / / I personally have not felt threatened or discriminated against. I'm fairly obviously queer and have never felt that I had to pretend otherwise. The only negative comments I've ever heard about LGBT people were from undergraduates, and those seemed ignorant rather than malicious. / / I have had positive experiences working in class with people from other countries, which I had not done much before coming here, so that has reinforced my comfort level when talking to people who come from different backgrounds or are not quite fluent in English.	White	Female
I appreciated the Chancellor's very outspoken comments on the recent fraternity events. More of this should take place. I see a lot of Middle Eastern students, which is great.	White	Female

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<p>It does seem that NC State is making an effort. Raleigh is a diverse town, but the campus does sometimes feel like a bubble of white farm kids. I agree that it is an important mission to educate citizens of the state, and it is not NC State's fault that this is the demographic. But somehow I feel a disconnect between what Raleigh has to offer and what NC State offers in terms of diversity. I'm not sure how to address it, it has to be an organic thing. I think that NC State does have appropriate institutional initiatives in place to encourage it, but it really is up to the students. / / On another note - I also really cannot stand the man who stands in the brickyard and yells about Jesus. It's disruptive to a lot of people, even if you agree with him. I can't tell you how many times I walk by and he is hollering obscenities about how all women are sluts and there is a tour group of potential students. I think a hallmark of diversity is being able to respectfully share your opinions and this man does not do that. He is an embarrassment and should be removed.</p>	White	Female
<p>I feel I am not in tune enough to properly comment on diversity here at NCSU. I am an older student with a family. I'm 44 with a wife and two kids. I just try to treat people how I want to be treated. Too much emphasis and resources are used in combating these types of issues. Everyone just wants a chance to improve their lives. I am pursuing a dream and have worked my tail off to get here. I will never understand why we as Americans have to always be the ones who are politically correct about everything while others take advantage of that very flaw in our character.</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>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>The Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity is out of touch with students. They reach x thousand students per year, but they are not reaching the next student. In economics, we think on the margin. I challenge OIED to do the same. Mandatory trainings with accusatory messages don't solve the problem. Honest discussion and relationship building among peers do. Start with the Greek community - they are not your biggest problem. The Greek community is your biggest asset. The infrastructure is in place to facilitate productive conversations within this community. These improvements will transcend to other areas of the campus community. / / A true conversation about diversity cannot begin by asserting someone who does not believe in the importance of diversity is a bigot. While I disagree with that person, I must respect their fundamental right to believe this. OIED only cares about free thought if that thought aligns with their own. I'm ashamed of the organization and disconnect with the student body and campus community.</p>	White	Male

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OIED is doing some great stuff. Building bridges (NCBI) is a great program, as is EOI. If we could get all staff trained in EOI, that would be a great first step. Admissions is doing an okay job with outreach to underrepresented areas, but that could always stand to be reinforced. I think the university is doing an okay job responding to "hate speech," but I would hate to see a crackdown on certain kinds of speech that we do not agree with. Housing staff is trained in appropriate ways.	White	Male
Each department should have at least an hour free lunch a week to have an opportunity to get contacts with each other	White	Male
Many events. Many students. Faculty. Brickyard.	White	Trans
It is important to understand and speak out against bigotry. Students tend to hear friends, faculty, and strangers make bigoted comments, often guised as a joke, and people tend not to speak out against this. It is important to make your position known: that you will not tolerate discrimination in any form./	Other/Unknown	Female