

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

2020 Incoming Transfer Student Survey: Introduction, Methods, and Student Demographic Profile

Introduction

This series of reports presents findings from the 2020 Incoming Transfer Student Survey at NC State University. Each year since 2013, students transferring to NC State in the Fall semester have been asked to participate in the survey. NC State's Institutional Strategy and Analysis office is responsible for administering the survey, analyzing the data, and preparing and distributing reports on results to various units on campus. The online survey is administered shortly after New Student Orientation in the summer before classes begin, and closes two weeks after the start of the semester. In the survey, students are asked about their experiences with the application process and deciding to enroll at NC State; their satisfaction with various NC State services and programs; how they are paying for their education; their preparation for college and their educational goals; what they are excited and concerned about in starting their first year of college; and a variety of demographic information.

This introductory report describes the survey's methodology, provides a demographic profile of transfer students entering NC State in the Fall 2020 semester, and compares the gender, race/ethnicity, and academic unit of survey respondents with those characteristics of AY2020-2021 transfer students. A separate report, "[2020 Incoming Transfer Student Survey: Overall Results](#)," focuses on each individual survey topic. Links to tables with gender and racial/ethnic comparisons, as well as comparisons between colleges, are available online through the "[2020 Incoming Transfer Student Survey: Table of Contents](#)."

Survey Administration

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, unlike in past years, New Student Orientation was held virtually. While students were invited to participate in the survey shortly after they attended their on-campus New Student Orientation session in past years, in 2020 students were invited to participate in the survey on August 5, after all the virtual sessions had concluded. The first day of classes was August 10, but due to the increasing number of COVID-19 positive cases among undergraduates, on August 24 all classes were switched to online delivery. On August 31, the decision was made to have all students leave campus, and continue the semester remotely. The survey closed on September 4, meaning that while some students completed it just prior to or shortly after arriving on campus, others completed it either after classes moved to all online, or, for a relatively few, when they had left campus. Forty-four percent of students who submitted the survey took it on a mobile device (44.0%).

Incoming transfer students were sent an email from NC State Chancellor Woodson inviting them to participate in the survey. Survey nonrespondents were sent up to four email reminders to participate while the survey was live. As an incentive for participating, four respondents who completed the survey by the final deadline of Friday, September 4, 2020 were randomly selected to each win a \$25 Amazon.com eGift card.

Population and Survey Respondents

Based on Fall 2020 Census data, of the 1,446 transfer students in all academic programs eligible to participate and have their responses recorded for final analyses, a total of 691 of them submitted usable surveys (47.8%).

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

Women were significantly more likely than men to participate in the 2020 Incoming Transfer Student Survey. While women account for 45.6 percent of the incoming transfer student class, they make up 52.7 percent of survey respondents.

Table 1: Gender of the Incoming Transfer Student Class and Survey Respondents

Gender	Incoming Transfer Student Class		Survey Respondents		Response Rate
	%	N	%	N	%
Women	45.6%	660	52.7%	364	55.2%
Men	54.4%	786	47.3%	327	41.6%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>1,446</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>691</i>	<i>47.8%</i>

Although participation in the survey varied somewhat by race/ethnicity, the racial ethnic breakdown of survey respondents generally mirrors that of the incoming transfer student population. Among survey respondents, nearly 70 percent are white, 11 percent are Hispanic, nine percent are Asian, nearly five percent are African American/Black, four percent are multi-racial, and less than one percent are American Indian. The remaining one percent are of another or unknown race/ethnicity. Hispanic and White students are slightly overrepresented among survey respondents, while African American/Black students and students of another/unknown race/ethnicity are somewhat underrepresented.

Table 2: Gender of the Incoming Transfer Student Class and Survey Respondents

Race/Ethnicity	Incoming Transfer Student Class		Survey Respondents		Response Rate
	%	N	%	N	%
African American/Black	5.2%	75	4.6%	32	42.7%
American Indian	0.3%	4	0.4%	3	75.0%
Asian	9.3%	134	9.0%	62	46.3%
Hispanic	10.5%	152	11.0%	76	50.0%
White	68.7%	994	69.5%	480	48.3%
Multi-racial	4.1%	59	4.1%	28	47.5%
Other/Unknown	1.9%	28	1.4%	10	35.7%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>1,446</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>691</i>	<i>47.8%</i>

Table 3 presents enrollment data for the Fall 2020 incoming transfer student population from the beginning of the Fall semester and survey respondents by academic unit, and few differences exist between these groups. Given their high response rates relative to other colleges, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Sciences are slightly overrepresented among survey respondents, while the College of Natural Resources and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences are slightly underrepresented due to their relatively lower response rates.

Table 3: Classification by Academic Unit

Academic Unit	Incoming Transfer Student Class		Survey Respondents		Response Rate
	%	N	%	N	%
Agriculture and Life Sciences	11.6%	167	12.3%	85	50.9%
Design	2.4%	35	2.2%	15	42.9%
Education	2.2%	32	3.0%	21	65.6%
Engineering	21.6%	312	22.0%	152	48.7%
Natural Resources	6.8%	99	6.2%	43	43.4%
Humanities and Social Sciences	27.2%	394	25.8%	178	45.2%
Sciences	9.3%	135	10.6%	73	54.1%
Textiles	1.2%	17	1.6%	11	64.7%
Management	17.4%	251	16.4%	113	45.0%
Exploratory Studies	0.1%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%
<i>Subtotal</i>	99.8%	1,443	100%	691	47.9%
Agricultural Institute	0.2%	3	0.0%	0	0.0%
<i>Total</i>	100%	1,446	100%	691	47.8%

For more information on the 2020 Incoming Transfer Student Survey, contact:

Anthony Sbarra, MPA
 Institutional Research Analyst
 Institutional Strategy and Analysis
 300 Peele Hall
 Phone: (919) 515-7520
 Email: atsbarra@ncsu.edu
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