

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

2024 Incoming First-Year Student Survey: Open-Ended Comment Coding Scheme

The Incoming First-Year Student Survey includes two open-end questions asking students 1) what they are most excited about in coming to NC State; and 2) what they are most concerned or nervous about in starting their first semester of college. Verbatim comments for each question were grouped into different categories by topic. (A single comment could be included in multiple categories.) The different categories for open-end comments are listed alphabetically below.

In Their Own Words:

A brief narrative summary of commonly raised topics with example quotes.

Adapting to College (e.g., *Adapting to college lifestyle, Experiencing new things/a "fresh start", Navigating campus, Finding classes, Leaving one's hometown*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Campus Life/Involvement (e.g., *Student organizations, Club sports, Arts/Theater, Campus events, ACC athletics.*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Career Development (e.g., *Job, Internships, Interviewing, Resume, Job Placement, Employment*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Co-curricular Activities (e.g., *Co-op, Student research, Internships, Service learning/programs, ROTC*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

COVID-19 (e.g., *Concerns or worries relating to starting at NC State during the COVID-19 pandemic*)

There were no comments relating to COVID-19 in response to the questions asking what students were most excited about in coming to NC State

Biggest Concerns

Environment (e.g., *Being in a new city or new place*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Financial (e.g., *Financial aid and loans, Scholarships, Tuition, Managing finances*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Health (e.g., *Mental health, Physical health, Feeling stressed/overwhelmed*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Housing (e.g., *Sharing space with others, Relationship with roommates/suitemates, Quality of living facilities, Unique campus housing*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Independence (e.g., *Making decisions on one's own, Freedom, Leaving home/family of origin*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Instruction (e.g., *Classes, Faculty/instructors*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Instructional Mode (e.g., *In-person classes, Remote learning, Zoom*)

There were no comments relating to instructional mode in response to the questions asking what students were most excited about in coming to NC State

Biggest Concerns

Learning (e.g., *Education, Program of Study, Knowledge*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Opportunities (e.g., *Academic, Social, New people*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Performance/Workload (e.g., *Difficulty of coursework, Performing well/receiving good grades, Ability to keep up with course demands, Volume of coursework/homework*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Registration (e.g., *Getting into necessary courses, Enrolling in correct/enjoyable courses, Waitlisting*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Safety (e.g., *Fear of crime, particularly theft, assault, and rape, General safety concerns, Fear of harassment*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Social Life (e.g., *Making friends/establishing a social network, Meeting new people, Fitting in, Feeling lonely*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Spirit (e.g., *NC State pride, Tradition, Reputation*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Survey (e.g., *Taking surveys, Gift cards*)

There were no comments relating to surveys in response to the questions asking what students were most concerned about in coming to NC State

Most Excited

Technology (e.g., *having the right physical tools to succeed*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Time Management (e.g., *Meeting deadlines, Staying organized/focused, Balancing different demands, Autonomy to control one's time*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Transportation (e.g., *Busing, Parking, Getting around without a personal vehicle*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Other (e.g., *comment did not fit into any of the above categories*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

For more information on the 2024 Incoming First-Year Student Survey, contact:

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