

# North Carolina State University

## 2015-2016 Graduating Senior Survey: Highlights

NC State conducted its annual survey of graduating seniors during the fall 2015 and spring 2016 semesters. Students from all undergraduate academic programs who graduated in December 2015 or May 2016 (AY15-16) were included. Fifty-four percent of seniors who graduated in AY15-16 completed the online survey.

**Students report high levels of satisfaction with NC State education.** Ninety-six percent of students reported that the quality of education that they received was “excellent” or “good.” Approximately 90 percent also selected “excellent” or “good” in rating the quality of instruction in their major (92%) and the quality of instruction overall (89%). Ninety-three percent of graduating seniors reported that they would recommend NC State to a friend, with 85 percent also indicating that they would choose NC again if they were starting over.

**NC State contributes to students’ development of world views.** The vast majority of respondents indicated satisfaction with NC State meeting all world view goals, such as having a global perspective and understanding and appreciating diversity and the present as it relates to history. Over 90 percent of graduating seniors indicated that their education contributed “very much” or “somewhat” to their ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds (92%), their ability to understand and respect diverse cultures, values, and perspectives (92%), and their understanding of issues and problems facing the world (90%).

**Majorities of NC State students participate in career-related experiences, and it pays off.** Almost three-fourths of graduating seniors reported having some type of career-related experience, with half saying they had had a paid internship. Students were far less likely to have had other career related experiences, such as a co-op, practicum, student teaching, service learning, or clinical. Regardless of the type of work-related experience, close to 80 percent of those with such an experience said that it contributed “very much” to their personal and professional growth, and 40 percent said they received a job offer from their employer.

**Students continue to struggle with completing their degree in four years.** Forty percent 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 course load, or not being able to get needed courses. One-quarter of graduating seniors indicated that finances was a reason for taking longer than four years to obtain a degree. Notably, the number of students reporting taking over four years to graduate has decreased from 46 percent reported in the AY12-13 Graduating Senior Survey.

**Majorities of seniors are employed, with many working more than 20 hours per week.** Three-fourths of respondents reported working a paid job during their senior year. Of those, 56 percent were employed only off campus, 27 percent worked only on campus, and 17 percent reported working both on and off campus. Students who held jobs off campus reported working a greater number of hours: 33 percent worked more than 20 hours weekly compared to 10 percent of those working on campus.

**Some students indicate they want more and more timely career-related advice.** Survey results indicate there is room for improvement in students seeking out and receiving career-related advice, especially from academic advisors. While close to 20 percent of graduating seniors said that they received career-related advice from faculty members, academic advisors, or career advisors on campus either before or during New Student Orientation, one-fourth did not get such advice until their junior or senior year at NC State, and seven percent reported never receiving such advice. While reporting high levels of satisfaction with various academic advising services, in ranking specific service, students were most likely to be dissatisfied with academic advisors helping students think about career-related experiences (19% dissatisfaction) and helping students understand/develop path to achieve career goals (18%).

**NC State library services gets high marks.** Ninety-three percent of students report being “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with campus library services overall. Respondents were most likely to be “very satisfied” with access to online library resources (45%) and access to databases and resources (44%).

For more information on the 2015-2016 Graduating Senior Survey contact:  
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