

December 2019 Undergraduate Future Plans Survey Executive Summary

Introduction & Survey Methods

NC State conducted its semiannual Undergraduate Future Plans Survey of graduating seniors in the weeks immediately before and after December 2019 graduation, with commencement being held on December 19. The final population used in analysis consists of those undergraduate students who had applied to graduate by the day prior to commencement and were conferred degrees. The December 2019 Undergraduate Future Plans Survey had a response rate of 48.9%, with 637 of the 1,303 graduates participating.

Plans Following Graduation

Three-fourths of students graduating in December said that their primary plan in the year after graduation was to be employed, with just over half of students reporting that they had already obtained employment for the coming year and one-fourth saying they were currently seeking or planning to seek employment. One-fifth of students indicated that their primary plan was to attend graduate/professional school.

Post-Graduation Employment Among Those Accepting a Full-Time Position

Ninety percent of graduating seniors who said they had obtained employment indicated that they would be working full-time.

Fifty-two percent of graduating seniors at NC State who had obtained full-time employment reported going on interviews for three or more positions during their most recent job search, and over half received more than one job offer. Seventy-eight percent of students said the position in which they would be working was for a *private, for profit business or organization*, and 12 percent said they would be working for the *federal, state, or local government*. Sixty-two percent of those with full-time employment said the position in which they would be working was “directly related” to their major.

NC State graduates obtaining a full-time non-internship position reported an average starting salary of \$55,767 (median = \$61,250). One-fourth of those having secured full-time employment upon graduation said they had received a signing bonus for the position in which they would be working, and of those, over half said it was for \$5,000 or more. In addition, five percent said they had received company shares as a part of accepting their job offer, with over half of these few individuals estimating the value of their shares to be \$10,000 or more. Almost half of the students who said they would be working outside of North Carolina reported that they had received an offer for a relocation package.

Seventy-two percent of graduating seniors indicated they would be working in North Carolina, with just over half saying they would be working in the Research Triangle area (e.g., Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill). The companies and organizations hiring the greatest number of NC State December graduates were NC State University, Cisco Systems, and the SAS Institute.

Among a number of resources used in the job search process, almost half of students obtaining full-time employment said that an *internship/externship* had been helpful in their job search. Other common resources used were *career fairs at NC State*, *personal connections*, *LinkedIn*, and *campus/college career centers*.

Fifty-five percent of graduates who had obtained a full-time position said they started their job search six or more months before graduation. Just under one-fifth reported receiving the offer for the position they accepted six or more months prior to graduation. By contrast, 85 percent of students who indicated at the time of the survey that they were seeking but had not yet found a position said they began their job search *less than* six months before graduation.

Graduates Seeking Employment

One-fourth of the December 2019 graduates indicated that they were planning to obtain employment in the coming year, but as of the time they completed the survey they had not yet found a position or had not yet begun their search. Sixty percent of those who reported that they were actively looking for a job said that they had gone on an interview for at least one position during their most recent job search, with almost 30 percent having gone on interviews for three or more different positions.

Sixteen percent of current job seekers said that they had received at least one job offer. When these students were asked why they had not yet accepted a job offer, the most common reason cited was that the respondent was currently in the process of considering the offer.

Further Education

One-fifth of the 637 graduates who submitted the December 2019 Undergraduate Future Plans Survey said they were planning on going to graduate/professional school. One-third of them said at the time of the survey that *they have been accepted and know where they will be going* and an additional nine percent said *they have been accepted but are still undecided on whether or not or where they will actually attend*. Fifty-five percent said *they have applied, but have not yet been accepted* (24.4%) or *they have not yet applied, but plan to do so within the next year* (31.1%).

Over 90 percent of students who said they had been accepted to graduate school and knew where they would be going said they would be staying in North Carolina and 77 percent said they would be attending NC State University. All 48 respondents with confirmed plans for graduate school said they would be attending their first-choice school.

Eighty percent of those who had been accepted into a program and knew the school they would be attending said they would be enrolling in a master's degree program. Five students indicated they would be enrolling in a doctoral degree program, and another four indicated they would be enrolling in a professional degree program.

Fifty-four percent of those who said they had been accepted to graduate/professional school and knew where they would be going indicated that they had received funding and/or awards

as part of their acceptance into their program of study. The most commonly awarded type of funding was scholarships.

NC State Career-Related Experiences and Resources

Sixty-three percent of the students reported having had an *internship/externship* and between one-fifth and one-fourth of students said they had participated in *research with faculty*, *volunteer work in their field of study*, and/or a *job in their field of study*. Over 60 percent of those who participated in a *co-op*, *internship*, or *job in their field of study*, and who had looked for employment, said the work-related experience was “very helpful” in obtaining a job offer.

Just under half of all graduating seniors who submitted the Undergraduate Future Plans Survey said they had gone to a career services office on campus, with the vast majority of these students giving very favorable ratings of the services they provided.

Use of career services offices varied by college. Students from the College of Design, Wilson College of Textiles, and the Poole College of Management tended to use their career services offices at higher rates and also did so more frequently.

About two-thirds of students said they had used *ePACK*, the NC State Career Development Center’s internship and job posting website, and/or *attended a career fair*.

When asked about their overall satisfaction with the career guidance they received from their academic department/college, 60 percent of students said they were “very satisfied” or “satisfied.”

Feelings about the Future

Overall, the December 2019 graduates have a positive outlook on their futures. When asked which statement comes closest to how they were feeling about their futures, 95 percent of respondents said that they were either “very excited” or “fairly excited.” The vast majority of students also report that they feel “very prepared” or “somewhat prepared” for their future career paths (91.5%).

For more information about the Undergraduate Future Plans Survey contact:

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