



Graduating Student Survey Report

Year: 2012-2013 (Spring 2013)

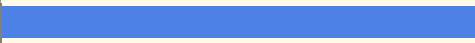

June 25, 2013

Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

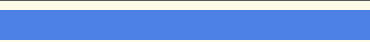




Graduating Student Survey Report

The Graduating Student survey was conducted using the software package, Qualtrics®, during the period of October 11, 2012 – June 24, 2013. A total of 722 students responded, most of them applying to graduate in December or May. The results from the survey are presented below.

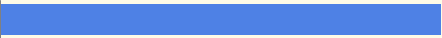



1. Have you attended Palm Beach State primarily as a:

Answer		Response	%
Full-time student		521	72.2%
Part-time student		201	27.8%
Total		722	100.0%





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

Answer		Response	%
Lake Worth		421	57.9%
Palm Beach Gardens		165	22.7%
Boca Raton		93	12.8%
Belle Glade		28	3.9%
Took most of my classes on-line		20	2.8%
Total		727	100.0%






3. Have you attended classes primarily as a:

Answer		Response	%
Day student		483	66.6%
Evening student		194	26.8%
Weekend student		1	0.1%
Distance/Online learning student		47	6.5%
Total		725	100.0%



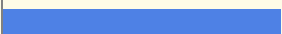

4. Please indicate the degree or certificate with which you are graduating:

Answer		Response	%
A.A. degree		497	68.4%
A.S./A.A.S. degree		116	16.0%
Certificate (ATC, PSAV Cert., College Credit Cert.)		67	9.2%
Bachelor degree		47	6.5%
Total		727	100.0%

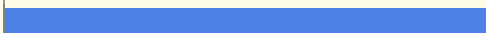

5. During the time you have been enrolled at Palm Beach State, have you been:

Answer		Response	%
Employed full-time		278	38.3%
Employed part-time		294	40.6%
Homemaker, not employed outside the home		22	3.0%
Not employed and seeking employment		68	9.4%
Not employed and not seeking employment		63	8.7%
Total		725	100.0%







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

Answer		Response	%
Yes, directly related		106	14.8%
Yes, somewhat related		177	24.7%
No, not related		306	42.7%
Not employed while attending Palm Beach State		128	17.9%
Total		717	100.0%




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

Answer		Response	%
Yes		532	73.6%
No		191	26.4%
Total		723	100.0%

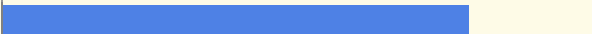









8. What has been your primary goal in attending Palm Beach State?

Answer		Response	%
To obtain occupational/technical training that would improve present/future employment		50	6.9%
To obtain an occupational/technical (A.S./A.A.S.) degree or certificate		126	17.4%
To obtain an associate degree (A.A.) in order to transfer to a four-year college/university		434	60.0%
To enroll in courses that would satisfy specialized/personal interests		10	1.4%
To obtain a bachelor degree		91	12.6%
Other (please specify)		12	1.7%
Total		723	100.0%



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

Answer		Response	%
Yes		639	88.1%
No		48	6.6%
Not Sure (please elaborate)		38	5.2%
Total		725	100.0%



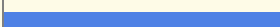



10. Please indicate the most important reasons why you selected Palm Beach State. (Check all that apply.)

Answer		Response	%
Affordable tuition		572	78.8%
Guaranteed admission for high school graduates		163	22.5%
Close to home		574	79.1%
Good academic reputation		270	37.2%
Availability of financial aid		266	36.6%
Offered courses/curriculum of interest		295	40.6%
Small classes/individual attention		293	40.4%
Only program offered locally in my area of interest		41	5.6%
Availability of evening/weekend courses		218	30.0%
Availability of online courses		173	23.8%









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

Answer		Response	%
Yes		557	76.8%
No		168	23.2%
Total		725	100.0%

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

Answer		Response	%
Only Palm Beach State offered my program		12	8.1%
Only able to attend college within commuting distance of my home		47	31.5%
Tuition and fees at other colleges were more than I could afford		63	42.3%
Only Palm Beach State offered courses online or at times that fit with my family and work responsibilities		14	9.4%
Was not accepted for admission into other colleges		4	2.7%
Other (please specify)		9	6.0%
Total		149	100.0%

