

## May 2019 Graduate Future Plans Survey Highlights

NC State conducted its semiannual administration of the Graduate Future Plans Survey in May 2019. Doctoral and master's students who applied to graduate in May 2019 were sent email invitations in the weeks immediately before and after commencement, held on May 11, encouraging them to participate in the survey. Of the 1,874 graduate students receiving their degrees in May 2019, 1,240 completed the survey for a response rate of 66.2 percent. Seventy percent of doctoral degree recipients (152 out of 217) and 65.7 percent of master's degree recipients (1,088 out of 1,657) participated.

**Employment:** Almost all graduates said that they planned to work full-time in the coming year. Eighty-one percent of doctoral graduates and 64 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 \$82,119 (median = \$77,500) and master's graduates report an average salary of \$80,806 (median = \$82,500). Fourteen percent of doctoral graduates and 38 percent of master's graduates said they had received a signing bonus as part of accepting their job offer, with 53 percent of those getting a signing bonus reporting the amount was for \$10,000 or more. Ten percent of doctoral graduates and 17 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 \$50,000 or more at the time they accepted the position. Sixty percent of all graduate students who said they will be working outside of North Carolina indicated they had received an offer for a relocation package.

**The job search:** Eighty percent of doctoral graduates and 55 percent of master's graduates with full-time employment that began during their graduate program or will begin after graduation said they started searching for a job six or more months ahead of graduation. One-fifth of doctoral graduates and half of master's graduates said they had gone on interviews for five or more positions prior to accepting an offer. Thirty-seven percent of doctoral graduates and 55 percent of master's graduates indicated receiving more than one job offer from which to choose. Three-fourths of doctoral graduates and close to half of master's graduates received the offer for the position they accepted three or more months prior to graduation. Forty-seven 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 *LinkedIn* as a helpful resource during their search.

**Still seeking employment:** One-fourth of doctoral graduates and 30 percent of master's graduates said at the time of the survey that they were actively seeking employment or planned to do so in the coming year. One-fifth of doctoral graduates and 15 percent of master's graduates who said they were pursuing or planning to pursue employment also said they were currently employed, either full- or part-time, and are looking or will be looking for a new position.

**Further education:** Fourteen percent of master's degree recipients said they planned to continue in graduate/professional school to pursue another degree. Sixty 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. About 70 percent of master's graduates will be pursuing a PhD.

**Professional development opportunities:** Ninety-six percent of doctoral graduates and 86 percent of master's graduates participated in at least one work-related experience while pursuing their degree. Sixty-five percent of doctoral graduates indicated having had a *research assistantship* and 63 percent had had a *teaching assistantship* while at NC State. In contrast, master's graduates were most likely to report having had an *internship* (37%) and one-fifth had had a *teaching assistantship* or a *practicum*. Graduate students typically viewed the work-related experiences they had as "very helpful" or "somewhat helpful" in securing a job offer.

Three-fourths of doctoral graduates and 14 percent of master's graduates published or presented at least one article or creative work while pursuing their degree. Fifty-nine percent of doctoral graduates *published at least one article or creative work in a peer-reviewed journal* during their graduate program, with about one-fifth publishing five or more articles/creative works while pursuing their degree. Similarly, 73 percent of doctoral graduates reported *presenting at least one research paper, poster, or creative work at a conference in their field*, with one-third doing so five or more times. Four percent of master's graduates *published one or more articles or creative works in a peer-reviewed journal* and 13 percent had *presented at least one research paper, poster, or creative work at a conference in their field*.

**For more information about the Graduate Future Plans Survey contact:**

Suzanne Crockett, Assistant Director for Survey Research  
Office of Institutional Research and Planning  
Box 7002  
NC State University  
Phone: (919) 515-6438  
Email: [sacrocke@ncsu.edu](mailto:sacrocke@ncsu.edu)

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