

Graduate 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 Graduate Future Plans Surveys (GFPS). The GFPS surveys are designed to collect specific information on master's and doctoral degree recipients' plans for after graduation, including detailed information on employment and additional graduate/professional school attendance, as well as their participation in career preparation activities while at NC State and satisfaction with various aspects of their graduate education.

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 GFPS when they graduated, and those graduating during the summer, were used to update and augment the GFPS 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 GFPS.

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

Research Methods

The Graduate Future Plans Survey population for each survey administration includes all master's and doctoral students 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 Spring 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 2,748 master's (N=2,336) and doctoral students (N=412) received their degrees from NC State in either December 2023 or May 2024 (Tables 1, 2, and 3). The overall response rate for the AY23-24 GFPS is 56.8% (56.1% for master's degree recipients and 60.7% for doctoral degree recipients).

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

Semester Graduated	AY23-24 Population		GFPS Respondents		Response Rate
	N	% of population	N	% of respondents	%
Fall 2023	873	31.8%	522	33.5%	59.8%
Spring 2024	1,875	68.2%	1,038	66.5%	55.4%
Total	2,748	100.0%	1,560	100.0%	56.8%

Table 2: Response Rate of AY23-24 Doctoral Degree Recipients, Overall and by Semester Graduated

Semester Graduated	AY23-24 Population		GFPS Respondents		Response Rate
	N	% of population	N	% of respondents	%
Fall 2023	180	43.7%	116	46.4%	64.4%
Spring 2024	232	56.3%	134	53.6%	57.8%
Total	412	100.0%	250	100.0%	60.7%

Table 3: Response Rate of AY23-24 Master's Degree Recipients, Overall and by Semester Graduated

Semester Graduated	AY23-24 Population		GFPS Respondents		Response Rate
	N	% of population	N	% of respondents	%
Fall 2023	693	29.7%	406	31.0%	58.6%
Spring 2024	1,643	70.3%	904	69.0%	55.0%
Total	2,336	100.0%	1,310	100.0%	56.1%

Participation rates for the GFPS varied by college. The College of Veterinary Medicine had the highest response rate among doctoral degree recipients, with 9 of 10 doctoral degree earners completing the survey (90.0%; Table 4). Similarly, the small number of graduates from the College of Design were also more likely than others to participate, with 6 of 8 submitting the survey (75%). The College of Education also had high response rates among doctoral degree recipients, with 51 of 71 doctoral degree earners completing the survey (71.8%). In the College of Engineering, 83 of 143 doctoral degree earners completed the survey (58.0%). Although their response rate is only slightly below average, the College of Engineering graduates enough students such that modest dips in their response rate cause them to be slightly under-represented. The Poole College of Management had the lowest participate rate, with 1 of 8 doctoral degree earners completing the survey (12.5%).

Table 4: Response Rate of AY23-24 Doctoral Degree Recipients, Overall and by College

College/School	AY23-24 Population		GFPS Respondents		Response Rate
	N	% of population	N	% of respondents	%
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences	42	10.2%	22	8.8%	52.4%
College of Design	8	1.9%	6	2.4%	75.0%
College of Education	71	17.2%	51	20.4%	71.8%
College of Engineering	143	34.7%	83	33.2%	58.0%
College of Natural Resources	14	3.4%	9	3.6%	64.3%
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	28	6.8%	18	7.2%	64.3%
College of Sciences	69	16.7%	40	16.0%	58.0%
Wilson College of Textiles	19	4.6%	11	4.4%	57.9%
College of Veterinary Medicine	10	2.4%	9	3.6%	90.0%
Poole College of Management	8	1.9%	1	0.4%	12.5%
Total	412	100.0%	250	100.0%	60.7%

The graduates of the Institute for Advanced Analytics had the highest participation rates amongst master’s degree earners, with 96.8% of graduates responding to the GFPS. In the College of Engineering, 548 of 1,014 master’s degree earners completed the survey (54.0%). Although their response rate is only slightly below average, the College of Engineering graduates enough students such that even modest dips in their response rate cause them to be slightly under-represented among respondents. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences (47.3%) and the College of Sciences (42.4%) are also slightly underrepresented in the results due to their number of graduates and their lower-than-average response rates.

Table 5: Response Rate of AY23-24 Master's Degree Recipients, Overall and by College

College/School	AY23-24 Population		GFPS Respondents		Response Rate
	N	% of population	N	% of respondents	%
Institute for Advanced Analytics	95	4.1%	92	7.0%	96.8%
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences	171	7.3%	86	6.6%	50.3%
College of Design	73	3.1%	51	3.9%	69.9%
College of Education	200	8.6%	121	9.2%	60.5%
College of Engineering	1,014	43.4%	548	41.8%	54.0%
College of Natural Resources	74	3.2%	48	3.7%	64.9%
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	262	11.2%	124	9.5%	47.3%
College of Sciences	132	5.7%	56	4.3%	42.4%
Wilson College of Textiles	37	1.6%	25	1.9%	67.6%
College of Veterinary Medicine	2	0.1%	1	0.1%	50.0%
Poole College of Management	276	11.8%	158	12.1%	57.2%
Total	2,336	100.0%	1,310	100.0%	56.1%

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