

# **National Community College Benchmark Project Results and Peer Comparison**

**Benchmark year 2010, with comparison to 2009**

*January 2011*

## **Background**

The National Community College Benchmark Project (NCCBP), an initiative of the National Higher Education Benchmark Institute at Johnson County (Kansas) Community College, was established in 2004 to provide colleges with a standardized method of institutional comparison. In 2010, 268 community colleges and multi-college districts participated in NCCBP by providing NCCBP with data on an array of topics. Member colleges can compare their institutions with others of similar size, diversity, budgets or other characteristics.

This is the third year that Palm Beach State College has participated in NCCBP. The College previously participated in 2009, and with a limited set of data in 2006.

Based on data provided by Palm Beach State College in 2010, NCCBP provided reports on the following benchmarks:

- Certificate and degree completion and transfer rates
- Fall-to-spring and fall-to-fall persistence rates
- Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) benchmarks
- College-level course retention and success rates
- Developmental course retention and success rates
- Developmental student success in first college-level courses
- Career program completers' employment placement rates
- Success rates in core academic skill areas
- Institution-wide grade information
- Public high school graduate enrollment rates
- Distance learning sections and grade distributions
- Average credit section size
- Student-to-student services staff ratio

## **Reporting periods**

NCCBP reporting guidelines for survey participants contain a one to two year lag from data collection at the college level to reporting to NCCBP. The table below shows the benchmark year and the time frame in which the data collection actually took place.

	<b>Benchmark year 2009</b>	<b>Benchmark year 2010</b>
High school yield rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spring 2007 high school graduation</li><li>• Fall 2007 college enrollment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spring 2008 high school graduation</li><li>• Fall 2008 college enrollment</li></ul>
Completion and transfer rates	Fall 2005 IPEDS graduation rate survey cohort	Fall 2006 IPEDS graduation rate survey cohort
Term-to-term persistence	Fall 2007 cohort	Fall 2008 cohort
CCSSE benchmarks Post-completion outcomes	Most recent data from past five years	Most recent data from past five years

	Benchmark year 2009	Benchmark year 2010
Course retention and success rates, class and faculty information, student services staff	Fall 2007	Fall 2008
Developmental students' retention and success in first-level credit classes	Completed developmental in Fall 2006, tracked into first-level credit class through Fall 2007	Completed developmental in Fall 2007, tracked into first-level credit class through Fall 2008

### **Selection of peer institutions**

Of the 268 colleges that participated in 2010, 13 were selected as peer institutions based on their similarity to Palm Beach State College on the following criteria:

- The institution is under public control.
- The institution has more than one campus but is not part of a multi-college district
- IPEDS enrollment is more than 12,000.
- Service area population is more than 800,000.

Based on the above, the peer institutions selected for 2010 are:

Austin Community College	Austin, TX
Central Piedmont Community College	Charlotte, NC
Community College of Allegheny County	Pittsburgh, PA
Cuyahoga Community College	Cleveland, OH
Erie Community College	Williamsville, NY
Florida State College at Jacksonville	Jacksonville, FL
Front Range Community College	Westminster, CO
Harrisburg Area Community College	Harrisburg, PA
Jefferson Community & Technical College	Louisville, KY
Milwaukee Area Technical College	Milwaukee, WI
Salt Lake Community College	Salt Lake City, UT
St. Louis Community College	St. Louis, MO
Suffolk County Community College	Selden, NY

### **Result highlights**

The tabled results show Palm Beach State College's performance on selected benchmark items for both the 2009 and 2010 reporting cycles, along with a comparison to the peer group median for 2010.

The College performs at or above the peer group median on most items related to high school graduation yield, completion and transfer rates, term-to-term persistence, CCSSE benchmarks, course retention and success rates, post-completion employment-in-field. On the other hand,

Palm Beach State performed below the median on average class size and student services staff size.

### ***High school yield***

Palm Beach State College ranked first among the eight colleges that supplied data on this measure. The College's 28% yield among prior-year public high school graduates was double the rate of the peer group median.

### ***Completion and transfer rates***

The College also ranked first among the group in completion and transfer. About one-third (34%) of the cohort group completed a program in three years—more than double the group median of 14%. In addition, nearly half (47%) of the cohort either completed or transferred within three years, as compared to peer median rate of 40%. (Peer group raw transfer rates, however, were higher than for Palm Beach State College.) The College also showed increases in completion and transfer rates over the previous year

### ***Term-to-term persistence***

Palm Beach State's fall-to-spring (72%) and fall-to-fall (56%) persistence both were ranked in the top half of the comparison group medians of 68.5% and 49%, respectively.

