

North Carolina State University

2019 Sophomore Student Survey:

Introduction, Methods, and Student Demographic Profile

Introduction

The Sophomore Survey is one of an on-going series of surveys regularly administered to students at NC State. The survey, administered to all second-semester sophomores, collects detailed information on a wide range of topics, including the academic environment; instruction and mentoring experiences with faculty; academic advising; support services; the campus climate and safety; knowledge, skills, and personal growth; engagement; and overall satisfaction. The Sophomore Survey was first administered at NC State in 1998, and is now administered on a triennial basis. This series of reports presents findings from the Spring 2019 Sophomore Survey.

This introductory report describes the survey methods and compares survey respondents to the survey population on gender, race/ethnicity¹, and academic unit. A separate report, [2019 Sophomore 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 is responsible for administering the survey, analyzing the data, and preparing and distributing reports on results. The 2019 Sophomore Survey was available online from February 5, 2019 until February 28, 2019. All students in the survey population were sent an email from NC State Chancellor Woodson inviting them to participate in the survey. Non-respondents were sent up to four follow-up email reminders. Administrators in the colleges and departments, faculty, and academic advisors were also asked to encourage their students to participate in the survey. As an incentive, two respondents who completed the survey by February 13 were randomly selected to each win a \$50 Amazon eGift Card. In addition, five students who completed the survey by the February 28 deadline were randomly selected to each receive a \$25 Amazon eGift Card.

Population and Survey Respondents

All students who were enrolled as sophomores and had completed 45-59 credit hours by the beginning of Spring semester 2019 were eligible to complete the Sophomore Survey. Of the 2,884 eligible sophomores, 44.4 percent (1,280) submitted usable surveys.

By Gender and Race/Ethnicity (Table 1-2)

Women were significantly more likely than men to participate in the Spring 2019 Sophomore Survey. While women make up just under half of the eligible sophomore population, 57 percent of the respondents are women. Although participation in the survey varied slightly by race/ethnicity, the racial/ethnic breakdown of survey respondents generally mirrors that of the sophomore population, with African American/Black students being only slightly overrepresented among respondents.

Among survey respondents, about two-thirds were white, six percent African American/Black, ten percent Asian American, six percent Hispanic, and four percent multi-racial. The remaining six percent were either American Indian, Alaska Native, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, or preferred not to report their race/ethnicity.

Table 1: Gender of Sophomore Class and Survey Respondents

Gender	Sophomore Population		Survey Respondents		Response Rate
	N	%	N	%	
Female	1,420	49.2%	725	56.6%	51.1%
Male	1,464	50.8%	555	43.4%	37.9%
Total	2,884	100.0%	1,280	100.0%	44.4%

Table 2: Race/Ethnicity of Sophomore Class and Survey Respondents

Race/Ethnicity	Sophomore Population		Survey Respondents		Response Rate
	N	%	N	%	
African American/Black	162	5.6%	79	6.2%	48.8%
Asian American	293	10.2%	126	9.8%	43.0%
Hispanic	166	5.8%	71	5.5%	42.8%
White	1,971	68.3%	874	68.3%	44.3%
Multi-racial	110	3.8%	52	4.1%	47.3%
Other/Unknown	182	6.3%	78	6.2%	42.9%
Total	2,884	100.0%	1,280	100.0%	44.4%

By Academic Units (Table 3)

Table 3 presents enrollment of sophomore students and survey respondents by academic unit. Again, the academic profile of the survey respondents closely mirrors that of the eligible sophomore student population. Given their high response rates relative to other colleges, the Colleges of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, and University College slightly over-represented among respondents, while those in the Wilson College of Textiles are slightly under-represented due to their relatively lower response rates.

Table 3: Classification by Academic Unit

Academic Unit	Sophomore Population		Survey Respondents		Response Rate
	N	%	N	%	
Agriculture and Life Sciences	315	10.9%	138	10.8%	43.8%
Design	85	2.9%	37	2.9%	43.5%
Education	68	2.4%	32	2.5%	47.1%
Engineering	667	23.1%	287	22.4%	43.0%
Natural Resources	193	6.7%	88	6.9%	45.6%
Humanities and Social Sciences	431	14.9%	204	15.9%	47.3%
Sciences	394	13.7%	179	14.0%	45.4%
Wilson College of Textiles	118	4.1%	45	3.5%	38.1%
Poole College of Management	412	14.3%	171	13.4%	41.5%
University College	201	7.0%	99	7.7%	49.3%
Total	2,884	100.0%	1,280	100.0%	44.4%

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