

Combined Future Plans Surveys and Survey of Recent Graduates Academic Year 2017-2018 Graduates Highlights

NC State conducted its semiannual Future Plans Survey (FPS) of graduating seniors in the weeks immediately surrounding graduation in December 2017 and May 2018, and administered a follow-up Survey of Recent Graduates in September 2018 to fall and spring graduates who indicated having unconfirmed employment or graduate school plans at the time they submitted the FPS, graduates who did not complete their initial FPS when invited to do so, and students graduating in the summer, who had not been invited to take the FPS. The final population used in analysis consists of those undergraduate students who had been conferred an undergraduate degree between Fall 2017 and Summer II 2018. Combining the data from the December and May Future Plans Surveys and the September Survey of Recent Graduates yielded a response rate of 62%, with 3,368 of the 5,414 seniors who had been conferred degrees in the academic year 2017-2018 participating.

Employment: The vast majority of graduating seniors/new alumni said that they planned to be employed in the coming year, with 60 percent having confirmed employment plans as of the time of the survey. About three-fourths of graduates with full-time employment said they will be working in North Carolina. Graduates report an average salary in the coming year of \$50,666 (median = \$51,250). Nineteen percent of graduates indicated receiving a signing bonus as part of accepting their job offer, with over half of those receiving a signing bonus reporting that the amount was for \$5,000 or more. Fifty-one percent of students who said they would be working full-time outside of North Carolina indicated they had received an offer for a relocation package.

The job search: Fifty-eight percent of graduates with full-time employment said they started their job search six or more months prior to graduation, while 16 percent said they began their job search *after* graduation. Just over half of graduates said they had gone on interviews for three or more positions prior to accepting an offer, with about one-fifth going on interviews for five or more positions. About half of those with full-time employment said they had received more than one job offer from which to choose, with one-fifth receiving three or more job offers, including the one they ultimately accepted. Eighty-two percent of graduates received the job offer for the position they accepted before or at the time of graduation, while four percent said they had received the job offer more than three months after graduation. Over one-third of graduates said that an *internship/externship* had been helpful resource in their job search.

Still seeking employment: Thirteen percent of graduating seniors/recent graduates said at the time of the survey that they were actively seeking employment and an additional one percent said they planned to do so in the coming year. Fifty-two percent of active job seekers said they began their job search less than two months prior to graduation. Two-thirds of active job searchers reported going on interviews for at least one position during their most recent job search. Eighteen percent had received at least one job offer.

Further education: Twenty percent of the AY17-18 graduates responding to the FPS or SRG reported that they were planning to go to graduate/professional school in the year after graduation, with the vast majority having been accepted into graduate/professional school as

of the time of they completed the survey. Forty-eight percent of those who were enrolled in a graduate program or had been accepted and knew where they would be going as of the time of the survey reported that they would be/are staying at NC State. Two-thirds would be/are pursuing a master's degree and 30 percent said they would be enrolling in a doctoral or professional program.

Work-related experiences: Two-thirds of graduates indicated having an *internship* while at NC State and over one-third reported participating in *volunteer work*. *Co-ops, internships, and having a job in one's field of study* were more likely than other work-related experiences asked to be rated as "very helpful" in securing a job offer.

Career resources used at NC State: Fifty-six percent of graduates indicated having ever gone to a career services office at NC State, with one-fourth going to a career services office several times or more. About two-thirds of students said they had used *ePACK*, the NC State Career Development Center's internship and job posting website, and/or had *attended a career fair*.

For more information about the Future Plans Survey contact:

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