

# North Carolina State University

## 2015-2016 Graduating Senior Survey: Introduction, Methods, and Student Demographic Profile

### Introduction

The Graduating Senior Survey is one of an on-going series of surveys regularly administered to students at NC State. While all institutions in the University of North Carolina system are required by General Administration to participate in the Graduating Senior Survey, NC State expands on the number of topics covered in it.

Students who graduated in December 2015 or May 2016 (AY15-16) are included in the survey population. Survey topics include: student goals and intentions; academic environment and faculty contributions; academic services for students; NC State's contribution to student knowledge, skills, and personal growth; non-academic services for students; campus climate; and student employment and involvement in extracurricular activities.

This introductory report describes the survey's methodology and provides a demographic profile of survey respondents in comparison to the population of AY15-16 graduates. Specifically, it compares the gender, race/ethnicity<sup>1</sup>, and academic unit of survey respondents with those characteristics of AY15-16 graduates. A separate report, "[2015-2016 Graduating Senior Survey: All Respondents](#)," focuses on each individual survey topic. Links to tables with gender and racial/ethnic comparisons, as well as comparisons between colleges, are available online through the "[2015-2016 Graduating Senior Survey: Table of Contents](#)."

### Survey Administration

NC State's Office of Institutional Research and Planning is responsible for administering the survey, analyzing the data, and preparing and distributing reports on results to various units on campus. Students planning to graduate in December 2015 or May 2016 were eligible to complete the survey. The web survey was available from the start of the fall semester in mid-August 2015 until graduation in mid-May 2016.

Graduating seniors were prompted to complete the survey at the time they submitted their online application for degree. Late in each semester, those who had applied to graduate but who had not submitted the survey were sent an e-mail invitation to complete the survey. Up to three follow-up reminders were emailed to nonrespondents.

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<sup>1</sup> The term "racial/ethnic" is used throughout these reports to recognize the potentially blurred distinction between the individual terms. In application materials, students were requested to identify themselves using any number of the following categories: Hispanic or Latino, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander White, and Multiracial.

As in past years, a few colleges or academic departments took the opportunity to include a program-specific “insert” survey along with the campus-wide AY15-16 Graduating Senior Survey to gather information more for their individual assessment needs. Students could complete an insert survey for each of their majors (if applicable). Results from insert surveys are not available on the web, but are provided directly to the respective colleges/departments.

**Population and Survey Respondents**

Of the 4,765 students who graduated in fall 2015 (N=1,365) or spring 2016 (N=3,400), 54.1 percent (N=2,579) submitted usable surveys. Overall, spring graduates were more likely than fall graduates to complete the survey (57.0% vs. 47.0%).

**Table 1: Response Rate by Semester**

Semester of Graduation	Senior Class		Survey Respondents		Response Rate
	%	N	%	N	%
Dec 2015	28.6%	1,365	24.9%	641	47.0%
May 2016	71.4%	3,400	75.1%	1,938	57.0%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>4,765</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>2,579</i>	<i>54.1%</i>

By Gender and Race/Ethnicity (Tables 2-3)

There are no significant gender or racial/ethnic differences between the AY15-16 graduating senior population and survey respondents. Women make up 46.9 percent of the senior class and 48.9 percent of the survey respondents. Among the senior class population, 76.1 percent are white, 7.3 percent are Asian American, 6.3 percent are African American, 4.6 percent are Hispanic, 3.2 percent are multiracial, 0.3 percent are Native American, and 2.2 percent are of other or unspecified race/ethnicity. Among survey respondents, 77.7 percent are white, 6.6 percent are Asian American, 5.6 percent are African American, 4.8 percent are Hispanic, 0.3 percent are Native American, 3.0 percent are multiracial, and 2.0 percent are of other or unspecified race/ethnicity.

**Table 2: Gender of the Graduating Senior Class and Survey Respondents**

Gender	Senior Class		Survey Respondents		Response Rate
	%	N	%	N	%
Women	46.9%	2,236	48.9%	1,260	56.4%
Men	53.1%	2,529	51.1%	1,319	52.2%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>4,765</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>2,579</i>	<i>54.1%</i>

**Table 3: Race/Ethnicity of the Graduating Senior Class and Survey Respondents**

Race/Ethnicity	Senior Class		Survey Respondents		Response Rate
	%	N	%	N	%
Unknown	2.2%	104	2.0%	51	49.0%
Hispanic	4.6%	220	4.8%	123	55.9%
Native American / American Indian	0.3%	14	0.3%	8	57.1%
Asian American	7.3%	347	6.6%	171	49.3%
Black / African American	6.3%	301	5.6%	145	48.2%
White	76.1%	3,625	77.7%	2,004	55.3%
Multiracial	3.2%	154	3.0%	77	50.0%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>4,765</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>2,579</i>	<i>54.1%</i>

**By Academic Units (Table 4)**

Table 4 shows enrollment of the AY15-16 graduating senior population and survey respondents by academic unit. Few differences exist between the senior population and the survey respondents by academic unit. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is slightly overrepresented among survey respondents, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Sciences slightly underrepresented.

**Table 4: Classification by Academic Unit**

Academic Unit*	Senior Class		Survey Respondents		Response Rate
	%	N	%	N	%
Agriculture and Life Sciences	11.2%	533	9.7%	251	47.1%
Design	2.9%	137	3.7%	96	70.1%
Education	2.6%	126	2.1%	53	42.1%
Engineering	24.6%	1,170	24.9%	641	54.8%
Natural Resources	6.9%	331	7.1%	182	55.0%
Humanities and Social Sciences	18.2%	867	20.8%	537	61.9%
Sciences	12.5%	597	11.2%	288	48.2%
Textiles	5.3%	254	4.6%	119	46.9%
Management	14.8%	703	15.0%	386	54.9%
Division of Academic and Student Affairs <sup>i</sup>	1.0%	47	1.0%	26	55.3%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>4,765</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>2,579</i>	<i>54.1%</i>

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<sup>i</sup> The Division of Academic and Student Affairs includes only those students enrolled in Environmental Sciences.