### ***CCSSE benchmarks***

The College was ranked at the top of the group on three CCSSE benchmarks – Student Effort, Academic Challenge and Student-Faculty Interaction. Palm Beach State also was ranked near the top on the other measures of Active and Collaborative Learning, and Support for Learners.

Please note that the College's most recent participation was in Spring 2007. Palm Beach State's next administration of the CCSSE will take place in Spring 2011.

### ***Course retention rates***

Palm Beach State's performance was near or slightly above the peer group median in most areas. The College outperformed the group in several areas, however, most notably in speech; developmental math; and first-level college credit math (MAT1033) and English (ENC1101) classes, among those who completed college preparatory work in that area. The only area in which the College showed a slightly lower course retention rate than the peer median was in distance learning.

The College also showed increases in course retention from the previous benchmark year on most measures, although a 4-point decline in MAT1033 (among those who completed prep work) was noted.

### ***Course success rates (among all students who enrolled)***

The College performed at or above the peer group median on every course success rate measure—most notably in first-level English composition (ENC1101); college algebra (MAC1105); speech (SPC1017); developmental writing; (ENC0001 and ENC0010); and first-level college credit math (MAT1033) and English (ENC1101) classes, among those who completed

college preparatory work in that area. The College also showed increases in success rates from the prior year on most measures.

### ***Post-completion outcomes***

Palm Beach State College career graduates appear to be more likely than their peers at other institutions to take their training into the workforce immediately after graduation. Job placement rates were significantly higher than the peer group median. However, the rate of those pursuing further education was only half that of the peer group.

### ***Student services staff size***

In terms of students per FTE student services staff, Palm Beach State College was in the lower half of the group on almost all measures. Only in financial aid did the College have fewer students per FTE staff member.

### ***Additional class and faculty data***

Other notable findings include:

- Class sizes at Palm Beach State College are, on average, the largest of any of the peer institutions.
- Student credit hours taught by full-time faculty was slightly better than for the peer group, but showed some deterioration from the prior year.
- The College ranks next-to-last among the group in terms of credit hours taught via distance learning.

**Palm Beach State College**  
**Performance on NCCBP Benchmarks vs. Peer Institutions**

		Palm Beach State College value		Change, 2009 to 2010	Diff. between College and peer group		
		2009	2010		Peer group median 2010	College rank among group 2010	
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90; margin-right: 5px;"></div> Indicates improvement over prior year  <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FF0000; margin-right: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"></div> Indicates decline over prior year         </div>							
High school yield	% of service area public high school graduates who enrolled in the following fall term	27%	28%	+1	14.0%	+14.0	#1 of 8
Three-year completion and transfer rate	% first time, full time, degree seeking students who completed program within three years	30%	34%	+4	14.0%	+20.0	#1 of 14
	% first time, full time, degree-seeking students who completed program <i>-or-</i> transferred within three years	44%	47%	+3	40.0%	+7.0	#1 of 12
Term-to-term persistence	Fall-to-spring persistence, credit/prep students	71%	72%	+1	68.5%	+3.5	#5 of 13
	Fall-to-fall persistence, credit/prep students	54%	56%	+2	49.0%	+7.0	#2 of 13
* CCSSE Benchmarks	Active and Collaborative Learning	52.2	52.2		48.8	+3.4	#3 of 10
	Student Effort	52.2	52.2		49.4	+2.8	#1 of 10
	Academic Challenge	52.3	52.3		49.0	+3.3	#1 of 10
	Student-Faculty Interaction	53.6	53.6		49.4	+4.2	#1 of 10
	Support for Learners	50.1	50.1		49.3	+0.8	#3 of 10

\* Palm Beach State College values are based on 2007 CCSSE administration

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		2009	2010		Peer group median 2010	College rank among group	

