

December 2018 Graduate Future Plans Survey Highlights

NC State conducted its semiannual administration of the Graduate Future Plans Survey in December 2018. Doctoral and master's students who applied to graduate in December 2018 were sent email invitations in the weeks immediately before and after commencement, held on December 19, encouraging them to participate in the survey. Of the 958 graduate students receiving their degrees in December 2018, 615 completed the survey for a response rate of 64.2 percent. Sixty-two percent of doctoral degree recipients (109 out of 176) and 64.7 percent of master's degree recipients (506 out of 782) participated.

Employment: Almost all graduates said that they planned to work full-time in the coming year. Seventy-nine percent of doctoral graduates and 60 percent of master's graduates said at the time they completed the survey that they had confirmed employment plans for after graduation. About half of graduates with full-time employment said they will be working in North Carolina. Doctoral graduates report an average salary in the coming year of \$79,699 (median = \$72,500) and master's graduates report an average salary of \$81,877 (median = \$77,500). Sixteen percent of doctoral graduates and over one-third of master's graduates said they had received a signing bonus as part of accepting their job offer, with 59 percent of those getting a signing bonus reporting the amount was for \$10,000 or more. Thirteen percent of doctoral graduates and one-fourth of master's graduates reported receiving company shares at the time they received their job offer, with a slight majority estimating the value of the company shares they received to be \$40,000 or more at the time they accepted the position. Two-thirds of all graduate students who said they will be working outside of North Carolina indicated they had received an offer for a relocation package.

The job search: Sixty-two percent of all doctoral graduates and master's graduates with full-time employment that began during their graduate program or will begin after graduation said they started searching for a job six or more months ahead of graduation. Forty percent of doctoral graduates and 61 percent of master's graduates with full-time employment said they had gone on interviews for three or more positions prior to accepting an offer. One-third of doctoral graduates and 53 percent of master's graduates indicated receiving more than one job offer from which to choose. Two-thirds of doctoral graduates and just over half of master's graduates received the offer for the position they accepted three or more months prior to graduation. Forty percent of doctoral graduates indicated that an *NC State faculty member* had been helpful in their job search. In contrast, master's graduates were most likely to identify *LinkedIn* as a helpful resource during their search.

Still seeking employment: One-fifth of doctoral graduates and one-fourth of master's graduates said at the time of the survey that they were actively seeking employment or planned to do so in the coming year. Fifteen percent of doctoral graduates and six percent of master's graduates who said they were pursuing or planning to pursue employment also said they were currently employed, either full- or part-time, and are looking or will be looking for a new position.

Further education: Eleven percent of master's degree recipients said they planned to continue in graduate/professional school to pursue another degree. Eighty-seven percent of master's graduates who were either already enrolled in a new program at the time of the

survey or had been accepted and knew where they will be going reported that they will be staying at NC State. The majority will be pursuing a PhD.

Professional development opportunities: Ninety-eight percent of doctoral graduates and 89 percent of master's graduates participated in at least one work-related experience while pursuing their degree. Over three-fourths of doctoral graduates indicated having had a *research assistantship* and 60 percent had had a *teaching assistantship*. In contrast, master's graduates were most likely to report having had an *internship* (43%) and 23 percent had had a *job in their field of study*. Graduate students typically viewed the work-related experiences they had as "very helpful" or "somewhat helpful" in securing a job offer.

Three-fourths of doctoral graduates and 16 percent of master's graduates published or presented at least one article or creative work while pursuing their degree. Two-thirds of doctoral graduates *published at least one article or creative work in a peer-reviewed journal* during their graduate program, with about one-fifth publishing five or more articles/creative works while pursuing their degree. Similarly, 72 percent of doctoral graduates reported *presenting at least one research paper, poster, or creative work at a conference in their field*, with 38 percent doing so five or more times. Seven percent of master's graduates *published one or more articles or creative works in a peer-reviewed journal* and 14 percent had *presented at least one research paper, poster, or creative work at a conference in their field*.

For more information about the Graduate Future Plans Survey contact:

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Posted: May, 2019