

2015 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 163 students completed all or part of the survey.

Demographics

Seventy-one percent (71%) of graduates reported earning a transfer degree, 19% earned an AAS, and 10% were receiving a certificate. Of the 148 respondents for whom we have demographic information, the racial composition closely mirrored our student population, but female respondents were over-represented by about 10%. Fifty-five percent of respondents were under 26 years old.

When asked to select the statement that best described their primary reason/goal for attending PSC, the majority (68%) indicated that transferring to a four-year college or university was their goal, and 22% attended PSC to prepare for a future job immediately after graduation.

All Student Responses

Overall, the results were very positive. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of respondents indicated they exceeded their educational goals at PSC; 47% achieved all of their goals, and 17% achieved some of their educational goals (Figure 1). Nine in ten students reported they were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with their overall experience at PSC.

Students rated their satisfaction with 16 offices/services. All factors received a mean score of 3.9 to 4.5, on a scale where 4 equals “satisfied” and 5 equals “very satisfied” (Figure 2).

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, followed by financial issues.

All students were asked to identify their immediate plans after graduation. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of students indicated that their immediate plans were to transfer to a four-year college or university; of this group, 92% felt “very well prepared” or “prepared” to transfer (Figure 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

Figure 1

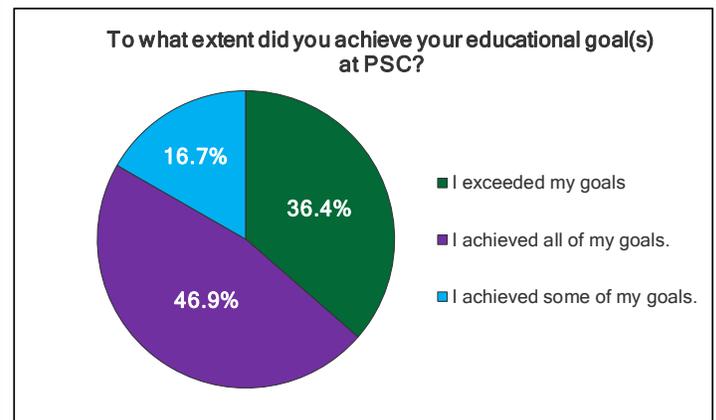


Figure 2

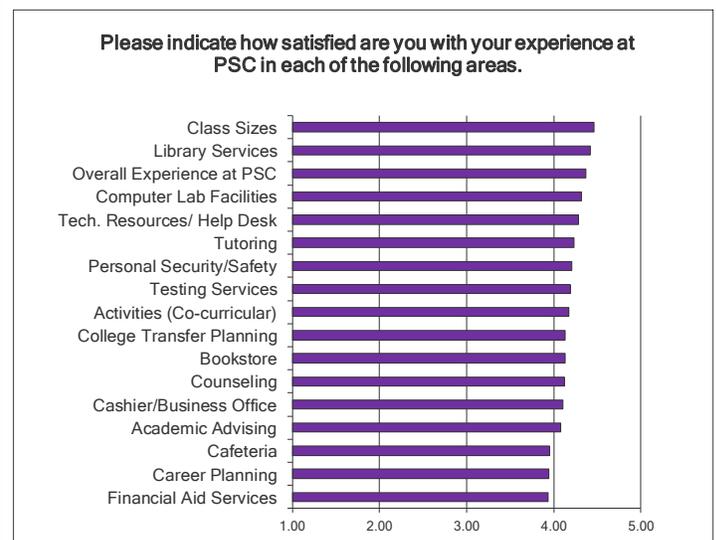
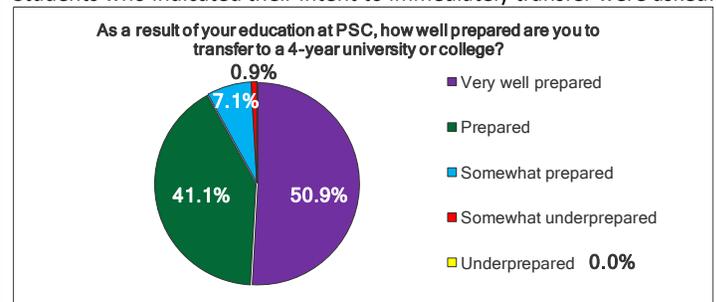


Figure 3

Students who indicated their intent to immediately transfer were asked:



received a mean score of about 4.4 on a scale where 4 equals “satisfied” and 5 equals “very satisfied” (Figure 4).

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 mean score was between 4.1 and 4.5 on a scale where 4 equals “satisfied” and 5 equals “very satisfied.”

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 4.25 and 4.41 on a scale where 4 equals “satisfied” and 5 equals “very satisfied” (Figure 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 (72%) noted personal growth of some kind as the most valuable thing they learned or gained at PSC.

Of the 72% of students who cited personal growth, about 38% of these students commented that they had gained essential life skills, such as time management needed to balance school/work/family, and learning how to learn. Similarly, 34% of these student noted growth in self-efficacy, i.e., being motivated and believing in their ability to achieve their goals (Figure 7).

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. Also, those graduates who opt to participate in commencement are arguably very proud and excited. We would expect high ratings from this cohort of students, and the survey results confirm our expectations.

Figure 4

Students earning transfer degrees were asked:



Figure 5

Students earning transfer degrees were asked:

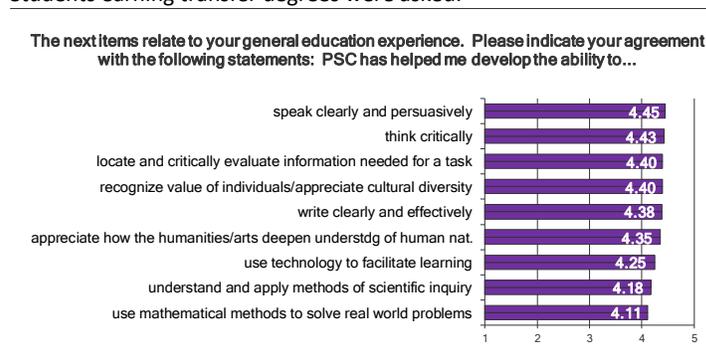


Figure 6

Students earning AAS degrees or certificates were asked:



Figure 7

Select open-ended responses* related to self-efficacy from all students:

- I learned after high school, life is what you make it.
- If I try I will succeed.
- What you put into your education is what you will get back.
- To keep your head up no matter what.
- Anything is possible.
- I learned that when I focus on class/school, and put the effort forth, I can achieve good grades.
- that all things are possible if you apply yourself.
- Never to give up, and to keep going no matter what
- You have to work for what you want.
- School comes first and help is always there to be taken advantage of!
- IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS
- That I am capable of succeeding. PSC offers plenty of resources to help with my success.
- that I can do anything I put my mind to.
- I learned that sometimes things can be hard but with help of great instructors nothing is impossible
- To persevere no matter what the obstacle
- A goal of academic achievement can become a reality with effort and dedication.
- Determination is Key. Keep pushing and you'll get there.

*Responses are direct quotes and have not been edited.