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		2009	2010		Peer group median 2010	2010	College rank among group
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Course success rates <i>(among those who completed course)</i>	All credit/college level courses	84%	85%	+1	82.0%	+3.0	#2 of 14
	All credit and developmental courses	83%	84%	+1	83.0%	+1.0	#5 of 14
	Distance learning classes	80%	81%	+1	76.0%	+5.0	#1 of 14
	ENC1101, College Composition 1	86%	87%	+1	78.0%	+9.0	#2 of 14
	ENC1102, College Composition 2	86%	85%	-1	81.0%	+4.0	#6 of 14
	MAC1105, College Algebra	74%	78%	+4	70.0%	+8.0	#2 of 14
	SPC1017, Fundamentals of Speech Communication	91%	92%	+1	86.5%	+5.5	#1 of 13
	Developmental math courses	66%	64%	-2	64.0%		#8 of 14
	Developmental writing (non-EAP) courses	82%	82%		77.0%	+5.0	#2 of 14
	Developmental reading (non-EAP) courses	77%	78%	+1	78.0%		#7 of 14
	MAT1033, Intermediate Algebra <i>(among students who completed developmental prior fall term)</i>	77%	80%	+3	74.5%	+5.5	#5 of 13
	ENC1101, College Composition 1 <i>(among students who completed developmental prior fall term)</i>	90%	90%		83.0%	+7.0	#3 of 14



**Palm Beach State College**  
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		Palm Beach State College value			Change, 2009 to 2010	Diff. between College and peer group		
		Peer group median	College rank among group					
		2009	2010	2009		2010	2010	
		Indicates improvement over prior year						
		Indicates decline over prior year						
Course success rates (among all enrolled)	All credit/college level courses	74%	76%	+2		72.0%	+4.0	#4 of 14
	All credit and developmental courses	73%	75%	+2		73.0%	+2.0	#4 of 14
	Distance learning classes	67%	68%	+1		65.0%	+3.0	#4 of 14
	ENC1101, College Composition 1	79%	79%			69.0%	+10.0	#2 of 14
	ENC1102, College Composition 2	75%	75%			72.0%	+3.0	#5 of 14
	MAC1105, College Algebra	59%	65%	+6		59.0%	+6.0	#3 of 14
	SPC1017, Fundamentals of Speech Communication	84%	85%	+1		77.0%	+8.0	#1 of 13
	Developmental math courses	59%	58%	-1		53.0%	+5.0	#3 of 14
	Developmental writing (non-EAP) courses	76%	76%			69.0%	+7.0	#2 of 14
	Developmental reading (non-EAP) courses	70%	71%	+1		71.0%		#6 of 14
		MAT1033, Intermediate Algebra (among students who completed developmental prior fall term)	68%	68%			60.5%	+7.5
	ENC1101, College Composition 1 (among students who completed developmental prior fall term)	83%	86%	+3		72.0%	+14.0	#2 of 14

**Palm Beach State College**  
**Performance on NCCBP Benchmarks vs. Peer Institutions**

		Palm Beach State College value			Change, 2009 to 2010	Diff. between College and peer group		
		2009	2010			Peer group median 2010	2010	College rank among group
Post-completion outcomes	Employed in related field	68%	71%	+3		57.0%	+14.0	#4 of 12
	Pursuing further education	20%	19%	-1		38.0%	-19.0	#8 of 11
Student Services staff	Students per FTE career services staff	3,102	3,397	+295		3,129	+268	#4 of 6
	Students per FTE counselor and advisor	776	820	+44		678	+142	#5 of 9
	Students per FTE recruitment, admissions and registration staff	3,102	2,642	-460		1,039	+1,603	#7 of 9
	Students per FTE financial aid staff	1,357	1,486	+129		2,051	-565	#4 of 9
	Students per FTE student activities staff	3,619	5,946	+2,327		3,466	+2,480	#7 of 8
	Students per FTE testing and assessment staff	7,238	5,946	-1,292		1,830	+4,116	#6 of 8
Additional class information	Average credit/developmental class size	25.4	26.0	+0.6		20.2	+5.8	#14 of 14
	% credit/developmental hours taught by full-time faculty	51%	49%	-2		47.0%	+2.0	#7 of 14
	% credit hours taught as distance learning	8%	8%			12.0%	-4.0	#13 of 14

Indicates improvement over prior year  
 Indicates decline over prior year

### **Additional notes about the tables**

Some peer data were removed from the calculations if they were deemed to be suspect (e.g., withdrawal rates of zero or passing rates in college algebra of 100%). This may happen if, for example, there was an error in data entry or a local policy that makes the peer institution non-comparable on that measure. In these cases, the median was calculated based on the remaining members of the peer group.

Also, please note that the median value is for the peer group, not including Palm Beach State College. In some cases, the College may be at the midpoint of the group as a whole (including the College), but actually perform slightly better or worse than the peer group median, which does not include the College.