Palm Beach State College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the associate and baccalaureate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Palm Beach State College. The Commission should be contacted only if there is evidence that appears to support an institution’s non-compliance with an accreditation requirement or standard.

Palm Beach State College is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its facilities, educational programs, employment or activities without regard to race, color, creed, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, marital status, veteran status, or disability.
Palm Beach State College, founded in 1933 as Florida’s first public community college, is a diverse, comprehensive institution dedicated to serving the educational needs of Palm Beach County. Integrally linked to the community through strong partnerships, the College provides associate and baccalaureate degrees, professional certificates, workforce development and lifelong learning.

MISSION

Palm Beach State College's mission is to create and sustain a dynamic teaching and learning environment that provides a high-quality, accessible, affordable education, preparing students to contribute and compete ethically and successfully in a diverse global community.

BACKGROUND

Comprehensive strategic planning has played a pivotal role in positioning Palm Beach State College to meet the challenges associated with providing a responsive, quality education in a dynamic community. Our newly revised Strategic Plan 2012-2018 outlines the Mission, Vision, Beliefs, Goals and Objectives that are charting the College's course.

The plan is the result of a collaborative process that began in the fall of 2011. The College’s Executive Leadership Council reviewed the previous plan and concluded that the Mission, Vision, Beliefs and Goals would, with a few revisions, serve as an excellent foundation for the next strategic plan. This foundation, along with additional information (including an Environmental Scan, PBSC Fact Sheet and a progress report on the previous plan), was provided to a 69-member Strategic Planning Team comprised of students, faculty, staff and administrators. At a day-long retreat in March 2012, the team drafted two objectives for each of the four goals. The draft was disseminated to all faculty and staff for review and feedback, with the final version of the plan approved by the District Board of Trustees in May 2012.

The following year, the Executive Leadership Council was charged with developing and implementing a Completion Agenda that begins with student recruitment through graduation and transition to jobs or higher degrees. This Completion Agenda was integrated into the Strategic Plan, which was extended to 2018. This revised plan, as approved by the District Board of Trustees in January 2014, is outlined in this document.

VISION

We envision a College of diverse, active learners engaged in intellectual, social and personal growth that enriches and transforms our community.

BELIEFS

WE BELIEVE...

- Student success is our first priority, and all students can succeed.
- Ethical standards are integral to the College experience.
- Faculty and instructors should use instructional methods and technology that meet the diverse learning styles of students.
- The College curriculum and its operations should demonstrate a commitment to ecological sustainability.
- The College must anticipate and respond to the evolving educational needs of the community.
- Quality education is a worthwhile investment.
- An educated workforce has a positive impact on our community and economic health.
- Faculty/staff development is integral to quality education.
- A safe, secure and supportive College environment is essential.
- Diversity reflects society and enhances the educational process.
- Equity and equality of opportunity are essential.
- Lifelong learning enhances the quality of life.
- Collaboration enhances the quality of decision-making.

GOALS

1. The College will advance a constant commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.

   OBJECTIVES
   - The College will increase the number and accessibility of faculty and staff development programs directly related to teaching and learning practices by 10% annually.
   - The College will increase the percent of classes taught by full-time faculty to 55% by 2018.
   - The faculty and instructor clusters will develop and implement plans for assessing course learning outcomes by 2018.

2. The College will promote and practice operational efficiencies in all areas.

   OBJECTIVES
   - The College will implement improvements to reduce waste in the use of resources throughout the College that will result in a 10% annual resource savings by 2018.
   - The College will continue to provide an efficient infrastructure to support the teaching and learning environment.
   - The College will implement multi-channel communications to reach 20% more constituents by 2018.

3. The College will respond to the current and emerging educational needs of the community with innovative educational opportunities.

   OBJECTIVES
   - The College will annually align its curriculum by adding, deleting, and/or enhancing programs to meet local workforce needs.
   - The College will offer a fully online A.A. degree and develop department-level course shells for general education and other high-demand academic areas by 2018.

4. The College will practice effective enrollment management to ensure optimal access, retention, program completion, and student success.

   OBJECTIVES
   - The College will create and implement course scheduling based on student needs by 2016.
   - The College will partner with Palm Beach County School District to develop and implement a comprehensive system to create a seamless transition to the College by 2018.
   - The College will create a systematic student communication process and calendar by 2018.
   - The College will design and implement strategies to improve retention among at-risk students by 15% by 2018.
   - The College will increase completion rates by 15% by 2018.
   - The College will create/Implement an exit/finish strategy for each award type by 2018.