

National Community College Benchmark Project Results and Peer Comparison

Benchmark year 2011, with comparison to 2010

October 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 2011, 280 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 fourth year that Palm Beach State College has participated in NCCBP. The College also participated in 2009 and 2010, and with a limited set of data in 2006.

Based on data provided by Palm Beach State College in 2011, 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
- Human resources statistics

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.

	Benchmark year 2010	Benchmark year 2011
High school yield rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spring 2008 high school graduation• Fall 2008 college enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spring 2009 high school graduation• Fall 2009 college enrollment
Completion and transfer rates	Fall 2006 IPEDS graduation rate survey cohort	Fall 2007 IPEDS graduation rate survey cohort
Term-to-term persistence	Fall 2008 cohort	Fall 2009 cohort
CCSSE benchmarks Post-completion outcomes	Most recent data from past five years	Most recent data from past five years

	Benchmark year 2010	Benchmark year 2011
Course retention and success rates, class and faculty information, student services staff	Fall 2008	Fall 2009
Developmental students' retention and success in first-level credit classes	Completed developmental in Fall 2007, tracked into first-level credit class through Fall 2008	Completed developmental in Fall 2008, tracked into first-level credit class through Fall 2009

Selection of Peer Institutions

Of the 280 colleges that participated in 2011, 16 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 2011 are:

College of DuPage	Glen Ellyn, IL
College of Southern Nevada	Las Vegas, NV
Collin County Community College	McKinney, TX
Columbus State Community College	Columbus, OH
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
Miami Dade College	Miami, FL
Salt Lake Community College	Salt Lake City, UT
St. Louis Community College	St. Louis, MO
Suffolk County Community College	Selden, NY
Tulsa Community College	Tulsa, OK

Result highlights

The tabled results show Palm Beach State College's performance on selected benchmark items for both the 2010 and 2011 reporting cycles, along with a comparison to the peer group median for 2011.

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 and human resources statistics. On the other hand, Palm Beach State performed below the median on average class size, proportion of classes taught as distance learning and student services staff size.

High school yield

Palm Beach State College ranked second among the 13 colleges that supplied data on this measure. The College's 29% yield among prior-year public high school graduates was about 11 points higher than the peer group median.

Completion and transfer rates

The College also ranked first among the peer group in completion and second in combined completion and transfer. About one-third (35%) of the cohort group of first-time, full-time degree seeking students completed a program in three years—nearly triple the group median of 13%. In addition, nearly half (46%) of the cohort either completed or transferred within three years—well above the peer median rate of 34%. (Peer group raw transfer rates, however, were higher than for Palm Beach State College.)

Term-to-term persistence

Palm Beach State's fall-to-spring (74%) and fall-to-fall (57%) persistence both ranked second out of 16 colleges, bettering the comparison group medians of 71% and 50%, respectively.

CCSSE benchmarks

The College was ranked second out of 14 colleges on four CCSSE benchmarks – Student Effort, Academic Challenge, Student-Faculty Interaction and Support for Learners. On the Active and Collaborative Learning benchmark, Palm Beach State ranked third.

Please note that Palm Beach State's scores were from the Spring 2007 CCSSE administration. The college participated again in Spring 2011, but the benchmark scores were not available for the 2011 NCCBP data submission.

Course retention rates

Palm Beach State's performance was at or slightly above the peer group median in most areas. Most notably, the College outperformed the group in College Composition 1 (ENC1101), both among the total population of students and also the subset of those who completed college preparatory work in that area, as well as non-EAP developmental writing. The only area in which the College showed a two-point deficit relative to the peer median was in distance learning, where 16% of students withdrew, as compared to 14% for the peer group.

The College showed an increase of more than four percentage points from the previous year in Intermediate Algebra (MAT1033), among those who completed developmental math. However, declines of more than one point in course retention in ENC1101, developmental math and developmental reading were noted, as well.

Course success rates (among all students who enrolled)

The College performed at or above the peer group median on nearly all course success rate measures, most notably in ENC1101, both among all students and those who completed prep; College Algebra (MAC1105); Speech (SPC1017); and developmental writing courses. Only in developmental reading was Palm Beach State noticeably below the group median. Overall, Palm Beach State's course success rate was three points higher for credit courses and four points higher for credit and developmental courses, combined, than the peer group median.

The College's course success rate increased less than one percentage point in both MAT1033 and ENC1101 among students who completed the corresponding prep courses. Success rates fell more than a point, however, in College Composition 2 (ENC1102), speech and all three college preparatory areas.

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 slightly lower than the peer group.

Post-completion employment rates declined nearly five points from the previous year to 67%, while the proportion of students who chose to continue their education increased nearly two points to 20%.

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 most measures. Only in financial aid staff did the College have fewer students per FTE staff member than the group median. It also is worth noting that the College was serving more students per FTE student services staff member than in the previous year.

