

North Carolina State University 2013 Incoming Transfer Survey: Highlights

NC State conducted its annual survey of entering transfer students during the summer of 2013. During the week following their attendance at Transfer Orientation during the summer prior to their first semester, students were sent e-mail invitations to participate in the survey. Those who did not attend summer orientation were also invited to participate. The survey response rate was 57.7 percent (N=701 of 1,214).

NC State's academic reputation is very influential in the decision to attend NC State. While more than two-thirds of respondents attended one previous college and one-quarter of respondents previously attended two colleges, a majority of incoming transfer students said that NC State was their first or only choice among colleges to attend. *Academic reputation* was most frequently reported as the single most influential factor in the decision to attend NC State, followed by *availability of program* and *location*.

Students feel well prepared for college. The vast majority of incoming students said they were at least "somewhat well" prepared for college by their high school, their own efforts, or experiences in their previous institution.

Students are nervous but excited! In response to a question asking them to comment in their own words on what they are most concerned or nervous about in starting their first semester at NC State, a third of students mentioned issues related to their academic performance or managing the workload and the transition to college. When asked about what they were excited about the most common responses related to classes/learning, social life, and the transition to college life.

High achievement is important to incoming students. About 47 percent of incoming students say their *primary goal or objective for attending NC State* is to "obtain a bachelor's degree as preparation for graduate or professional school." 65 percent of respondents have plans for post-baccalaureate studies leading to a Master's degree or higher.

Students are helping to pay their college expenses. Eighty percent of incoming students say they will be putting their own resources (savings from work, other income, etc.) toward the cost of their NC State education. 70 percent of students intend to work either on- or off-campus during the school year. Additionally, almost 60 percent of students say they will be taking out loans that must be repaid to cover their first year expenses.

Incoming students report room to grow on various knowledge, skills, and personal development goals. Respondents consistently gave higher ratings to the importance of each of 36 different knowledge, skills, and personal development goals that the University has for them than to their current level of development of the goal. Most notably, *speaking effectively* and *time management* ranked high in importance, but lower in development. Goals ranking high in both current development and importance include *potential for success*, *taking responsibility for my own behavior*, *ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds*, and *recognizing and acting on ethical principles*.

Incoming transfer students are interested in various co-curricular activities and organizations. Among 33 co-curricular activities and programs, first year students expressed greatest interest in *organizations/clubs related to major*, *study abroad/national student exchange*, fitness and sports, *volunteer services*, and *undergraduate research*.

Location is not a determining factor in future employment plans of incoming students. Among those planning to seek employment after graduation, respondents were much more likely to report that they will seek employment "anywhere" or "anywhere in the United States" than to report that they will seek work "in North Carolina only."

NC State freshmen are well-connected, technologically. The vast majority of incoming transfer students plan to bring a laptop and/or mobile phone to campus.

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