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

Answer		Response	%
Obtain a four-year degree at another school		305	46.1%
Continue at Palm Beach State in another degree program (e.g., B.A.S.)		154	23.3%
Obtain a graduate degree at another school		64	9.7%
Work full-time		92	13.9%
Work part-time		3	0.5%
Military		4	0.6%
Not sure		20	3.0%
Other (please specify)		19	2.9%
Total		661	100.0%

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)	Don't Know	Total Responses	Mean (excl. Don't Know)
Overall quality of instruction	46.1%	40.4%	11.8%	0.8%	0.3%	0.6%	646	4.3
Individual attention from professors	44.7%	39.1%	12.9%	2.0%	0.9%	0.5%	645	4.3
Instructor availability	44.2%	38.0%	13.3%	2.6%	0.9%	0.9%	645	4.2
Course advisement from faculty members	40.0%	31.7%	16.8%	5.3%	3.9%	2.2%	637	4.0
Content of courses in major curriculum	44.8%	39.0%	11.3%	2.7%	0.6%	1.7%	639	4.3
Average class size	53.7%	35.4%	9.2%	1.2%	0.3%	0.2%	641	4.4
Quality of curriculum in providing job-related skills and knowledge	42.6%	34.0%	15.6%	3.0%	1.6%	3.3%	641	4.2
Quality of curriculum in preparing for further education	47.9%	35.3%	13.1%	1.7%	1.1%	0.9%	643	4.3
Fairness of grading and testing practices	48.1%	36.8%	12.1%	1.4%	1.1%	0.5%	642	4.3
Availability of courses in the sequence you need them	43.6%	36.4%	15.5%	3.3%	1.1%	0.2%	640	4.2

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 “Don't use”.

Question	Excellent (5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	Poor (1)	Don't Use	Total Responses	Mean (excl. Don't Use)
Academic Advising	41.0%	28.6%	14.3%	5.4%	5.4%	5.3%	644	4.0
Personal Guidance and Counseling	37.3%	25.2%	12.8%	3.8%	4.8%	16.1%	640	4.0
Financial Aid Services	41.7%	19.7%	12.5%	6.7%	5.6%	13.6%	638	4.0
Admissions	51.0%	26.2%	13.2%	3.5%	2.5%	3.6%	637	4.2
Registration Process	51.8%	26.8%	12.6%	3.9%	2.7%	2.2%	637	4.2
Assistance over the phone	33.2%	19.7%	16.5%	6.6%	11.0%	13.1%	636	3.7
PantherWeb Services	62.5%	26.5%	8.5%	0.9%	0.5%	1.1%	637	4.5
Palm Beach State College Website	63.4%	25.7%	9.9%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	639	4.5
Testing Services	46.3%	25.6%	11.7%	1.9%	0.9%	13.6%	640	4.3
Lab Facilities (biology, chemistry, math, etc.)	47.3%	25.4%	10.8%	1.6%	0.6%	14.4%	639	4.4
Library	55.2%	26.3%	9.9%	1.9%	0.6%	6.1%	639	4.4
Career planning and counseling	37.8%	22.7%	12.8%	2.5%	2.5%	21.7%	635	4.2
Student Activities (clubs, events, etc.)	36.5%	20.6%	10.8%	1.6%	1.3%	29.2%	636	4.3
Cafeteria	32.9%	22.7%	17.2%	6.8%	3.9%	16.4%	633	3.9
Student Learning Centers	46.8%	24.3%	10.2%	1.3%	0.8%	16.7%	630	4.4
Disability Support Services	29.5%	12.6%	7.4%	0.2%	0.2%	50.2%	634	4.4
Athletics	26.0%	12.6%	8.2%	1.4%	1.3%	50.5%	634	4.2
Theater	31.8%	14.6%	10.3%	0.9%	0.9%	41.5%	632	4.3

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	Total Responses
Phone	17.9%	28.3%	41.1%	8.8%	3.9%	509
Email	43.4%	31.0%	14.9%	6.9%	3.8%	551
In Person	38.5%	30.6%	18.7%	6.4%	5.9%	546
Live Chat	4.9%	6.2%	12.2%	54.0%	22.7%	450
Postal Service	6.9%	3.6%	4.7%	19.2%	65.6%	494

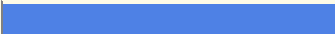



17. PREPARATION: Palm Beach State has seven General Education Learning Outcomes (listed below). Please rate on a 5-point scale (where 5= Excellent and 1= Poor) how you feel Palm Beach State has helped you increase your competency in these learning areas. If you are unsure of your opinion, select “Don't Know.”