Human resources statistics

Employee attrition at Palm Beach State is near the group median. Among full-time staff, the College ranked seventh of 14 institutions in term of having the fewest staff leaving the College. Palm Beach State performs in the top half in grievances and harassment reports among all employees, with fewer such claims than the median. Training dollars per employee declined by 26% but still ranked in the top half.

Additional class and faculty data

Other notable findings include:

- Class sizes at Palm Beach State College are, on average, among the largest of the peer institutions; the College ranked next-to-last among 16 colleges.
- Student credit hours taught by full-time faculty was more than three points below the peer group median and had shown some deterioration from the prior year.
- The College ranks in the lower half among the group in terms of credit hours taught via distance learning.



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

Indicates improvement of >0.5 from prior year
 Indicates decline or weakening of >0.5 from prior year

		Palm Beach State College value		Change, 2010 to 2011	Diff. between College and peer group		
		2010	2011		Peer group median 2011	College and peer group 2011	College rank among group
High school yield	% of service area public high school graduates who enrolled in the following fall term	28.10%	29.16%	+1.06	18.04%	+11.12	#2 of 13
Three-year completion and transfer rate	% first time, full time, degree seeking students who completed program within three years	33.82%	35.01%	+1.19	12.87%	+22.14	#1 of 16
	% first time, full time, degree-seeking students who completed program <i>-or-</i> transferred within three years	47.10%	46.02%	-1.08	33.75%	+12.27	#2 of 16
Term-to-term persistence	Fall-to-spring persistence, credit/prep students	72.41%	74.01%	+1.60	71.42%	+2.59	#2 of 16
	Fall-to-fall persistence, credit/prep students	56.50%	56.86%	+0.36	49.64%	+7.22	#2 of 16
		2007	2007				
* CCSSE Benchmarks (most recent between 2006-2010)	Active and Collaborative Learning	52.2	52.2		48.0	+4.2	#3 of 14
	Student Effort	52.2	52.2		48.3	+3.9	#2 of 14
	Academic Challenge	52.3	52.3		50.0	+2.3	#2 of 14
	Student-Faculty Interaction	53.6	53.6		48.8	+4.8	#2 of 14
	Support for Learners	50.1	50.1		48.1	+2.0	#2 of 14

* Palm Beach State College values are for the 2007 CCSSE administration. While 2011 benchmark scores have been released, they were not available in time for the 2011 NCCBP submission, nor were they for other colleges, and thus were not included in NCCBP's analysis.

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

 Indicates improvement of >0.5 from prior year
 Indicates decline or weakening of >0.5 from prior year



		Palm Beach State College value			Change, 2010 to 2011	Diff. between College and peer group		
		2010	2011			Peer group median 2011	College rank among group 2011	
Course retention rates (<i>did not withdraw</i>)	All credit/college level courses	89.48%	89.20%	-0.28		89.57%	-0.37	#10 of 16
	All credit and developmental courses	89.73%	89.33%	-0.40		89.20%	+0.13	#8 of 16
	Distance learning classes	83.54%	83.95%	+0.41		86.23%	-2.28	#11 of 15
	ENC1101, College Composition 1	91.44%	91.69%	+0.25		88.88%	+2.81	#5 of 15
	ENC1102, College Composition 2	87.76%	86.33%	-1.43		85.88%	+0.45	#8 of 15
	MAC1105, College Algebra	83.25%	82.64%	-0.61		82.76%	-0.12	#8 of 15
	SPC1017, Fundamentals of Speech Communication	92.61%	91.72%	-0.89		91.41%	+0.31	#8 of 15
	Developmental math courses	90.28%	87.61%	-2.67		86.19%	+1.42	#6 of 15
	Developmental writing (non-EAP) courses	92.33%	91.59%	-0.74		89.26%	+2.33	#6 of 14
	Developmental reading (non-EAP) courses	91.13%	89.30%	-1.83		90.62%	-1.32	#10 of 15
	MAT1033, Intermediate Algebra (<i>among students who completed developmental prior fall term</i>)	84.71%	89.21%	+4.50		87.29%	+1.92	#6 of 16
	ENC1101, College Composition 1 (<i>among students who completed developmental prior fall term</i>)	94.59%	95.21%	+0.62		91.42%	+3.79	#2 of 16

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

Indicates improvement of >0.5 from prior year
 Indicates decline or weakening of >0.5 from prior year

