

**North Carolina State University
2013 Incoming Freshmen Survey:
Open-End Comments by Topical Category**

Students were asked to report in their own words what they are most excited about and most concerned about in coming to NC State. Tables 1 and 2 show the frequency at which various topics were referenced in their responses to these questions. On page 3 of this report are links to Word docs with verbatim comments of respondents.

Exact wording of questions:

Briefly describe what it is you are most excited about in coming to NC State

Briefly describe what, if anything, you are most concerned or nervous about in starting your first semester of college at NC State

What Most Excited About (Table 1)

A total of 1,763 respondents provided a response to the question asking about what they are most excited about in coming to NC State. First-year students most commonly reported being excited about their *social life* (43.8%), *classes/learning* (32.5%), *campus life/involvement* (25%), and *transition to college* (22.6%).

The following are several students' responses that relate to social life, classes/learning, campus life/involvement, and transition to college:

"I am mostly excited about meeting new friends and being a part of such a great school."

"I am most excited about taking courses that are related to my interest and my major."

"I will be excited to get involved in the NC State community, as well as getting a stellar education."

"Can't wait for the college experience."

Table 1: Frequency Distribution: What Incoming Students are Most Excited About in Attending NC State

Topic	N	%
Social Life	772	43.8%
Learning	573	32.5%
Campus Life	440	25.0%
Adapting to NC State	399	22.6%
Independence	324	18.4%
Intellectual Environment	232	13.2%
Career Planning	156	8.8%
Performance	102	5.8%
Co-curricular Activities	71	4.0%
Spirit and Pride	69	3.9%
Diversity	65	3.7%
Instruction	53	3.0%
Housing	41	2.3%
Racial/Ethnic Issues	30	1.7%
Health	18	1.0%
Transportation	16	0.9%
Finances	15	0.9%
Registration	12	0.7%
Time Management	10	0.6%
Safety	7	0.4%
First Year College	5	0.3%
Gender Issues	5	0.3%

Note: Responses may fall under more than one topical category.

Biggest Concerns (Table 2)

A total of 1,731 respondents provided a response to the question asking about what they are most concerned or nervous about in starting their first semester at NC State. 37 percent of respondents reported being concerned with *performance/workload* (37.2%) during their first semester at NC State. Other commonly reported concerns related to the *transition to college* (28.2%), *time management* (18.8%), and *social life* (18%). Only about 3 percent of students reported being most concerned about *financial issues* (2.6%) and 2 percent reported being concerned with issues related to *safety* (2.1%).

The following are several students' responses that relate to concerns about adapting to the transition of college, time management, and social life:

"Being on a huge campus with a ton of unfamiliar faces"

"I am concerned about the work load and my time management skills."

"That it will be hard to make friends outside of those I knew before I came."

Table 2: Frequency Distribution: What Incoming Students are Most Concerned About in Attending NC State

Topic	N	%
Performance	644	37.2%
Adapting to NC State	489	28.2%
Time Management	326	18.8%
Social Life	312	18.0%
Independence	251	14.5%
Health	138	8.0%
Housing	100	5.8%
Campus Life	90	5.2%
Instruction	68	3.9%
Registration	67	3.9%
Learning	65	3.8%
Finances	45	2.6%
Safety	36	2.1%
Intellectual Environment	31	1.8%
Career Planning	25	1.4%
Transportation	21	1.2%
Co-curricular Activities	9	0.5%
Racial/Ethnic Issues	8	0.5%
Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity	3	0.2%
Spirit and Pride	3	0.2%
Disabilities	2	0.1%
Diversity	1	0.1%
Gender Issues	1	0.1%

Note: Responses may fall under more than one topical category.

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