

NC University

2018-2019 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. Students who graduated in December 2018 or May 2019 (AY18-19) 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 AY18-19 graduates. Specifically, it compares the gender, race/ethnicity¹, and academic unit of survey respondents with those characteristics of AY18-19 graduates. A separate report, AY18-19 Graduating Senior Student Survey: Overall Results, provides detailed results on each individual survey topic. Results broken out by gender, race/ethnicity, and college are available on the [Trends: 1998-2019 dashboard](#).

Survey Administration

Institutional Strategy and Analysis at NC State 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 2018 or May 2019 were eligible to complete the survey. The web survey was available from the start of the fall semester in mid-August 2018 until graduation in mid-May 2019.

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 from the Chancellor to complete the survey. Up to three follow-up reminders were emailed to nonrespondents.

¹ 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.

Population and Survey Respondents

Of the 4,929 students who graduated in fall 2018 (N=1,376) or spring 2019 (N=3,553), 64 percent (N=3,154) submitted usable surveys. Overall, spring graduates were more likely than fall graduates to complete the survey (66.6% vs. 57.1%).

Table 1: Response Rate by Semester

| Semester of Graduation | Senior Class | | Survey Respondents | | Response Rate |
|------------------------|--------------|--------|--------------------|--------|---------------|
| | N | % | N | % | % |
| Fall 2018 | 1,376 | 27.9% | 786 | 24.9% | 57.1% |
| Spring 2019 | 3,553 | 72.1% | 2,368 | 75.1% | 66.6% |
| <i>Total</i> | 4,929 | 100.0% | 3,154 | 100.0% | 64.0% |

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

Women were slightly more likely than men to have participated in the Graduating Senior Survey. While women make up 48 percent of the AY18-19 graduating class, they make up 51 percent of the survey respondents (50.9%). Overall, the racial/ethnic composition of the survey respondents closely mirrors that of the survey population. Due to their slightly lower participation rates Asian Americans and those whose race/ethnicity is unknown are somewhat underrepresented, and whites and those who are multiracial somewhat overrepresented because of their slightly higher participation rates. Among survey respondents, 75.5 percent are white, 6.5 percent Asian Americans, 5.8 percent Hispanic, 5.0 percent Black, 4.5 percent multiracial, and the remaining 2.6 percent some other race/ethnicity.

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

| Gender | Senior Class | | Survey Respondents | | Response Rate |
|--------------|--------------|--------|--------------------|--------|---------------|
| | N | % | N | % | % |
| Women | 2,368 | 48.0% | 1,606 | 50.9% | 67.8% |
| Men | 2,561 | 52.0% | 1,548 | 49.1% | 60.4% |
| <i>Total</i> | 4,929 | 100.0% | 3,154 | 100.0% | 64.0% |

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

| Race/Ethnicity | Senior Class | | Survey Respondents | | Response Rate |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------|--------------------|--------|---------------|
| | N | % | N | % | % |
| Unknown | 139 | 2.8% | 76 | 2.4% | 54.7% |
| Hispanic | 287 | 5.8% | 184 | 5.8% | 64.1% |
| Native American / American Indian | 12 | 0.2% | 7 | 0.2% | 58.3% |
| Asian American | 370 | 7.5% | 206 | 6.5% | 55.7% |
| Black / African American | 262 | 5.3% | 158 | 5.0% | 60.3% |
| Hawaiian / Pacific Islander | 3 | 0.1% | 1 | 0.0% | 33.3% |
| White | 3,647 | 74.0% | 2,381 | 75.5% | 65.3% |
| Multiracial | 209 | 4.2% | 141 | 4.5% | 67.5% |
| <i>Total</i> | 4,929 | 100.0% | 3,154 | 100.0% | 64.0% |

By Academic Units (Table 4)

Table 4 shows enrollment of the AY18-19 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 Wilson College of Textiles and the Poole College of Management slightly underrepresented.

Table 4: Classification by Academic Unit

| Academic Unit* | Senior Class | | Survey Respondents | | Response Rate |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------|--------------------|--------|---------------|
| | N | % | N | % | % |
| Agriculture and Life Sciences | 563 | 11.4% | 361 | 11.4% | 64.1% |
| Design | 125 | 2.5% | 71 | 2.3% | 56.8% |
| Education | 102 | 2.1% | 76 | 2.4% | 74.5% |
| Engineering | 1,310 | 26.6% | 831 | 26.3% | 63.4% |
| Natural Resources | 359 | 7.3% | 231 | 7.3% | 64.3% |
| Humanities and Social Sciences | 912 | 18.5% | 631 | 20.0% | 69.2% |
| Sciences | 580 | 11.8% | 380 | 12.0% | 65.5% |
| Wilson College of Textiles | 237 | 4.8% | 128 | 4.1% | 54.0% |
| Poole College of Management | 741 | 15.0% | 445 | 14.1% | 60.1% |
| <i>Total</i> | 4,929 | 100.0% | 3,154 | 100.0% | 64.0% |

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