

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

2025 Incoming First-Year Student Survey Introduction, Methods, and Response Rates

Introduction

This series of reports presents findings from the 2025 Incoming First-Year Student Survey at NC State University. Each year since 1972, students beginning college at NC State in the Fall semester have been asked to participate in the survey. NC State's University Data and Analytics (UDA) office is responsible for administering the survey, analyzing the data, and preparing and distributing reports on results to various units on campus. The online survey is administered shortly after New Student Orientation in the summer before classes begin and closes a few weeks after the start of the semester. In the survey, students are asked about their experiences with the application process and deciding to enroll at NC State; their satisfaction with various NC State services and programs; how they are paying for their education; their preparation for college and their educational goals; what they are excited and concerned about in starting their first year of college; and for a variety of demographic information.

This introductory report describes the survey's methodology and compares the demographic profile of the 2025 first-year class to that of survey respondents with respect to their college. A separate report, "2025 Incoming First-Year Student Survey: Overall Results," focuses on overall results. A link to a dashboard with results by college is available online through ["2025 Incoming First-Year Student Survey: Table of Contents."](#)

Survey Administration

The Incoming First-Year Student Survey opened on July 9, 2025, and closed on September 3, 2025. Survey invitations from NC State Chancellor Woodson were emailed out in four waves, with three waves of students being invited to participate shortly after they attended their on-campus New Student Orientation session over the summer, and a final invitation sent to those attending the make-up session and those who did not attend any session. Survey nonrespondents were sent up to four email reminders. As an incentive, ten students in each of the first three waves who completed the survey within ten days of being sent the invitation were randomly selected to win a \$20 Amazon.com eGift card. In addition, four students who completed the survey by the final September 3 deadline were randomly selected to each win a \$50 Amazon.com eGift card.

Population and Survey Respondents

Based on Fall 2025 Census data (i.e., on August 29, two weeks after the first day of classes), 5,771 first year students were eligible to participate in the Incoming First-Year Student Survey. 3,112 of them submitted usable surveys, for a response rate of 53.9%.¹

¹ Respondents from the Agricultural Institute have been excluded from the analyses presented in the following reports so that the data presented reflects the views and circumstances of students pursuing a four-year baccalaureate degree.

Academic Units (Table 1)

Table 1 presents enrollment data for the incoming first-year student population at the beginning of the Fall 2025 semester compared to that of survey respondents by academic unit. While the distribution of academic units of survey respondents generally mirrors that of the population, those in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are slightly overrepresented, while those in the Poole College of Management and in Exploratory Studies are slightly underrepresented.

Table 1: Classification by Academic Unit

Academic Unit	Incoming First-Year Class		Survey Respondents		Response Rate
	N	%	N	%	%
Agriculture and Life Sciences	626	10.8%	392	12.6%	62.6%
Design	142	2.5%	84	2.7%	59.2%
Education	146	2.5%	98	3.1%	67.1%
Engineering	1,844	32.0%	988	31.7%	53.6%
Natural Resources	292	5.1%	137	4.4%	46.9%
Humanities and Social Sciences	513	8.9%	303	9.7%	59.1%
Sciences	672	11.6%	378	12.1%	56.3%
Textiles	187	3.2%	101	3.2%	54.0%
Management	533	9.2%	253	8.1%	47.5%
Exploratory Studies	816	14.1%	378	12.1%	46.3%
<i>Total</i>	5,771	100.0%	3,112	100.0%	53.9%

For more information on the 2025 Incoming First-Year Student Survey, contact:
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