

## **May 2019 Undergraduate Future Plans Survey Executive Summary**

### **Survey Methods**

NC State conducted its semiannual Undergraduate Future Plans Survey of graduating seniors in the weeks immediately before and after May 2019 graduation, with commencement being held on May 11. 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 May 2019 Undergraduate Future Plans Survey had a response rate of 57%, with 2,031 of the 3,551 graduates participating.

### **Plans Following Graduation**

Three-fourths of students graduating in May 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-fifth saying they were currently seeking or planning to seek employment. One-fourth of students indicated that their primary plan was to attend graduate/professional school.

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

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

Fifty-four 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 close to half received more than one job offer. About 80 percent of students said the position in which they would be working was for a *private, for profit business or organization*, with an additional 10 percent saying they would be working for the *federal, state, or local government*. Two-thirds 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 \$54,734 (median = \$56,250). About 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, six percent said they had received company shares as a part of accepting their job offer, with about close to half estimating the value of their shares to be \$10,000 or more. Just over half of those students who said they would be working outside of North Carolina reported that they had received an offer for a relocation package.

Seventy-one percent of graduating seniors indicated they would be working in North Carolina, with 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 May graduates were Cisco, NC State University, and the Wake County Public School System.

Among a number of resources used in the job search process, students obtaining full-time employment were most likely to say that an *internship/externship* had been helpful in their job search (43%), followed by a *career fair at NC State* (29%).

About 70 percent of graduates who had obtained a full-time position said they started their job search six or more months before graduation. Just over one-third reported receiving the offer for the position they accepted six or more months prior to graduation. By contrast, two-thirds 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, with about one-third saying they had not begun their job search until within two months graduation.

### **Graduates Seeking Employment**

One-fifth of the May 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. Seventy 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 30 percent having gone on interviews for three or more different positions.

Eighteen 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 reasons cited included the job not being a good fit for their interests or career goals, unsatisfactory compensation, or currently being in the process of negotiating or considering one or more offers.

### **Further Education**

One-fourth of the 2,031 graduates who submitted the May 2019 Undergraduate Future Plans Survey said they were planning on going to graduate/professional school. Three-fourths of them said at the time of the survey that *they have been accepted and know where they will be going* and an additional four percent said *they have been accepted but are still undecided on whether or not or where they will actually attend*. Eighteen percent said *they have applied, but have not yet been accepted* (6%) or *they have not yet applied, but plan to do so within the next year* (12%).

Two-thirds 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 46 percent said they would be attending NC State University. Eighty-eight percent of respondents with confirmed plans for graduate school said they would be attending their first choice school.

Two-thirds 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. One-third indicated they would be enrolling in a professional degree program (18%) or a doctoral degree program (15%).

Fifty-seven 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**

About two-thirds of the students reported having had an *internship/externship* and one-fourth of students said they had participated in *research with faculty* and/or *volunteer work 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 found or were seeking employment said the experience was “very helpful” in obtaining a job offer.

Over 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: Eighty-five percent of students in the Wilson College of Textiles said they gone to an NC State career services office at least once. By contrast, just one-third of students in the College of Education said they had used an NC State career services office.

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, two-thirds of students said they were “very satisfied” or “satisfied.”

### **Feelings about the Future**

Overall, the May 2019 graduates have a positive outlook on their futures. When asked which statement comes closest to how they were feeling about their futures, 96 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 (93%).

#### **For more information about the Undergraduate Future Plans Survey contact:**

Suzanne Crockett, Assistant Director for Survey Research  
Office of Institutional Research and Planning  
Box 7002  
NC State University  
Phone: (919) 515-6438  
Email: [sacrocke@ncsu.edu](mailto:sacrocke@ncsu.edu)

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July, 2019

Page 3 of 3