

Undergraduate Future Plans Surveys: December 2023 and May 2024 Results, Combined Introduction, Research Methods, and Response Rates

The 2023-2024 Academic Year (AY23-24) reports present combined results from the December 2023 and May 2024 Future Plans Surveys (FPS). The FPS is designed to collect information about students' plans for after graduation, including detailed information on employment, graduate/professional school attendance, as well as about participation in career preparation activities while at NC State.

In past years, results from the Survey of Recent Graduates (SRG), a survey designed to follow-up with those with unconfirmed plans when they submitted their survey in December or May, those who had not responded to the FPS when they graduated, and those graduating during the summer, were used to update and augment the FPS results. However, beginning in September 2023, the SRG was discontinued. As such, the combined AY reports are limited to responses collected in the December 2023 and May 2024 FPS.

This introductory report provides an overview of the research methods and response rates for the surveys. Additional results, including a “fast facts” sheet and interactive dashboards, along with copies of the questionnaires, can be found on the Institutional Strategy and Analysis (ISA) [website](#).

Research Methods

The Future Plans Survey population for each survey administration includes all seniors who, by the end of the semester, had submitted an “application for degree” and been approved by their academic department to graduate in December 2023 or May 2024. The survey is administered in the weeks surrounding fall and spring commencement exercises. The Fall 2023 survey was in the field from November 27 to January 10, and the Spring 2024 survey was in the field from April 16 to May 8.

Response Rates

A total of 5,800 undergraduate students received baccalaureate degrees from NC State in either Fall 2023 (N=1,353) or Spring 2024 (N=4,447) (Table 1). Overall, just over 40 percent of the graduates submitted their survey (41.8%). Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 graduates were about equally likely to participate in the survey (42.6% vs 41.6%, respectively).

Table 1: Response Rate of AY23-24 Baccalaureate Degree Recipients, Overall and by Semester Graduated

Semester Graduated	AY23-24 Population		FPS Respondents		Response Rate
	N	% of population	N	% of respondents	%
Fall 2023	1,353	23.3%	577	23.8%	42.6%
Spring 2024	4,447	76.7%	1,848	76.2%	41.6%
Total	5,800	100.0%	2,425	100.0%	41.8%

Participation in the combined FPS varied by college. The College of Engineering had the highest response rate, followed by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (50.5% and 47.6; Table 2). Given their sizes, these colleges are slightly overrepresented in the results.

Graduates from the Poole College of Management and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences had relatively low participation rates (34.3% and 36.4%, respectively). Given the sizes of these two colleges, their relatively low participation rates mean they are slightly underrepresented in the overall results.

Table 2: AY23-24 FPS Response Rate, Overall and by College

College/School	AY23-24 Population		FPS Respondents		Response Rate
	N	% of population	N	% of respondents	%
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences	629	10.8%	299	12.3%	47.6%
College of Design	135	2.3%	48	2.0%	35.6%
College of Education	122	2.1%	53	2.2%	43.4%
College of Engineering	1,655	28.5%	836	34.5%	50.5%
College of Natural Resources	332	5.7%	117	4.8%	35.2%
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	1,060	18.3%	386	15.9%	36.4%
College of Sciences	701	12.1%	278	11.5%	39.7%
Wilson College of Textiles	174	3.0%	68	2.8%	39.1%
Poole College of Management	992	17.1%	340	14.0%	34.3%
Total	5,800	100.0%	2,425	100.0%	41.8%

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