		Palm Beach State College value			Change, 2010 to 2011	Diff. between College and peer group		
		2010	2011	Peer group median 2011		College rank among group		
<div></div>	Indicates improvement of >0.5 from prior year							
<div></div>	Indicates decline or weakening of >0.5 from prior year							
Course success rates <i>(among those who completed course)</i>	All credit/college level courses	84.78%	85.38%	+0.60	82.39%	+2.99	#3 of 16	
	All credit and developmental courses	83.66%	84.09%	+0.43	80.72%	+3.37	#3 of 16	
	Distance learning classes	81.11%	79.96%	-1.15	75.61%	+4.35	#2 of 15	
	ENC1101, College Composition 1	86.69%	86.02%	-0.67	80.56%	+5.46	#2 of 16	
	ENC1102, College Composition 2	85.40%	85.22%	-0.18	81.75%	+3.47	#4 of 16	
	MAC1105, College Algebra	77.66%	78.74%	+1.08	72.37%	+6.37	#3 of 16	
	SPC1017, Fundamentals of Speech Communication	91.57%	90.74%	-0.83	87.17%	+3.57	#1 of 16	
	Developmental math courses	63.71%	63.52%	-0.19	61.12%	+2.40	#5 of 16	
	Developmental writing (non-EAP) courses	81.95%	79.29%	-2.66	74.73%	+4.56	#3 of 15	
	Developmental reading (non-EAP) courses	77.62%	77.49%	-0.13	78.95%	-1.46	#9 of 16	
	MAT1033, Intermediate Algebra <i>(among students who completed developmental prior fall term)</i>	80.24%	77.72%	-2.52	80.14%	-2.42	#10 of 16	
	ENC1101, College Composition 1 <i>(among students who completed developmental prior fall term)</i>	90.48%	90.75%	+0.27	82.99%	+7.76	#2 of 16	

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

 Indicates improvement of >0.5 from prior year
 Indicates decline or weakening of >0.5 from prior year

		Palm Beach State College value			Change, 2010 to 2011	Diff. between College and peer group		
		2010	2011			Peer group median 2011	2011	College rank among group
Course success rates <i>(among all enrolled)</i>	All credit/college level courses	75.86%	76.16%	+0.30		73.23%	+2.93	#6 of 16
	All credit and developmental courses	75.07%	75.12%	+0.05		71.21%	+3.91	#5 of 16
	Distance learning classes	67.75%	67.13%	-0.62		65.15%	+1.98	#6 of 16
	ENC1101, College Composition 1	79.27%	78.87%	-0.40		72.12%	+6.75	#2 of 16
	ENC1102, College Composition 2	74.95%	73.57%	-1.38		70.68%	+2.89	#6 of 16
	MAC1105, College Algebra	64.65%	65.07%	+0.42		59.90%	+5.17	#5 of 16
	SPC1017, Fundamentals of Speech Communication	84.80%	83.22%	-1.58		78.50%	+4.72	#3 of 16
	Developmental math courses	57.52%	55.65%	-1.87		51.72%	+3.93	#7 of 16
	Developmental writing (non-EAP) courses	75.66%	72.62%	-3.04		66.16%	+6.46	#4 of 15
	Developmental reading (non-EAP) courses	70.73%	69.20%	-1.53		71.89%	-2.69	#10 of 16
	MAT1033, Intermediate Algebra <i>(among students who completed developmental prior fall term)</i>	67.97%	68.89%	+0.92		68.95%	-0.06	#9 of 16
	ENC1101, College Composition 1 <i>(among students who completed developmental prior fall term)</i>	85.59%	86.40%	+0.81		76.77%	+9.63	#1 of 16

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

		Palm Beach State College value			Change, 2010 to 2011	Diff. between College and peer group		
		2010	2011			Peer group median 2011	College rank among group 2011	
Post-completion outcomes	Employed in related field	71.34%	66.61%	-4.73		53.47%	+13.14	#6 of 14
	Pursuing further education	18.54%	20.44%	+1.90		22.24%	-1.80	#9 of 14
Student Services staff	Students per FTE career services staff	3,397	4,436	+1,039		4,103	+333	#6 of 11
	Students per FTE counselor and advisor	820	1,065	+245		852	+213	#10 of 11
	Students per FTE recruitment, admissions and registration staff	2,642	2,958	+316		1,363	+1,595	#10 of 12
	Students per FTE financial aid staff	1,486	2,048	+562		2,141	-93	#5 of 12
	Students per FTE student activities staff	5,946	8,873	+2,927		4,974	+3,899	#9 of 12
	Students per FTE testing and assessment staff	5,946	6,655	+709		3,630	+3,025	#9 of 11
Human Resources data	% of full-time employees who left the college (not including retired)	7.09%	4.40%	-2.69		4.69%	-0.29	#7 of 14
	% of full-time employees who retired	1.48%	1.59%	+0.11		1.60%	-0.01	#7 of 14
	% of all employees who filed grievances	0.12%	0.19%	+0.07		0.58%	-0.39	#3 of 12
	% of all employees who filed harassment claims	0.00%	0.08%	+0.08		0.12%	-0.04	#5 of 12
	Training dollars per FTE employee	\$491	\$362	-129		\$268	+94	#4 of 10
Additional class information	Average credit/developmental class size	25.97	26.55	+0.58		21.93	+4.62	#15 of 16
	% credit/developmental hours taught by full-time faculty	49.41%	46.70%	-2.71		50.19%	-3.49	#8 of 14
	% credit hours taught as distance learning	8.29%	8.60%	+0.31		11.90%	-3.30	#12 of 16

Indicates improvement of >0.5 from prior year
 Indicates decline or weakening of >0.5 from 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 performs slightly better or worse than the peer group median, which does not include the College.