

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

2025 Sophomore 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; 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 2025 Sophomore Survey.

This introductory report describes the survey methods and provides response rates by college. A separate report, [2025 Sophomore Survey: Overall Results](#), provides detailed results on each individual survey topic. Results broken out by college are available on the [Trends: 1998-2025 dashboard](#).

Survey Administration

University Data and Analytics at NC State is responsible for administering the survey, analyzing the data, and preparing and distributing reports on results. The 2025 Sophomore Survey was available online from February 13, 2025, until March 24, 2025. 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 20 were randomly selected to each win a \$50 Amazon eGift Card. In addition, five students who completed the survey by the original March 6 deadline were randomly selected to each receive a \$25 Amazon eGift Card. To increase survey participation, we added an additional incentive and extended the original deadline of March 6 to March 24. All those who completed the survey after the original deadline were entered into a random drawing in which two students were selected to each win a \$50 Amazon eGift Card.

Population and Survey Respondents

Students meeting the following eligibility criteria were included in the survey population:

- Currently enrolled (in Spring 2025)
- Completed a total of 45-59 credit hours prior to the start of Spring 2025¹
- Academic level of “sophomore”²
- Not first admitted in Spring 2025

Of the 2,918 eligible sophomores, 739 submitted usable surveys, for a response rate of 25.3%.

Response Rates By Academic Units (Table 1)

Table 3 presents enrollment of sophomore students and survey respondents by academic unit. Academic unit, which represents the college in which the student is enrolled, was pulled directly from student records and merged with the record of their survey response. The academic profile of the survey respondents generally mirrors that of the eligible sophomore student population. Given their high response rates relative to other colleges, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is notably overrepresented, and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the College of Sciences are slightly over-represented among respondents. Those in the Poole College of Management, University College, and College of Engineering had the lowest response rates compared to other colleges and are slightly under-represented.

¹ Note that this is total hours, so would include hours transferred from another institution, AP credit hours, etc.

² Because of this criterion, and the use of “total credit hours” completed, students who first enrolled in fall 2024 with enough AP credit hours to be classified as “sophomore” in their second semester are included in the survey population. This also means, however, that students who are in their 4th semester at NC State who entered with AP credit hours could now have more than 59 total credit hours, and as such are classified as “junior” and excluded from the population.

Table 1: Classification by Academic Unit

Academic Unit	Sophomore Population		Survey Respondents		Response Rate
	N	%	N	%	
Agriculture and Life Sciences	350	12.0%	129	17.5%	36.9%
Design	69	2.4%	16	2.2%	23.2%
Education	70	2.4%	18	2.4%	25.7%
Engineering	785	26.9%	180	24.4%	22.9%
Natural Resources	212	7.3%	56	7.6%	26.4%
Humanities and Social Sciences	395	13.5%	113	15.3%	28.6%
Sciences	325	11.1%	94	12.7%	28.9%
Wilson College of Textiles	104	3.6%	27	3.7%	26.0%
Poole College of Management	378	13.0%	63	8.5%	16.7%
University College	230	7.9%	43	5.8%	18.7%
Total	2,918	100.0%	739	100.0%	25.3%

For more information on the 2025 Sophomore Survey contact:

University Data and Analytics

NC State University

Email: studentsurveys@ncsu.edu

Posted: May 2025