



Graduating Student Survey  
(November 2011 – July 2012)

**Prepared by:**  
Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness  
July 10, 2012

**1. Have you attended Palm Beach State primarily as a:**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Full-time student	787	71%
2	Part-time student	318	29%
	Total	1,105	100%

**2. On which campus have you taken most of your classes?**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Lake Worth	590	53%
2	Palm Beach Gardens	254	23%
3	Boca Raton	183	17%
4	Belle Glade	52	5%
5	Took most of my classes on-line	28	3%
	Total	1,107	100%

**3. Have you attended classes primarily as a:**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Day student	757	69%
2	Evening student	282	26%
3	Weekend student	4	0%
4	Distance/Online learning student	54	5%
	Total	1,097	100%

**4. Please indicate the degree or certificate with which you are graduating:**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	AA degree	815	74%
2	AS/AAS degree	149	14%
3	Certificate (ATC, PSAV Cert., College Credit Cert.)	80	7%
4	Bachelor's degree	57	5%
	Total	1,101	100%

**5. During the time you have been enrolled at Palm Beach State, have you been:**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Employed full-time	440	40%
2	Employed part-time	451	41%
3	Homemaker, not employed outside the home	29	3%
4	Not employed and seeking employment	111	10%
5	Not employed and not seeking employment	68	6%
	Total	1,099	100%

**6. If you have been employed while attending Palm Beach State, has your job been related to your curriculum at the College?**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes, directly related	148	13%
2	Yes, somewhat related	269	25%
3	No, not related	510	47%
4	Not employed while attending Palm Beach State	165	15%
	Total	1,092	100%

#### 7. Have you received financial aid or scholarships while attending Palm Beach State?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	761	69%
2	No	340	31%
	Total	1,101	100%

#### 8. What has been your primary goal in attending Palm Beach State?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	To obtain occupational/technical training that would improve present/future employment	60	5%
2	To obtain an occupational/technical (AS/AAS) degree or certificate	170	15%
3	To obtain an associate degree (AA) in order to transfer to a four-year college/university	737	67%
4	To obtain a bachelor degree	20	2%
5	To enroll in courses that would satisfy specialized/personal interests	105	10%
6	Other (please specify)	10	1%
	Total	1,102	100%

**Other (please specify)**

1. ASN
2. At first i wanted to graduate in Nursing AS, then in changed my mind. Right now i would like to graduate with AA degree and get a bachelor in Nursing. I would be glad if PBSC had traditional bachelor in Nursing.
3. I intend to obtain both an AS degree (plan to graduate after this semester) and an AA degree to transfer to a four year college (which I intend to finish over the summer).
4. I would like to get my Dr.
5. PSAV Program
6. Self satisfaction
7. Surgical Technology
8. to get a commercial pilot license
9. waiting on a kidney transplant and will return back to work with a new career

#### 9. Have you achieved your primary goal in attending Palm Beach State?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	981	89%
2	No	84	8%
3	Not Sure (please elaborate)	32	3%
	Total	1,097	100%

#### Not Sure (please elaborate)

1. almost
2. As stated above, I am still in progress on the second part of my primary goal
3. because i didn't get job yet
4. better g.p.a
5. Continuing Education
6. Didn't finish my A.S.
7. First started out wanting to get my Bachelors but don;t need it for my feild.
8. Going for Bachelor degree
9. have not graduated yet, may also continue education for a BAS, third year.
10. I have received an Associate's Degree
11. I still feel I need more specialized education in a specific area.
12. i still have more courses to take.
13. I wasn't too sure of what to do and which courses to choose at first. I was not well oriented
14. I'm furthering my education to obtain a bachelor's degree
15. I'm in the process of achieving my goal. This AA is my first step.
16. not yet
17. Not yet
18. Not yet, I want to earn a bachelor and an a A.S. degree.
19. Not yet. I am going to apply for the nursing program
20. Not yet. Would like to finish my AA in education
21. Still need to apply for university
22. still not certain I will be transferring
23. There are still more classes to complete in order to accomplish final goal.
24. Transfer Issues

25. want to get AS in Nursing

26. Was accepted in to the Nursing Program but was "W" for technical issues with the program like testing each term. I don't support this process.

**10. Please indicate the most important reasons why you selected Palm Beach State. (Check all that apply.)**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Affordable tuition	834	76%
2	Guaranteed admission for high school graduates	230	21%
3	Close to home	868	79%
4	Good academic reputation	393	36%
5	Availability of financial aid	343	31%
6	Offered courses/curriculum of interest	423	38%
7	Small classes/individual attention	469	43%
8	Only program offered locally in my area of interest	67	6%
9	Availability of evening/weekend courses	332	30%
10	Availability of online courses	284	26%

**11. If Palm Beach State had not been available, would you have been able to continue your education elsewhere?**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	881	80%
2	No	220	20%
	Total	1,101	100%

