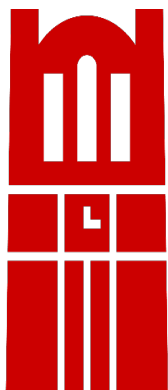


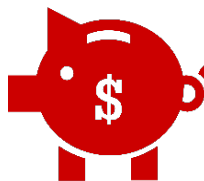
2025 Incoming First-Year Student Survey: Fast Facts

Applying to NC State



- 62% said NC State was their first choice of colleges to attend
- 85% said NC State's academic reputation was a "strong" (51%) or "very strong" (34%) influence on their decision to attend
- 54% said their primary goal for attending NC State was to *obtain a degree in preparation for their career*
- 42% said their primary goal for attending NC State was to *obtain a degree to prepare for graduate school*

Background Characteristics



- 10% identify as a first-generation college student
- 13% come from a rural area
- 24% come from a small town
- 13% provide day-to-day care for someone
- 32% come from a family with a combined income of \$100,000 or less
- 55% received grants and/or scholarships
- 36% received loans
- 27% received no financial aid

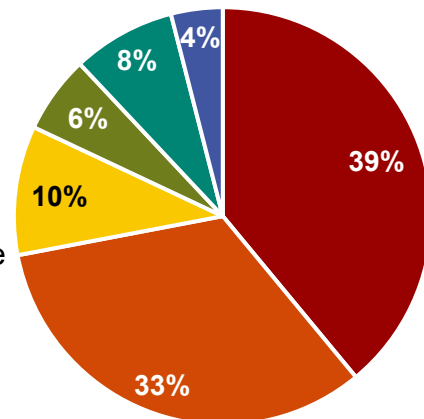
Seeking High-Impact Experiences

- 71% said *opportunities to engage in high-impact experiences* were a "very strong" or "strong" influence on their decision to attend NC State
- 45% said they will "probably" or "definitely" study abroad
- 66% of respondents reported they will be employed during their first year of college
- 79% of the employed first-year students will be working on-campus



Anticipated Highest Level of Education

- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Doctoral degree
- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
- Medical degree
- Law degree



Room for Growth

When asked about 33 different skills, students gave high ratings to the importance, but relatively low ratings to their current development of the following, demonstrating the areas in which students seek to grow:



- Time management
- Ability to manage ongoing stressors
- Developing and sustaining an active and healthy lifestyle

Student Mindsets After Attending New Student Orientation



- 97% “strongly agree” or “agree” that they are excited to start their first semester at NC State
- 95% “strongly agree” or “agree” that they feel better prepared to start their first semester
- 90% feel more connected to the NC State community

What Students Say They are Most Excited About in Coming to NC State

Incoming students were asked to describe, in their own words, what they are most excited about in coming to NC State. Of those 2,009 responses, the topics mentioned most were *community and belonging* ($n=1,177$), *campus life and activities* ($n=542$), *adapting to college* ($n=505$), and *coursework and instruction* ($n=484$). Selected responses can be seen below:

- “I am most excited about growing my knowledge in what I'm interested in studying, joining clubs, meeting new people, and experiencing the freedom of campus life. I am also excited about learning new skills and taking opportunities to prepare myself for life.”
- “I'm excited to learn and grow as an individual as well as meet new people and experience new opportunities that were never provided to me before.”
- “I'm most excited to experience campus life when I start my first semester of college. I can't wait to make friends, live in a dorm, work on campus, and work hard so I can excel in my classes. So, I'm excited for a [lot] of things but, mainly just being at NC State makes me happy to think about.”

Survey Methodology

The Incoming First-Year Student Survey is administered every fall semester after incoming first-year students attend New Student Orientation. In 2025, of the 5,771 first-year students invited to participate in the survey; 3,112 students did so, for a response rate of 54%. Reports associated with the 2025 Incoming First-Year Survey are available on the University Data and Analytics website. For more information, contact University Data and Analytics at studentsurveys@ncsu.edu.

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