Question	Excellent (5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	Poor (1)	Don't Know	Total Responses	Mean (excl. Don't Know)
COMMUNICATION (Develop effective communication skills for a variety of audiences)	52.5%	33.0%	9.4%	1.1%	1.1%	2.9%	619	4.4
GLOBAL AWARENESS (Exhibit a sense of social, cultural and global responsibility)	44.1%	32.0%	16.6%	1.3%	1.6%	4.4%	619	4.0
CRITICALTHINKING (Engage in purposeful reasoning to reach sound conclusions)	48.6%	34.3%	12.2%	1.5%	0.8%	2.6%	613	4.2
INFORMATION LITERACY (Demonstrate the ability to find, evaluate, organize and use information)	49.7%	32.6%	12.8%	1.3%	0.8%	2.8%	616	4.2
SCIENTIFIC & QUANTITATIVE REASONING (Apply mathematical and scientific principles to solve real-world problems)	45.0%	29.8%	16.4%	2.6%	1.3%	4.9%	614	4.0
ETHICS (Demonstrate the ability to make informed decisions based on ethical principles and reasoning)	49.6%	30.4%	11.7%	2.9%	1.1%	4.2%	615	4.1






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)	(2)	Poor (1)	Don't Know	Total Responses	Mean (excl. Don't Know)
Opportunity to meet and interact with other students	52.2%	30.4%	11.7%	1.9%	1.6%	2.2%	625	4.3
Availability of faculty outside of class	41.3%	33.1%	13.8%	4.0%	1.6%	6.1%	622	4.2
General helpfulness of faculty	47.1%	33.2%	14.4%	3.4%	0.5%	1.4%	624	4.2
General helpfulness of other college employees	43.8%	30.1%	17.0%	4.0%	1.9%	3.2%	624	4.1
Adequacy of study spaces	47.3%	30.3%	14.2%	3.7%	2.1%	2.4%	620	4.2
Adequacy of comfortable places to rest and relax between classes	46.1%	26.1%	14.5%	4.4%	4.7%	4.2%	620	4.1
Cleanliness and attractiveness of campus	49.5%	28.8%	15.3%	4.7%	1.0%	0.8%	622	4.2
Sense of comfort with institutional cultural diversity	51.5%	31.5%	12.0%	2.6%	1.1%	1.3%	623	4.3
Sense of personal and property safety on campus	44.5%	28.6%	16.2%	6.3%	3.7%	0.6%	618	4.0
Sense of being respected and valued as an individual	51.2%	31.7%	13.3%	2.0%	1.5%	0.3%	615	4.3



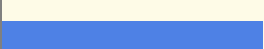


19. What is your overall impression of Palm Beach State?

Answer		Response	%
Excellent		326	51.5%
Good		272	43.0%
Fair		31	4.9%
Poor		4	0.6%
Total		633	100.0%

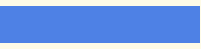

20. Would you recommend Palm Beach State to your friends?

Answer		Response	%
Definitely		474	74.6%
Probably		136	21.4%
Might or might not		17	2.7%
Probably not		4	0.6%
Definitely not		4	0.6%
Total		635	100.0%







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

Answer		Response	%
# Less than 1 year		20	3.2%
1 year, but less than 2 years		65	10.3%
2 years, but less than 3 years		250	39.4%
3 years, but less than 5 years		218	34.4%
5 years or more		81	12.8%
Total		634	100.0%





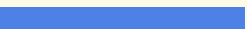

22. What is your gender?

Answer		Response	%
Male		195	31.1%
Female		432	68.9%
Total		627	100.0%

23. What is your age?

Answer		Response	%
Under 20		32	5.0%
20 - 21		144	22.6%
22 - 24		138	21.6%
25 - 29		110	17.2%
30 - 39		108	16.9%
40 or older		106	16.6%
Total		638	100.0%

24. What is your racial/ethnic background?

Answer		Response	%
Asian or Pacific Islander		14	2.2%
Black or African American		233	36.9%
Hispanic or Latino		117	18.5%
American Indian or Alaskan Native		1	0.2%
White		235	37.2%
Other (please specify)		32	5.1%
Total		632	100.0%