

2015 Campus Climate Survey: Graduate Students:
h2: What do you think needs to be done to improve the diversity climate at NC State?
Open-End Comments (Topic: Free Expression)

h2	Race	Gender
Organize more events that graduates and undergraduates both can attend. Being a graduate student on Centennial I feel there are very few events that involve graduate students. It is not always feasible to travel to main campus for small events (e.g the events that happen at the brickyard).	Asian	Female
Free expression tunnel sometimes showed very hateful messages when Obama got elected. I am unsure as to how to change that	Asian	Female
I think a great idea would be to increase the number of tables in the brickyard for student run groups to introduce their background (e.g. zoology club, ballroom dance, choir) to other students and expand diversity at ncsu. Otherwise nothing else really needs to be done here.	Asian	Female
Students of NC State are great to get along with different people. I am really proud of them. If someone have had a hate speech based on a distorted idea, I believe that would have been a careless joke which would not have any serious meaning.	Asian	Male
Graduate students are so busy already... it os hard to get them to "go" to more things. S way of reaching us is through physical cues... like inviting us to write messages in the freedom of expression tunnel... that is a channel we dont exploit amd is mostly used by american students. / somehow... we dont "own" a piece of wall becuase it is not our country and we dont feel protected by the individual freedoms assurances. We need a nudge	Hispanic/Latino	Female
Currently, the climate nationwide is one of hostility--everyone seems to take offense at one's opinions and everyone seems to think that everyone needs to have the same opinion. I would really like to see NCSU foster the idea that it is OK for people to have different opinions--in other words, a 'diversity' of opinions is a good thing. During my time at graduate school, there are times I feel like my religion (Christianity) has been mocked by different professors and has been labeled as being an intolerant religion. It hurts me when such broad labels are placed on such a large group of people. Just because one Christian has been portrayed in a certain light in the media doesn't mean that I feel that same way. For example, it seems to be a widespread belief that Christians 'hate' individuals of non-straight sexual orientation. That is simply an incorrect blanket statement. Just because a Christian marriage is considered to be between a man and woman only doesn't mean that Christians don't support the government to grant freedom for homosexuals to be legally married. Similarly, 'all Muslims are terrorists'--again, NOT TRUE. The same holds true for other religions and ethnicities. Everyone has a right to an opinion, but nobody is entitled to claim their opinion is 'right'--everyone needs to have respect for each other, regardless of whether or not they view the other person as intolerant or not. I realize this issue will likely never be solved on a global level, but I would love to see NCSU work on this. Additionally, although I love the idea of embracing and increasing diversity, I believe that the top priority in admission of students should ALWAYS be academic merit. I want to point out that I am well aware there is an abundance of minority individuals who are all-star students; however, I have seen in my time both here and at my undergraduate institution the admission of minority students based on their ethnicity rather than their academic merit. These students have struggled in college--and sadly, this only reinforces negative stereotypes about the academic prowess of minority students. I have actually been in a situation (not at NCSU) where I was blatantly 'reverse discriminated' against due to being Caucasian simply in an effort to increase minority interest in the program I was in. This is a problem that cannot be solved at the university level--this is an issue that needs to be tackled in elementary, middle, and high school. No student--minority or not--should be admitted to a university if his/her academic skills don't cut it.	White	Female

