

## 2018 Graduating Student Exit Survey - Results

The Graduating Student Exit Survey was developed to obtain feedback from PSC students who completed a degree or certificate. Students were asked to take the survey when they picked up their caps and gowns for graduation. A total of 184 students completed all or part of the survey.

### Degree Attainment

Forty-one percent (41%) of graduates reported earning a transfer degree, 32% earned an AAS, and 3% were receiving a certificate. When asked to select the statement that best described their primary reason/goal for attending PSC, the majority (66.5%) indicated that transferring to a four-year college or university was their goal, and 25.1% attended PSC to prepare for a future job immediately after graduation.

### All Student Responses

Overall, the results were very positive. Thirty-five percent (35%) of respondents indicated they exceeded their educational goals at PSC; 44% achieved all of their goals, and 21% achieved some of their educational goals (Chart 1). Students rated their satisfaction with 19 offices and/or services. All factors received an average score of 3.0 to 4.4, on a scale where 4 equals “satisfied” and 5 equals “very satisfied” (Chart 2). Nine in ten students reported they were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their overall experience at PSC. (Note: *The Pioneer Café* was closed during the Spring 2018 semester)

Students were presented with a list of six barriers and asked to rate each as either a “major barrier,” “minor barrier,” or “no barrier” to completing their education. Balancing school/work/personal life was the top major barrier (59%), followed by financial issues (49.4%).

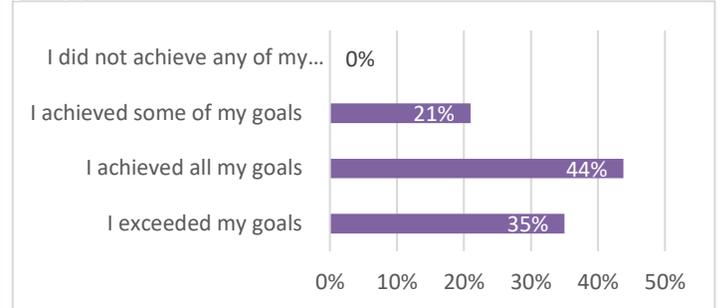
All students were asked to identify their immediate plans after graduation. Sixty-two percent (62%) of students indicated that their immediate plans were to transfer to a four-year college or university; of this group, (88%) felt “very well prepared” or “prepared” to transfer (Chart 3).

### Transfer Student Responses:

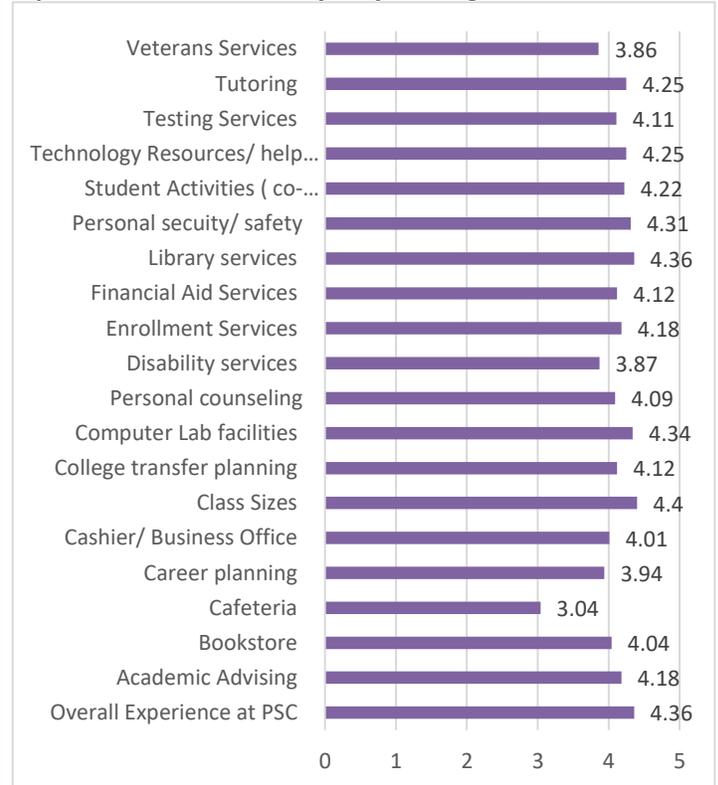
#### Responses of Students Who Self-identified as Earning a Transfer Degree (AA, AS, AFA, or AAT)

Students earning transfer degrees were asked to rate their satisfaction with courses they took. All four of these items received an average score of about 4.3 on a scale where 4 equals “satisfied” and 5 equals “very satisfied” (Chart 4).

