

December 2019 Graduate Future Plans Survey Highlights

NC State conducted its semiannual administration of the Graduate Future Plans Survey in December 2019. Doctoral and master's students who applied to graduate in December 2019 were sent email invitations in the weeks immediately before and after commencement, held on December 19, encouraging them to participate in the survey. Of the 990 graduate students receiving their degrees in December 2019, 587 completed the survey for a response rate of 59.3 percent. Sixty-one percent of doctoral degree recipients (119 out of 195) and 58.9 percent of master's degree recipients (468 out of 795) participated.

Employment: Almost all graduates said that they planned to work full-time in the coming year. Eighty-two percent of doctoral graduates and 72 percent of master's graduates said at the time they completed the survey that they had confirmed employment plans for after graduation. Over half of graduates with full-time employment said they will be working in North Carolina. Doctoral graduates report an average salary in the coming year of \$83,287 (median = \$77,500) and master's graduates report an average salary of \$87,760 (median = \$87,500). Eighteen percent of doctoral graduates and 32 percent of master's graduates said they had received a signing bonus as part of accepting their job offer, with 60 percent of those getting a signing bonus reporting the amount was for \$10,000 or more. Sixteen percent of doctoral graduates and 28 percent of master's graduates reported receiving company shares at the time they received their job offer, with over half estimating the value of the company shares they received to be \$60,000 or more at the time they accepted the position. Seventy-two percent of doctoral graduates and 64 percent of master's graduates who said they will be working outside of North Carolina indicated they had received an offer for a relocation package.

The job search: Seventy percent of doctoral graduates and 64 percent of master's graduates with full-time employment in a position they had obtained either during their graduate program or that will begin after their graduation stated that they began searching for a job six or more months before graduation. Twenty-two percent of graduates said they had gone of interviews for five or more positions prior to accepting an offer. Just under half of all graduates with full-time employment that began during their graduate program or that was obtained at the time of graduation indicated receiving more than one job offer from which to choose. Fifty-eight percent of doctoral graduates and 66 percent of master's graduates received the offer for the position they accepted three or more months prior to graduation. Thirty-eight percent of doctoral graduates indicated that an *NC State faculty member* had been helpful in their job search. In contrast, master's graduates were most likely to identify an *internship/externship* as a helpful resource during their search.

Still seeking employment: Seventeen percent of doctoral graduates and 22 percent of master's students said at the time of the survey that they were actively seeking employment or planned to do so in the coming year. Fifteen percent of doctoral graduates and one-fourth of master's graduates who said they were pursuing or planning to pursue employment also indicated they were currently employed, either, full- or part-time, but are or will be looking for a new position.

Further education: Sixteen percent of master's degree recipients said they planned to continue in graduate/professional school to pursue another degree. Eighty-three percent of master's graduates who were either already enrolled in a new program at the time of the survey or had been accepted and knew where they will be going reported that they will be staying at NC State. Eighty-seven percent of master's graduates who have enrolled or who have been accepted will be pursuing a PhD.

Professional development opportunities: All of the doctoral graduates and 89 percent of master's graduates participated in at least one work-related experience while pursuing their degree. The majority of doctoral degree recipients participated in a *research assistantship* (79.3%) and/or a *teaching assistantship* (62.1%) while at NC State. In contrast, the most common work-related experiences reported by master's degree recipients were *internships* (40.5%), followed by a *job in their field of study* (24.8%). Graduate students typically viewed the work-related experiences they had as "very helpful" or "somewhat helpful" in securing a job offer.

Eighty percent of doctoral graduates and nineteen percent of master's graduates *presented a research paper, poster, or creative work at a conference* at least once during their graduate program. Sixty-seven percent of doctoral graduates and seven percent of master's graduates *published at least one article or creative work in a peer-reviewed journal* during their graduate program, with 22 percent of doctoral graduates publishing five or more articles/creative works while earning their degree.

Overall satisfaction: Ninety percent of December 2019 graduates said they were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with their overall graduate program. Sixty-two percent of graduates say they are "very prepared" and 71 percent are "very excited" about what they will be doing in their future career path.

For more information about the Graduate Future Plans Survey contact:

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