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<p>I don't think anything else needs to be done to improve the diversity climate. There will always be people who have negative beliefs about others. Hate speech should not be tolerated on campus, nor should prejudice of a group by faculty. But I think there are a lot of projects emphasizing diversity, rather than trying to get the message out that we should all be treated the same. I couldn't care less if someone is a different race, religion, or sexual-orientation, as long as they have a good character and treat others with respect. I do find it aggravating that if you are not out there promoting diversity, you are seen as close-minded. I couldn't care less what others believe, it has no bearing on my life, but I don't think I should be obligated to make minority groups feel special because they are minorities. I also think there are active attempts to make the majority feel guilty for being the majority-- I've heard more "friendly" insults about men, whites, and Christians than minorities during my high-school and college years. Maybe it is because I have grown up in a fairly progressive, left-leaning community. I've think we need to do more of actually treating everyone the same, if you actually want others to do that, rather than emphasizing differences. I've seen more bashing of beliefs from those responsible for promoting tolerance than I have from those from more traditional values systems. And while I'm for things like gay marriage, I find it offensive that people who agree with me find the need to demonize those on the opposite side of the debate. It's still intolerance, even if you are putting down the views of the majority.</p>	White	Female
<p>I think that there needs to be a lot of focus on students in STEM fields. I have worked with a lot of students who didn't feel supported in their engineering programs or reported being aware that they were the only woman. The field still feels like a boys club and I don't think that there are enough intentional strides, especially on the part of male faculty, to increase diversity. WISE is a great step but I would expand the program. I also think that more faculty need to get on board with this too (shoutout to the ones that already are !). I also think that all students need to be exposed to diversity through their curriculum. Many of our students are from NC and many of their friends at NC State are from their hometowns so I think it is very likely and easy for students to go through college without questioning their beliefs. The Tunnel of Oppression needs to somehow be required for all students to attend.</p>	White	Female
<p>I have noticed the campus seems to react to problems (such as the recently found fraternity notebook, or writings in the free expression tunnel) after they occur. I'm not sure how, but it seems there should be more proactive way of discouraging such things before they happen. / / More activities where different groups (for lack of a better word) of people get together and discuss things - life, culture, sports, whatever they feel like - over a meal or snack or some activity that makes everyone work together and not just sit and hang out with their typical "group" of friends.</p>	White	Female
<p>I think it's time for us to recognize that we have differences and move forward. Constantly focusing on "diversity" and assigning people to groups is divisive. No one needs recognition because of their skin color, sex, or sexual orientation. Any special treatment for one group discriminates against another (the only exceptions being accommodation for disabilities or federal law on hiring preferences for veterans). As an educational institution everyone should be recognized for merit, alone. I think the constant push for "diversity," with diversity being a feel-good word and people not really thinking about what it means, has bred resentment and, in some cases, an undeserved feeling of entitlement. / / NCSU needs to be more focused on diversity of thought and opinion-regardless of whether those thoughts and opinions are popular, liked, or offensive. As long as no one is being threatened or discriminated against, offensive speech and writing (whatever that is to someone) should be allowed. Otherwise, as a State supported university, we get into violation of the first amendment. The first amendment doesn't give someone is the right to be offended or NCSU the right to censor as a result.</p>	White	Female
<p>In general, I would like to see more African American and Latino students. These are the people who need it most, and we should provide special support programs for them including scholarships, support services, counseling, etc. once they get here. / / Also, there are a lot of sexual assaults and robberies on campus and near campus. I didn't realize how dark some places on campus really are until I went to a group fitness class at night. Please, put more lights up on campus. In particular, my experience was at the first tunnel outside of Talley. / /</p>	White	Female

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<p>I think your intent to improve the degree to which all students feel comfortable and supported on campus is commendable. I am concerned, however, by your division of "hate speech" and "free speech" in an earlier question, as though these were separate categories. While I find an awful lot of speech noxious - racist, sexist, etc. - it's my understanding that, legally, as a government-run university, NCSU does not have the right to specifically rule against noxious speech, except when it seeks to incite immediate violence. I would urge you to be careful not to confuse students as to what actually can be done, legally, as you pursue greater accommodation for everyone, especially given that not all students are familiar with American laws regarding freedom of speech.</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
<p>We need to enhance our definitions of certain terms, including hate speech vs. free speech and be consistent with the law and punishment. / / Also, as an affiliate of a fraternity at a different school, and then having come into this school, and highly interacted with the Greek community, I believe the way we handle Greek life here is abysmal, and a comprehensive review is a great idea. I just hope the conversation is as comprehensive as the Chancellor says it will be. There needs to be serious change in our Greek Life. As much good as they do, it is being overshadowed by their mistakes.</p>	White	Male
<p>We should reinforce the notion of the "marketplace of ideas." The way to combat a negative idea or "hate speech" is a BETTER IDEA. We can flood the marketplace with notions of support and drown out the very few negative influences without resorting to unconstitutional crackdowns. The content of speech, no matter how horrific, should NEVER BE CENSORED. Only conduct can be disciplined, not speech.</p>	White	Male

