

# North Carolina State University

## 2012-2013 Graduating Senior Survey: Highlights

NC State conducted its annual survey of graduating seniors during the fall 2012 and spring 2013 semesters. Students from all undergraduate academic programs who graduated in December 2012 or May 2013 (AY12-13) were included. Fifty-one percent of seniors who graduated in AY12-13 completed the online survey.

**Graduating seniors give top marks to the academic environment at NC State.** Almost all respondents - - 95 percent or more - - gave a positive rating to the overall education they received at the University and to the intellectual environment on campus. Over 80 percent said they would choose to attend NC State again if starting over, and more than 90 percent said they would recommend NC State to a friend. Ratings of faculty were overwhelmingly positive, with more than 80 percent of respondents expressing their satisfaction with each of eight specific areas related to faculty instruction.

**Students at NC State are frequently involved in mentoring relationships with faculty.** More than 60 percent of students reported having participated in at least one of eight types of faculty-student mentoring asked about. About half of graduating seniors received *routine academic guidance from faculty* (52%) or *routine professional guidance/support from faculty* (46%). About 20 percent of seniors had been involved in a research project with a faculty member (20%), or had done an independent study project with a faculty member (22%). Regardless of the type of mentoring experience, the majority of students who had such experience said it contributed "a great deal" to their personal and/or professional growth.

**NC State helps students become critical thinkers.** Ninety percent or more of graduating seniors said that NC State contributed "very much" or "somewhat" to their ability to use critical thinking skills, apply analytic skills, plan and carry out projects independently, identify a problem/concept and articulate its components, be creative and open to new ideas and perspectives, and effectively analyze and evaluate evidence/arguments.

**NC State graduating seniors are engaged in community service.** Just over half of respondents reported participating in a community service project through NC State. Among those with such experience, the large majority said it contributed "very much" (48%) or "somewhat" (38%) to their personal/professional growth.

**Students continue to struggle with completing their degree in a timely manner.** Close to one-half of survey respondents reported that it took more than four years to complete their degree. Respondents most commonly cited academic or curricular reasons for their delayed graduation, such as changing majors, taking a lighter courseload, or not being able to get needed courses. More than one-fifth of graduating seniors indicated that the hours they spent working impeded their progress toward a degree.

**Paid employment and work-related experiences are widespread among NC State students.** Over 70 percent of graduating seniors were employed during their senior year, working an average of 20 hours per week. Students working in on-campus jobs reported working fewer hours per week than those with off-campus jobs, and were more likely to be working in jobs directly related to their major (38% versus 27%). Almost 40 percent of the graduating seniors said their major included a co-op, internship, practicum, student teaching, or some other field experience. Eighty percent of those with such field experience said it contributed "very much" to their personal/professional growth, and close to one-third said they had received a job offer from their field experience employer.

**Financial aid packages are satisfactory.** Seventy percent of graduating seniors said they had received financial aid. Among those receiving aid, 90 percent were either "very" (47%) or "somewhat" satisfied (44%) with their aid package.

For more information on the 2012-2013 Graduating Senior Survey contact:  
Dr. Nancy Whelchel, Associate Director for Survey Research  
University Planning and Analysis  
Box 7002  
NCSU  
Phone: (919) 515-4184  
Email: [Nancy\\_Whelchel@ncsu.edu](mailto:Nancy_Whelchel@ncsu.edu)

Posted: November, 2013