**12. Please indicate the primary reason why you would not have been able to continue your education elsewhere:**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Only Palm Beach State offered my program	15	8%
2	Only able to attend college within commuting distance of my home	67	34%
3	Tuition and fees at other colleges were more than I could afford	78	39%
4	Only Palm Beach State offered courses at times that fit with my family and work responsibilities	26	13%
5	Was not accepted for admission into other colleges	4	2%
6	Other (please specify)	8	4%
	Total	198	100%

**Other (please specify)**

1. close to home
2. Dual Enrollment Palm Beach County
3. It was the right school at the right time.
4. n/a
5. Only Palm Beach State offered the courses I needed online

**13. After graduating from Palm Beach State, what are your plans for the future?**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Obtain a four-year degree at another school	543	56%
2	Continue at Palm Beach State in another degree program (e.g., B.A.S.)	180	18%
3	Obtain a graduate degree at another school	89	9%
4	Work full-time	99	10%
5	Work part-time	7	1%
6	Military	6	1%
7	Not sure	35	4%
8	Other (please specify)	18	2%
	Total	19	100%

**Other (please specify)**

1. 4 year degree/Military
2. Apply to Florida fish and wildlife conservation commission
3. complete the AS portion of my degree
4. Continue at Palm Beach State for the summer semester to get my AA degree and then obtain a four year degree at another school
5. Continue my education; go for my goal as EMT, then continue to the next level in the medical field.
6. decide between PBSC & FAU
7. Diagnostic Medical school
8. Doctorate at UF
9. finish getting my 60 credits
10. finish my AS
11. graduating from florida atlantic university with my bachelors and transferring to the university of miami for medical school.
12. law enforcement academy
13. Obtain a AS Certificate Degree from Broward College
14. transfer to University



**14. INSTRUCTION AT PALM BEACH STATE:** Please rate on a 5-point scale (where 5= Excellent and 1= Poor) how you feel about the following items related to instruction at Palm Beach State College. If you are unsure of your opinion, select "Don't Know."

#	Question	Excellent (5)		(4)		(3)		(2)		Poor (1)		Responses
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
1	Overall quality of instruction	432	45%	401	42%	108	11%	10	1%	6	1%	957
2	Individual attention from professors	442	46%	340	36%	134	14%	33	3%	6	1%	955
3	Instructor availability	431	45%	329	35%	149	16%	32	3%	8	1%	949
4	Course advisement from faculty members	372	40%	294	31%	180	19%	60	6%	32	3%	938
5	Content of courses in major curriculum	427	45%	347	37%	137	15%	22	2%	7	1%	940
6	Average class size	536	57%	302	32%	88	9%	11	1%	5	1%	942
7	Quality of curriculum in providing job-related skills and knowledge	405	44%	336	37%	130	14%	27	3%	15	2%	913
8	Quality of curriculum in preparing for further education	441	47%	351	37%	114	12%	23	2%	12	1%	941
9	Fairness of grading and testing practices	452	48%	359	38%	116	12%	16	2%	9	1%	952
10	Availability of courses in the sequence you need them	436	46%	313	33%	144	15%	35	4%	23	2%	951

**15. SERVICES AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS: Please rate on a 5-point scale (where 5= Excellent and 1= Poor) how you feel about the following services and resources available to students at Palm Beach State College. If you have never used a particular service, select “Didn't use”.**

#	Question	Excellent (5)		(4)		(3)		(2)		Poor (1)		Responses
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
1	Academic Advising	418	45%	233	25%	145	16%	65	7%	59	6%	920
2	Personal Guidance and Counseling	339	43%	205	26%	147	19%	54	7%	44	6%	789
3	Financial Aid Services	352	45%	189	24%	149	19%	44	6%	42	5%	776
4	Admissions	452	49%	278	30%	138	15%	36	4%	22	2%	926
5	Registration Process	474	51%	284	30%	122	13%	24	3%	27	3%	931
6	Assistance over the phone	275	35%	189	24%	150	19%	71	9%	103	13%	788
7	PantherWeb Services	610	65%	241	26%	73	8%	7	1%	8	1%	939
8	Palm Beach State College Website	599	64%	254	27%	74	8%	11	1%	5	1%	943
9	Testing Services	411	51%	260	32%	112	14%	16	2%	8	1%	807
10	Lab Facilities (biology, chemistry, math, etc.)	420	54%	253	32%	91	12%	8	1%	10	1%	782
11	Library	502	60%	229	27%	84	10%	11	1%	14	2%	840
12	Career planning and counseling	308	43%	215	30%	128	18%	32	5%	31	4%	714
13	Student Activities (clubs, events, etc.)	311	48%	189	29%	116	18%	22	4%	13	2%	651
14	Cafeteria	291	38%	218	29%	161	21%	51	7%	36	5%	757
15	Student Learning Centers	403	54%	229	30%	99	13%	13	2%	7	1%	751
16	Disability Support Services	257	56%	125	27%	60	13%	11	3%	8	2%	461
17	Athletics	234	49%	132	28%	82	17%	16	4%	13	3%	477
18	Theater	258	49%	158	30%	83	16%	16	3%	9	2%	524

