

**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: Laissez Faire)**

h2	Race	Gender
Here's the problem; we are in the Bible Belt. There's a lot of intolerance for things that are not Christian. Everyone just assumes you are Christian. It's not just a campus problem, it's a widespread issue. I was shocked when I moved down here because of "Spring Holiday" aka Easter break. I grew up in the north, and schools did not shut down so people could go home for Easter. However, there is no closing of school for other religious holidays that are equally important to other students. It's just this weird contradiction.	White	Female
I think it's very hard at NC State sometimes to handle the diverse student body with the students who come from rural NC and maybe have never seen a person from a different racial or religious background than their own. And sometimes I think the international students have a hard time adjusting to life here, but it's a major adjustment to move to a new country.	White	Female
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.	White	Female
/ The biggest problem in engineering graduate school is cliques that prevent intermixing of students. Its easy for me to talk to one student who is different, but approaching a whole group or sitting at their lunch table when they are speaking another language is difficult. One big reason why students group together is because they all have the same advisor. The chinese students have the chinese advisor, etc. I don't know why it happens. I guess it is a combination of students picking an advisor like them and the advisor picking students from their home country. Hard to fix, but I think this is one of the biggest barriers. // As a woman, oftentimes, I feel self conscious about how I look and how I'm dressed and feel just a little unsafe and uncomfortable surrounded by mostly men all the time. There's not really something wrong that makes me feel this way, but more women would help I think. It can be hard to develop lasting friendships, because close friendships with men often lead to them becoming romantically interested. / / I really hate people using masculine pronouns all the time, even when describing my own work. They realize halfway through that I'm female and switch over to "her work", etc. This also happens in lectures. One prof was really good about this though. You could tell he made an effort on purpose. / / In general, the sciences put up this tough guy act like "are you good enough?" which I think intimidate people who are unsure/switching fields for graduate school, don't have a masters, are an underrepresented group, etc. It really depends on the person talking. / / When I first came to NCSU I got involved in a lot of student lead volunteering events, reaching out to younger students, and a few diversity related discussions. However, in addition to being burnt out, I can't focus on my status as being a woman anymore. It stresses me out and distracts me and makes me feel less confident. I can't handle any kind of discussion it seems "like maybe women are less logical" "women aren't interested in tech unless there is a more human element" is enough to set me off. So generally, I just focus on keeping my head down and being a researcher and that has made me very happy recently. / / I think a mandatory diversity seminar (to learn about different cultures, hear from different students with different backgrounds) and a mandatory sexual assault, how to determine consent seminar should be required for all incoming students.	White	Female

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<p>I have had difficulty finding scholarships available through NC State. If there is a centralized location for this information, I am not aware of it. I have personally experienced bias coming from a poorer background compared to my peers, and needs-based funding for students from disenfranchised backgrounds would help those students in need attend college. / / I have had friends "work the system" for minority scholarships (for example, a person who came from a wealthy middle-class family is half-Puerto Rican but is not culturally Puerto Rican, does not look Puerto Rican, and does not speak Spanish received ample funding at her undergraduate college and at NC State because of her "minority" background). Many of my friends back home look for sports scholarships because they cannot compete academically against the so-called "minority" students as described above. Funding for minorities should be based on the individual's history and actual struggle associated with their minority status and not merely their bloodline. And, once such students are accepted and funded, support services should be made clearly available during orientation and throughout students' college careers. / / As for women's issues, the recent events regarding a fraternity's behavior are absolutely disgusting, and I am very glad NC State and the national organization disbanded the NCState frat chapter. I think fraternities should be under immense scrutiny, and that fraternity brothers should be held to a significantly higher standard with regard to sexual misconduct (i.e. parent money shouldn't be able to buy them out of expulsion and legal punishment). / / Such misconduct is certainly under-reported, regardless of whether the perpetrator is a frat brother or not. Speaking from experience, I chose not to press charges TWICE while in college after I was taken advantage while inebriated (in one instance I was purposefully drugged). I want to make it clear I did not and will not press charges now or in the future. The reasons I had then for not pursuing any school or legal action are: 1. It was my word against his, 2. There was no evidence and I did not know what to do the next morning once I realized what had happened, 3. Social stigma, 4. I imagined a long drawn out legal process that would not result in any justice anyway, 5. It was my decision, at least initially, to drink and I would be accused of making my own mistake and "wanting it." There is no justice in these situations. The victim is forced to re-live and fight, sometimes for months or years, for justice, and whatever happens to the perpetrator - if anything- is piddly compared to th</p>	White	Female
<p>Much more needs to be done to change this stereotypically southern PWI to a more inclusive and diverse climate beyond changing the demographics of the student body such as: mandating coursework and teaching methods that encompass diverse perspectives such as race and class.</p>	White	Female
<p>Perceptually, NC State still has a reputation (both within our campus community as well as externally) as a "good ol' Southern school"--White, Christian, conservative. In my experience over the past seven years here this perception doesn't in fact match reality, but we'll continue to struggle to be seen as a leader on diversity as well as a welcome place for students, staff, and faculty who don't fit the stereotype unless we actively work to change that perception.</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>Students need more sensitivity training. There should be more diversity at the university of both students and faculty. Most of my fellow students retain shockingly racist ideas from their rural or suburban upbringing. Also, the political science faculty lacks sensitivity for diversity and even encourages students to become less sensitive towards diversity.</p>	White	Female
<p>Having good diversity programs is a must, but focusing on positively changing the thinking and attitudes of students is crucial. People cannot keep thinking it is normal and okay to say certain things and behave certain ways towards other people. An issue is that people have been raised in a culture where intolerant beliefs are often viewed as normal, so much intolerant behavior can be unconscious and unrecognized. Continuing to raise consciousness and working to change our culture even outside of NCSU is very important.</p>	White	Female
<p>Exist outside of North Carolina. The majority will always be white people in North Carolina.</p>	White	Female

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I think NC State -- and most state universities, especially in the South -- must continue to recruit and enroll a diverse body of students across all departments. It's hard to pat ourselves on the back regarding diversity when white students are still greatly over-represented in relation to the general population of North Carolina, and black, Latino/a, Native American, and other populations are greatly over-represented. As a predominantly white university, we're doing an okay job of working for diversity. We'll be doing a much better job when we allow minority or marginalized groups (including women and LGBTQ) a greater opportunity to contribute.	White	Male
I only see US citizens or Indian citizens on a daily basis. It would be nice to fill in some of the other continents for more ethnic diversity. South america is almost non-existent in engineering. Also, I feel very alone as an Atheist.... nothing unusual, I just wish there was a larger presence.	White	Male
I don't know, I'm only in my research building and home	White	Male