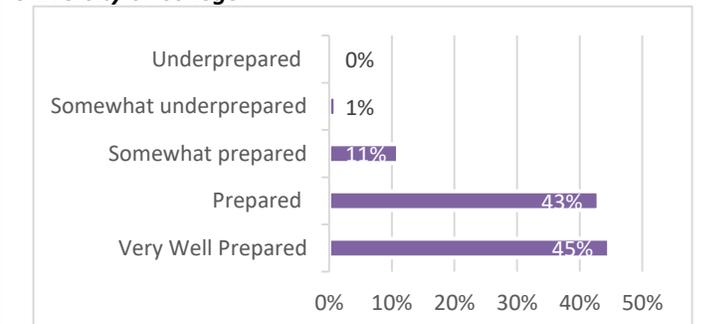
**Chart #1: To What extent did you achieve your educational goal(s) at PSC?**



**Chart #2: Please indicate how satisfied you are with your experiences at PSC in each of the following areas.**



**Chart #3: How prepared do you feel to transfer to a 4-year University or College.**



Students earning transfer degrees were also asked to indicate their agreement that PSC had helped them develop skills/abilities associated with PSC's General Education Outcomes. For all nine of these skills/abilities, the average score was between 4.2 and 4.5 on a scale where 4 equals "satisfied" and 5 equals "very satisfied"(Chart 5).

**Occupational Student Responses:**

**Responses of Students Who Self-identified as Earning an AAS or Certificate**

Occupational students were asked to indicate their satisfaction with courses both within their program of study and outside their program of study. With regard to courses *within* their program of study, all six items received a similar mean score between 4.27 and 4.57 on a scale where 4 equals "satisfied" and 5 equals "very satisfied" (Chart 6).

**Students identified the most valuable thing learned**

All students were asked the open-ended question: "What is the most valuable thing you learned or gained from your experience as a student at PSC?" The majority of students' responses noted self-efficacy and/or an improvement in various life skills.

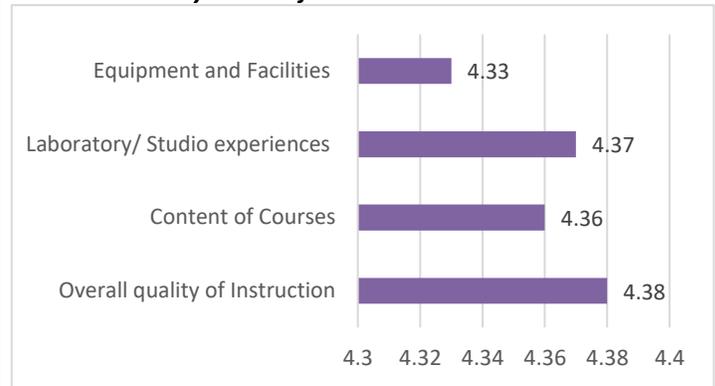
Of the 35% of students who cited self-efficacy, comments noted things such as perseverance and speaking up for oneself. Of the 19% who cited life skills improvement, students commented that they had gained essential life skills like leadership, asking for help, finishing what you start and working with others. An additional 12% identified skills such as time management needed to balance school/work/family, and 3% mentioned learning how to learn.

**Conclusion**

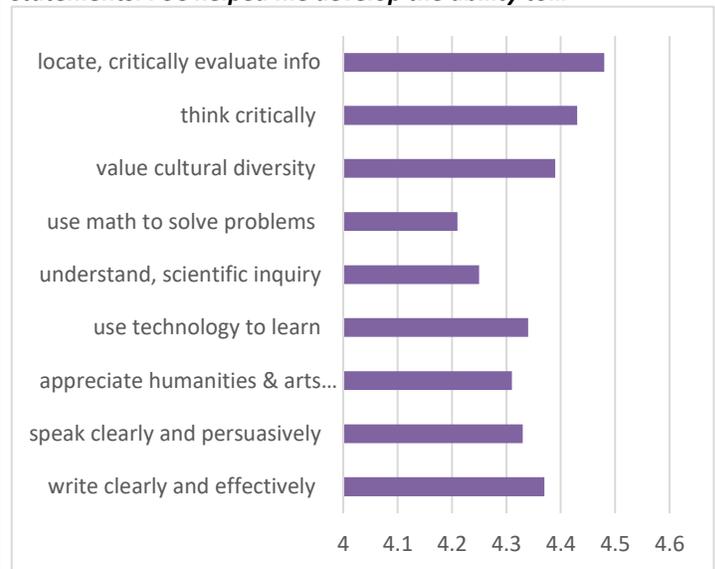
The survey results suggest that successful students, those who attained graduation, report gaining essential life skills and self-efficacy skills as the *most valuable* outcome of their educational experience at PSC. Knowing this, what can we do, as a college, to support learning of these skills? How can we foster time-management, motivation, self-reliance and self-confidence in our students?

Students who achieved their educational goal had a good experience at PSC. The survey results did not seem to indicate any areas with low satisfaction. This is positive. However, students were surveyed at the high point in their educational journeys (after finals – when picking up their caps and gowns). The timing of the survey could be seen as a limitation. The graduates who opt to participate in commencement are arguably very proud and excited. This could positively skew reporting results.

**Chart #4: The following items relate to the courses you took at PSC. Please rate your satisfaction with each.**



**Chart #5: Please indicate your agreement with the following statements. PSC helped me develop the ability to...**



**Chart #6: AAS Students: The following items relate to the courses you took within your program of study at PSC. Please rate your satisfaction with each.**

