

December 2025 Undergraduate Future Plans Survey Introduction, Research Methods, and Response Rates

This report provides an overview of the research methods and response rates for the Undergraduate Future Plans Survey (UFPS), administered by University Data and Analytics (UDA) at NC State University. The UFPS is designed to collect specific information on students' plans following graduation, including details on their employment, graduate/professional school attendance, and participation in career-preparation activities while at NC State. Results from the survey can be found on the UDA [website](#).

Research Design

The December UFPS is administered at the end of each fall semester. In preparing the surveys for online administration, UDA identifies the survey population, notifies and coordinates with survey contacts in each academic unit regarding promotional activities to encourage participation, and develops and sends email invitations and reminders. After data collection ends, UDA analyzes the data and prepares and distributes reports on the results.

The December 2025 UFPS was in the field from November 24 through January 9, with commencement being held on December 13. On November 24, all students who as of that day had applied to graduate in December were sent an email from their college dean inviting them to participate in the survey. The first follow-up reminder email was sent to non-respondents from their college associate dean one week later on December 1. On December 9, the second reminder email came from the Executive Director of the Career Development Center for students in a college without its own career services office, and from the director of the student's college career services office (or equivalent) if their college did have such an office. The final two reminders came from the Assistant Vice Provost for Institutional Survey Research and Analysis on December 12 and January 8. On each of the days that reminders were sent to non-respondents, UDA identified those who had applied to graduate during the intervening period and sent them a reminder as well.

In addition to the invitation and follow-up emails, UDA engaged in other promotional activities to boost response rates. Various administrators, faculty/staff, and career services employees who work with college students were encouraged to contact their graduating seniors directly and remind them about the survey. A flyer and QR code were distributed to survey contacts in each department who were encouraged to incorporate them into communications with their graduates. Some students, therefore, might have received additional requests to participate in the survey via email, flyer, and/or other graduation-related communications.

Students were offered incentives to encourage participation in the survey. Eight respondents who completed the survey by midnight on commencement day (December 13) were randomly selected to receive a \$25 Amazon eGift Card. In addition, two respondents who submitted the survey by the final deadline of January 9 were randomly selected to each receive a \$50 Amazon eGift Card.

Response Rates

The final December 2025 UFPS population consists of 1,450 undergraduate students who applied to graduate in fall 2025 and were conferred degrees as of February 10, 2026. Of these students, 595 participated in the survey for an overall response rate of 41%.

Participation rates for the survey varied by college, ranging from a high of 74% in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to a low of 28% in the Poole College of Management. Due to their relatively high response rates and relatively large numbers of students in the college, students from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Engineering are overrepresented among survey respondents, while those from the Poole College of Management and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences are underrepresented.

Table 1: Response Rate, Overall and by College

College/School	Dec 2025 Graduating Class (N)	Percent of Population	Survey Respondents (N)	Percent of Survey Respondents	Response Rate
College of Agriculture & Life Sciences	207	14.3%	111	18.7%	53.6%
College of Design	27	1.9%	20	3.4%	74.1%
College of Education	17	1.2%	6	1.0%	35.3%
College of Engineering	329	22.7%	154	25.9%	46.8%
College of Natural Resources	106	7.3%	44	7.4%	41.5%
College of Humanities & Social Sciences	297	20.5%	100	16.8%	33.7%
College of Sciences	195	13.4%	79	13.3%	40.5%
Wilson College of Textiles	26	1.8%	12	2.0%	46.2%
Poole College of Management	246	17.0%	69	11.6%	28.0%
Total	1,450	100.0%	595	100.0%	41.0%

For more information about the Undergraduate Future Plans Survey, contact:

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