**16. When you want to contact Palm Beach State faculty or staff, what means of communication have you used? Please rank-order them by selecting a "1" for the one you used the most, a "2" for the one you used next most and so on.**

#	Answer	1		2		3		4		5		Responses
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
1	Phone	136	19%	172	24%	315	43%	74	10%	31	4%	728
2	Email	284	36%	261	33%	160	20%	53	7%	31	4%	789
3	In Person	398	48%	232	28%	130	16%	43	5%	26	3%	829
4	Live Chat	33	5%	60	9%	67	10%	338	51%	163	25%	661
5	Postal Service	37	5%	28	4%	40	5%	146	20%	479	66%	730
	Total	888	888	753	753	712	712	654	654	730	730	

**17. PREPARATION: Palm Beach State has seven General Education Learning Outcomes (listed below). Please rate on a 5-point scale (where 5= Excellent and 1= Poor) how you feel Palm Beach State has helped you increase your competency in these learning areas.**

#	Question	Excellent (5)		(4)		(3)		Poor (1)		Don't Know (0)		Responses
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
1	COMMUNICATION (Develop effective communication skills for a variety of audiences)	499	54%	286	31%	101	11%	13	1%	22	2%	921
2	GLOBAL AWARENESS (Exhibit a sense of social, cultural and global responsibility)	409	44%	300	33%	159	17%	11	1%	42	5%	921
3	CRITICALTHINKING (Engage in purposeful reasoning to reach sound conclusions)	451	49%	303	33%	128	14%	12	1%	22	2%	916
4	INFORMATION LITERACY (Demonstrate the ability to find, evaluate, organize and use information)	462	50%	300	33%	128	14%	9	1%	22	2%	921
5	SCIENTIFIC & QUANTITATIVE REASONING (Apply mathematical and scientific principles to solve real-world problems)	434	47%	292	32%	144	16%	12	1%	40	4%	922
6	ETHICS (Demonstrate the ability to make informed decisions based on ethical principles and reasoning)	464	51%	270	29%	135	15%	14	2%	35	4%	918

**18. YOUR EXPERIENCE.** The College is trying to create a welcoming and supportive environment. The following are characteristics of such an environment. Please rate on a 5-point scale (where 5= Excellent and 1= Poor) how you feel about the following aspects of your experience at Palm Beach State College. If you are unsure of your opinion for a particular area, please select "Don't Know."

#	Question	Excellent (5)		(4)		(3)		Poor (2)		Don't Know (1)		Responses
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
1	Opportunity to meet and interact with other students	504	53%	275	29%	114	12%	11	1%	39	4%	943
2	Availability of faculty outside of class	385	41%	328	35%	158	17%	12	1%	58	6%	941
3	General helpfulness of faculty	430	46%	335	36%	138	15%	17	2%	21	2%	941
4	General helpfulness of other college employees	410	44%	321	34%	155	16%	19	2%	35	4%	940
5	Adequacy of study spaces	456	48%	273	29%	155	16%	23	2%	34	4%	941
6	Adequacy of comfortable places to rest and relax between classes	431	46%	279	30%	151	16%	23	2%	54	6%	938
7	Cleanliness and attractiveness of campus	463	49%	296	32%	150	16%	15	2%	14	1%	938
8	Sense of comfort with institutional cultural diversity	474	50%	303	32%	126	13%	13	1%	25	3%	941
9	Sense of personal and property safety on campus	427	45%	312	33%	148	16%	36	4%	17	2%	940
10	Sense of being respected and valued as an individual	483	52%	298	32%	127	14%	13	1%	16	2%	937

**19. What is your overall impression of Palm Beach State?**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Excellent	487	51%
2	Good	398	42%
3	Fair	55	6%
4	Poor	10	1%
	Total	950	100%

**20. Would you recommend Palm Beach State to your friends?**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Definitely	690	73%
2	Probably	200	21%
3	Might or might not	43	5%
4	Probably not	12	1%
5	Definitely not	5	1%
	Total	950	100%

**21. How many years have you attended Palm Beach State?**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Less than 1 year	29	3%
2	1 year, but less than 2 years	115	12%
3	2 years, but less than 3 years	371	39%
4	3 years, but less than 5 years	294	31%
5	5 years or more	137	14%
	Total	946	100%

**22. What is your gender?**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Male	324	34%
2	Female	620	66%
	Total	944	100%

**23. What is your age?**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Under 20	62	6%
2	20 - 21	235	26%
3	22 - 24	217	24%
4	25 - 29	158	17%
5	30 - 39	133	14%
6	40 or older	97	10%
	Total	9	100%

**24. What is your racial/ethnic background?**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Asian or Pacific Islander	28	3%
2	Black or African American	255	27%
3	Hispanic or Latino	217	23%
4	American Indian or Alaskan Native	4	0%
5	White	399	42%
6	Other (please specify)	40	4%
	Total	943	100%