

Combined Future Plans Surveys and Survey of Recent Graduates: Academic Year 2013-2014 Graduates

Introduction, Research Methods, and Response Rates

This series of reports presents combined results from the December 2013 and May 2014 Future Plans Surveys and the September 2014 Survey of Recent Graduates. The Future Plans Survey (FPS) and Survey of Recent Graduates (SRG) are designed to collect specific information on students' plans following graduation, including detailed information on employment, graduate/professional school attendance, and participation in career-preparation activities while at NC State.

This introductory report provides an overview of the research method and response rates. Additional reports on the overall survey results, college reports, departmental summaries, as well as a copy of the questionnaires, can be found at http://oirp.ncsu.edu/srvy/stdnt/future-plans/ay13_14.

Research Methods

The Future Plans Survey is administered to all graduating seniors in the weeks surrounding December and May graduation. In fall 2013, commencement was on December 18, and the FPS was in the field from December 10, 2013 through January 27, 2014. In spring 2014, commencement was on May 10, and the FPS was in the field from May 1 until May 30. (The December survey has a longer post-graduation field time due to winter holidays.)

The Survey of Recent Graduates, administered in September, was developed as a follow-up survey to the FPS. The SRG is aimed at reaching out to graduates from the past year who indicated that at the time they completed the FPS they had not yet found full-time employment, had not yet decided on or been accepted into graduate school, or were still undecided on their plans. In addition, graduates from the previous academic year who did not complete the FPS in December or May, or who graduated in Summer I, are also invited to participate in the SRG. The SRG, therefore, enables us to provide a more complete picture of the employment and further education of NC State's graduates from the previous academic year, taking into consideration those who might have taken a few months beyond graduation to obtain employment or gain acceptance to graduate/professional school. The September 2014 Survey of Recent Graduates was in the field from September 3, 2014 through October 8, 2014.

3,224 of the 4,851 graduates receiving baccalaureate degrees in AY13-14 were invited to complete the September 2014 Survey of Recent Graduates. Of those invited, 32.6% graduated in December 2013, 61.1% graduated in May 2014, and 6.2% graduated in Summer I 2014. About 70 percent of those invited were graduates who had not completed the FPS (69.4%), while 30.6% of the graduates invited had completed the December or May Future Plans Survey and were invited to take the SRG in order to follow up on their status of employment or plans for graduate school.

Table 1: Population Invited to Take the Survey of Recent Graduates, by Semester Graduated

Semester Graduated	Graduates		Invited to take SRG				Total invited to take SRG	
			Dec/May FPS Nonrespondents		Dec/May FPS Respondents*			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
December 2013	1,473	30.4%	708	31.6%	344	34.9%	1,052	32.6%
May 2014	3,172	65.4%	1,336	59.7%	635	64.3%	1,971	61.1%
Summer I 2014	206	4.2%	193	8.6%	8	0.8%	201	6.2%
Total	4,851	100%	2,237	100%	987	100%	3,224	100%

*FPS respondents who indicated that at the time they completed the FPS they had not yet found full-time employment, had not yet decided on or been accepted into graduate school, or were still undecided on their plans.

When administering the December and May Future Plans Surveys, eligible respondents are identified using NC State's Application for Degree file. The population for the September Survey of Recent Graduates is based on the graduation file from the previous academic year and response sets from the December and May Future

Plans Surveys. The final population for the combined surveys, therefore, includes all alumni who graduated in December 2013, May 2014, or Summer I 2014.

Response Rates

A total of 4,851 undergraduate students received baccalaureate degrees from NC State in Fall 2013 (n=1,473), Spring 2014 (n=3,172), or the first summer session of 2014 (n= 206). 3,079 of these graduates responded to either the December 2013 FPS (n=605), May 2014 FPS (n=1,497), or the September 2014 SRG (n=977), for an overall response rate of 63 percent. (To clarify, if a student responded to their FPS in December or May, and then completed the follow-up SRG in September, only their record of responses from the September SRG - - i.e., the most current information - - is included in the combined dataset used in these reports.)

Participation in the combined surveys varied by college. The College of Design had the highest response rate, with 92 percent of graduates participating in the survey. The Division of Academic and Student Affairs and the College of Engineering follow with the next highest response rates (76.3% and 70.5%, respectively), and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences had the lowest (57.9% and 56.1%, respectively). The College of Engineering is slightly overrepresented in the overall results, with their students making up only 21.3 percent of the population, yet 23.7 percent of the survey respondents. Conversely, College of Humanities and Social Sciences is slightly underrepresented, with their graduates making up 22.9% of the population but only 20.9% of the survey respondents.

Table 2: Response Rate, Overall and by College

College/School	AY 13-14 Population		FPS/SRG Respondents		Response Rate
	N	%	N	%	%
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences	531	10.9%	298	9.7%	56.1%
College of Design	138	2.8%	127	4.1%	92.0%
College of Education	171	3.5%	114	3.7%	66.7%
College of Engineering	1,035	21.3%	730	23.7%	70.5%
College of Natural Resources	321	6.6%	196	6.4%	61.1%
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	1,109	22.9%	642	20.9%	57.9%
College of Sciences	588	12.1%	365	11.9%	62.1%
College of Textiles	222	4.6%	146	4.7%	65.8%
Poole College of Management	698	14.4%	432	14.0%	61.9%
Division of Academic and Student Affairs	38	0.8%	29	0.9%	76.3%
Total	4,851	100%	3,079	100%	63.5%

Table 3 provides an overview of from which specific survey the responses included in this report are drawn. Among those respondents who graduated in December 2013, the December FPS record was used for 67.2 percent of them, and the September SRG for the remaining 32.7 percent – 18.5 percent who had previously completed the December FPS but indicated at that time they either had not obtained employment or knew where they would be attending graduate/professional school, and 14.2 percent who had not responded to their December FPS. Among those respondents who graduated in May 2014, the May FPS record was used for 70.7 percent of them, and the September SRG for 29.1 percent – 16.4 percent who had previously completed the May FPS but indicated at that time they either had not obtained employment or knew where they would be attending graduate/professional school, and 12.6 percent who had not responded to their May FPS.

Of the 3,079 survey records included in these reports, 19.6 percent come from the December 2013 FPS, 48.6 percent from the May 2014 FPS, and the remaining 31.7 percent from the September 2014 SRG. The September SRG responses were fairly evenly divided between those who had previously responded to their FPS (16.6%) and those who had not (15.1%). Altogether, the make-up of the combined FPS/SRG results

closely mirrors that of the population, with 29 percent of the respondents coming from those who graduated in December 2013, 68 percent from those who graduated in May 2014, and 3 percent from those who graduated in Summer I 2014.

Table 3: Survey Results Included, by Semester Graduated

Survey Results Included in Report	Graduated December 2013		Graduated May 2014		Graduated Summer I 2014		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
December FPS	599	67.2%	6	0.3%	0	0.0%	605	19.6%
May FPS	1	0.1%	1,484	70.7%	12	13.8%	1,497	48.6%
September SRG	292	32.7%	610	29.1%	75	86.2%	977	31.7%
<i>September SRG: FPS respondent</i>	165	18.5%	345	16.4%	1	1.1%	511	16.6%
<i>September SRG: FPSnonrespondent</i>	127	14.2%	265	12.6%	74	85.1%	466	15.1%
Total	892	29.0%	2,100	68.2%	87	2.8%	3,079	100%

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