



Wicked Problems, Wolfpack Solutions

NC State's multidisciplinary experience created for all incoming first-year and transfer students

An Online Experience

Wicked Problems, Wolfpack Solutions is a special kind of multidisciplinary experience created for all incoming first-year and transfer students and their families.

Wicked Problems, Wolfpack Solutions aims to encourage students to discover more about various disciplines, to connect with the broader NC State community, and to apply and reflect on what and how they're learning.

The experience gives incoming students experience with the technologies they'll use during their academic careers before they begin their first semester at NC State.

(Y)Our Changing World

This summer, Wicked Problems, Wolfpack Solutions focuses on (Y)Our Changing World.

We all encounter change. Students new to the Wolfpack will soon see their personal, social, and academic lives change. We all see large and small changes in our natural world and our built environments that happen every day.

In Wicked Problems, Wolfpack Solutions: (Y)Our Changing World, we'll embark on a journey where we explore the changes we are experiencing and consider whether and how we adapt and innovate to thrive through transitions.



Learn more!
go.ncsu.edu/wolfpack-solutions

36,884 students have been offered the course since 2020.

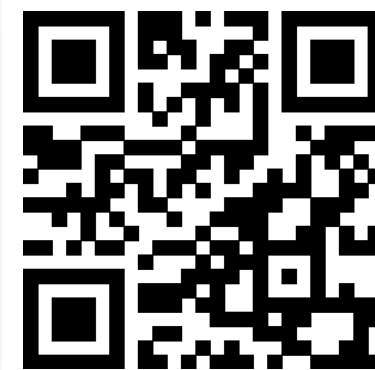
5,658 have completed it, earning 2 free credits.

15.3% mean completion rate.

16.4% median completion rate.

Our professionally-produced content is available for use by anyone!

<http://ncsu-wolfpack-solutions.pubpub.org>



Warwick A. Arden Interdisciplinary Teaching Excellence Award, 2025

Online Learning Consortium Award for Excellence in Online and Blending Learning Innovation, 2025

Gertrude Cox Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching and Learning with Technology, 2023-24

Wicked Problems, Wolfpack Solutions Transforming the Incoming Student Experience

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NC State University, Digital Education and Learning Technology Applications (DELTA)

Goal: Transition

Strategies

"Wicked Wisdom" content included in each unit related to meta-cognition, navigating the LMS and more.

Student Outreach Leaders (SOLs) come to live events and provide insight from the student perspective

Introduction to many commonly experienced digital learning tools

Normalization of feelings of anxiety through content and coping strategies

Results

"I feel much more confident and positive about my transition to State. I think I'm going to love it here." – student

82% This course has given me confidence heading into the fall semester.

84% I feel more set for success than I did before.

82% This course has given me confidence heading into the fall semester

Goal: Interdisciplinarity

Strategies

Introductory talk, "Why be Interdisciplinary?" to introduce the concept.

Presentations from faculty, staff and scholars from many disciplines and all colleges

Presenters themselves highlighting the interdisciplinary nature / necessity of their work

Results

"I am much more willing to explore opportunities outside of my path. In fact, I am excited by how many opportunities are offered to me." – student

80% I can see taking GEPs influencing other courses I decide to take at NC State.

77% I can see taking GEPs influencing my choice of major or minor

Goal: Intentionality

Strategies

Inspiring introductory video by astronaut alum about how she approached college.

"Packways Connections" content in each unit highlights a high-impact experience and student stories related to the unit content.

Reflection activities throughout asking students to think about what they want to do.

Results

"It has encouraged me to think more broadly about what I want to do in my career." – student

89% Finding academic opportunities that suit my interests

89% Finding opportunities connected to real-world problems and solutions

86% Setting goals for myself and following through to completion

81% Finding faculty that I'll be able to connect with and relate to

59-90% Likelihood of participating in a high-impact experience

Goal: Community

Strategies

Content and language throughout that is very warm and student-centered.

Polls in each unit allowing students to share and see what their peers are thinking.

Citizen science activity allows students to participate meaningfully and collaboratively

Weekly live events to meet instructors, SOLs, presenters, more.

Results

It has "shown me that it is not all about getting my schoolwork done, it is also about making connections with my community and classmates." – student

94% Before I leave NC State I hope to make a difference.

93% Earning a degree is just one reason I am at NC State.

88% NC State shares my values where it matters most.

88% I feel a sense of belonging to the NC State community.