

Graduate Future Plans Surveys: December 2024 and May 2025 Results, Combined Introduction, Research Methods, and Response Rates

The 2024-2025 Academic Year (AY24-25) reports present combined results from the December 2024 and May 2025 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.

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 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 2024 or May 2025. The survey is administered in the weeks surrounding fall and spring commencement exercises. The Fall 2024 survey was in the field from November 25, 2024 to January 10, 2025, and the Spring 2025 survey was in the field from April 15 to May 9, 2025.

Response Rates

A total of 2,930 master's (N=2,515) and doctoral students (N=415) received their degrees from NC State in either December 2024 or May 2025 (Tables 1, 2, and 3). The overall response rate for the AY24-25 GFPS is 55.8% (55.3% for master's degree recipients and 58.8% for doctoral degree recipients).

Table 1: Response Rate of AY24-25 All Graduate Degree Recipients, Overall and by Semester Graduated

Semester Graduated	AY24-25 Population		GFPS Respondents		Response Rate
	N	% of population	N	% of respondents	%
Fall 2024	946	32.3%	512	31.3%	54.1%
Spring 2025	1,984	67.7%	1,124	68.7%	56.7%
Total	2,930	100.0%	1,636	100.0%	55.8%

Table 2: Response Rate of AY24-25 Doctoral Degree Recipients, Overall and by Semester Graduated

Semester Graduated	AY24-25 Population		GFPS Respondents		Response Rate
	N	% of population	N	% of respondents	%
Fall 2024	206	49.6%	105	43.0%	51.0%
Spring 2025	209	50.4%	139	57.0%	66.5%
Total	415	100.0%	244	100.0%	58.8%

Table 3: Response Rate of AY24-25 Master's Degree Recipients, Overall and by Semester Graduated

Semester Graduated	AY24-25 Population		GFPS Respondents		Response Rate
	N	% of population	N	% of respondents	%
Fall 2024	740	29.4%	407	29.2%	55.0%
Spring 2025	1,775	70.6%	985	70.8%	55.5%
Total	2,515	100.0%	1,392	100.0%	55.3%

Participation rates in the GFPS varied by college. The only student graduating from the Genetics and Genomics program out of the Graduate School completed the survey (100% response rate). The relatively small College of Design (100%), College of Veterinary Medicine (81.8%), and College of Natural Resources (70.6%) also had notably high participation rates among doctoral recipients, and as such are slightly overrepresented among survey respondents. Especially overrepresented is the College of Agriculture and Life Science, which had a 91% participation rate among its doctoral students. In contrast, the College of Sciences and the College of Education, which had relatively low participation rates, are slightly underrepresented among survey respondents. The Poole College of Management, which had among the lowest number of doctoral graduates, had the lowest participation rate.

Table 4: Response Rate of AY24-25 Doctoral Degree Recipients, Overall and by College

College/School	AY24-25 Population		GFPS Respondents		Response Rate
	N	% of population	N	% of population	%
Graduate School*	1	0.2%	1	0.4%	100%
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences	53	12.8%	48	19.7%	90.6%
College of Design	3	0.7%	3	1.2%	100%
College of Education	80	19.3%	40	16.4%	50.0%
College of Engineering	139	33.5%	80	32.8%	57.6%
College of Natural Resources	17	4.1%	12	4.9%	70.6%
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	28	6.7%	19	7.8%	67.9%
College of Sciences	57	13.7%	20	8.2%	35.1%
Wilson College of Textiles	22	5.3%	11	4.5%	50.0%
College of Veterinary Medicine	11	2.7%	9	3.7%	81.8%
Poole College of Management	4	1.0%	1	0.4%	25.0%
Total	415	100.0%	244	100.0%	58.8%

* *Genetics and Genomics program*

Response rates among master's degree recipients also varied by college. The graduates of the Institute for Advanced Analytics (IAA) had the highest participation rate amongst master's degree earners, with 87.2% of graduates responding to the GFPS; as such IAA is slightly overrepresented among respondents. Also slightly overrepresented in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, with more than three-fourths of their master's degree earners participating in the survey (77.1%). Given its small size, even with its high participation rate of 80%, the College of Design is only slightly overrepresented among respondents. In contrast, given its size and low participation rate, the College of Engineering is notably underrepresented among respondents.

Table 5: Response Rate of AY24-25 Master's Degree Recipients, Overall and by College

College/School	AY24-25 Population		GFPS Respondents		Response Rate
	N	% of population	N	% of population	%
Institute for Advanced Analytics	94	3.7%	82	5.9%	87.2%
Graduate School*	6	0.2%	1	0.1%	16.7%
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences	179	7.1%	138	9.9%	77.1%
College of Design	78	3.1%	62	4.5%	79.5%
College of Education	222	8.8%	127	9.1%	57.2%
College of Engineering	1,154	45.9%	583	41.9%	50.5%
College of Natural Resources	71	2.8%	43	3.1%	60.6%
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	226	9.0%	109	7.8%	48.2%
College of Sciences	139	5.5%	60	4.3%	43.2%
Wilson College of Textiles	33	1.3%	18	1.3%	54.5%
College of Veterinary Medicine	3	0.1%	2	0.1%	66.7%
Poole College of Management	310	12.3%	167	12.0%	53.9%
Total	2,515	100.0%	1,392	100.0%	55.3%

* Foundations of Data Science program

For more information about the Graduate Future Plans Survey, contact:

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