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<p>1) Understand the law. As an example, even within this survey, you incorrectly define stalking to be based on the viewpoint of the student rather than of a "reasonable person". In this survey, you also seem to have a false dichotomy between free (protected) speech and hate speech. See Snyder v Phelps as a start. / / 2) Stop chilling protected speech. If speech is protected, regardless of how undesired it is, the university should not respond. / / 3) Consult legal counsel before making statements about or adopting policies that restrain student speech. / / 4) Privacy is necessary for protect the university as a place for free inquiry and speech. Adopt binding policies that curtail the university's ability to retain *all* network traffic *permanently* and do any inspection of it (assuming it is to ensure student compliance of university policy). This power, particularly when combined with the university's desire to stop some protect speech, is really concerning. / / 5) Expand free speech zones on campus to Centennial to allow for the university to better fulfill its role as a marketplace of ideas. / / 6) Respect due process in student conduct, particularly with accusations of sexual assault. You can maintain a presumption of innocence for the accused while assuming that the accuser is truthful. Also, use both a definition of consent and standard of proof consistent with criminal law or both consistent with civil law. Failure to do so tells some demographic groups that they are not as valued by the university as other demographic groups, either favoring groups that are typically victimized or groups that typically are the perpetrators. / / 7) Have a diverse selection of US Diversity and Global Knowledge classes. Last time I checked, there was no class dedicated to men's issues or Caucasian heritage, etc, despite contributing to US Diversity. This program promotes awareness and understanding of only privileged people groups. / / 8) Protect students' freedom of conscience and diversity of ideas. The US Diversity classes are just one attempt to implement thought reform on campus. The plan was implemented after an incident at the free expression tunnel and the university's inability to restrict protected speech. / / 9) Quit conflating a desire to protect student rights, accurate and less-biased information, and efficient execution of organization missions with being sexist/racist/...ist. / / 10) Foster greater diversity in attendance at diversity events. / / 11) Transparency ! Make policies publicly available ! The restrictions on speech (window displays) in University Housing was never made publ</p>	White	Male
<p>More open discussions, fireside chats, - places where people can come and safely, freely, respectfully exchange ideas. NCSU is doing a nice job.</p>	White	Male
<p>I have routinely witnessed systematic racial issues. I am frequently assumed to be stupid or dumb because I am white/veteran by a certain ethnic group in my classes and even by a certain professor. / / A professor has frequently pointed to the board and makes comments while only looking in my direction such as the following: / "If you have trouble with this you should just drop the course." (more than 6 times) / "If you find you have difficulty on this you won't go nowhere." (once) / / The same professor is allowed by the department to only work with students of their race - if you want to do research with them but you're not their race, they won't take you. This attitude has trickled down to their students as well. During tests, I've observed students speaking in their native language while the TA (same race as them and the professor) does nothing. / / I am frequently made to feel like I am at a disadvantage because I cannot compete with groups.</p>	White	Male
<p>Make a diversity office that supports our average student as much as the most diverse. Don't encourage minorities to be in people's face about our differences. Seems someone is standing in the brickyard every day telling strangers they know nothing about that they are going to hell. If we made less commotion people would be more accepting</p>	White	Male
<p>I think that racial issues need to be taken more seriously. I have gone to NC State for both my undergraduate and graduate degree and there have been several racially charged events that weren't given the attention they needed. I feel as though the Free Expression Tunnel needs to have some stipulations: there is a fine line between freedom of speech and hate crimes. I feel like all too often we, as a university, tend to package things as freedom of speech and let students off the hook in order to save face and keep our good reputation. However, I feel unsupported on campus. I feel as though if a hate crime was committed against me personally- the university would not have my back and rally for me- a minority.</p>	Mult race	Female