

## May 2018 Graduate Future Plans Survey Highlights

NC State conducted its inaugural administration of the Graduate Future Plans Survey in May 2018. Doctoral and master's students who applied to graduate in Spring 2018 were sent email invitations in the weeks immediately before and after commencement, held on May 12, encouraging them to participate in the survey. Of the 1,758 graduate students receiving their degrees in Spring 2018, 1,218 completed the survey for a response rate of 69.3 percent. 74.1 percent of doctoral degree recipients (143 out of 193) and 68.7 percent of master's degree recipients (1,075 out of 1,565) 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 \$78,565 (median = \$72,500) and master's graduates report an average salary of \$78,776 (median = \$77,500). Seventeen percent of doctoral graduates and about one-third of master's graduates said they had received a signing bonus as part of accepting their job offer, with just under half of those getting a signing bonus reporting the amount was for \$10,000 or more. Eleven percent of doctoral graduates and 14 percent of master's graduates reported receiving company shares at the time they received their job offer, with a slight majority estimating the value of the company shares they received to be \$20,000 or more at the time they accepted the position. One-fourth of all graduate students securing full-time employment said they had received an offer for a relocation package.

**The job search:** Eighty-five percent of doctoral graduates and over half of master's graduates securing full-time employment at the time of graduation or while pursuing their degree said they began searching for a job six or more months ahead of graduation. Just over one-fourth of doctoral graduates and 41 percent of master's graduates with full-time employment said they had gone on interviews for five or more positions prior to accepting an offer. Forty percent of doctoral graduates and half of master's graduates indicated receiving more than one job offer from which to choose. Over 40 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 about one-third 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. Close to one-third 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:** Thirteen percent of master's degree recipients said they planned to continue in graduate/professional school to pursue another degree. Three-fourths of master's graduates who were enrolled in another 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. The majority will be pursuing a PhD.

**Professional development opportunities:** Ninety-seven percent of doctoral graduates and 87 percent of master's graduates participated in at least one work-related experience while pursuing their degree. Two-thirds of doctoral graduates indicated having had a *research assistantship* and over half had a *teaching assistantship*. In contrast, master's graduates were most likely to report having an *internship* (41%) and one-fifth had a *practicum* or *teaching assistantship*. Graduate students typically viewed the work-related experiences they had as "very helpful" or "somewhat helpful" in securing a job offer.

Close to three-fourths of doctoral graduates and 13 percent of master's graduates published or presented at least one article or creative work while pursuing their degree. Sixty percent of doctoral graduates *published at least one article or creative work in a peer-reviewed journal* during their graduate program, with about one-fourth publishing five or more articles/creative works while pursuing their degree. Similarly, two-thirds of doctoral graduates reported *presenting at least one research paper, poster, or creative work at a conference in their field*, with 44 percent 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 12 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:**

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