

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

2025 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 responses are listed alphabetically below.

In Their Own Words:

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

Academic Performance and Goals (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

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 and Activities (e.g., *student organizations, club sports, arts/theater, campus events, ACC athletics.*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Career Planning (e.g., *jobs, internships, interviewing, resume, job placement, employment*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Community and Belonging (e.g., *making friends, finding one's community, fitting in, connecting with others*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Coursework and Instruction (e.g., *academic program, quality of teaching, challenging coursework*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Finances (e.g., *financial aid and loans, scholarships, tuition, managing finances*)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Health (e.g., *mental health, physical health, feeling stressed/overwhelmed, getting sick*)

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

Registration (e.g., getting into necessary courses, enrolling in correct/enjoyable courses, waitlisting)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Safety (e.g., fear of crime, theft, assault, general safety concerns, fear of harassment)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Spirit and Pride (e.g., NC State pride, tradition, reputation, prestige)

Most Excited

Biggest Concerns

Technology (e.g., eduroam, computers, moodle, canvas)

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 2025 Incoming First-Year Student Survey, contact:

University Data and Analytics

Box 7002

NC State University

Email: studentsurveys@ncsu.edu