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. About 160 students completed all or part of the survey.

**Degree Attainment**
When asked the primary degree or certificate being awarded, 57% of graduates reported earning a transfer degree, 30% earned an AAS, 8% earned an AGS, and 4% earned a certificate. When asked to select the statement that best described their primary reason/goal for attending PSC, 66% indicated that preparing to transfer to a four-year college or university was their goal, and 25% attended PSC to prepare for a future job immediately after graduation.

**All Student Responses**
Overall, the results were very positive. Eighty-three percent (83%) of respondents indicated they exceeded or achieved all of their goals (Graph #1). Students rated their satisfaction with 19 offices and/or services. All factors received a weighted average score of 3.7 to 4.5, on a scale where 4 equals satisfied and 5 equals very satisfied (Graph #2). Ninety-six percent (96%) of students reported they were very satisfied or satisfied with their overall experience at PSC.

Students were presented with a list of seven 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 selected as a major barrier by 52% of students, followed by financial issues (43%). In contrast, academic under-preparedness was reported as a major barrier by 11% of respondents.

Eighty-three percent (83%) of respondents work outside the home. Of these students, 40% work full-time, and 46% work between 15 and 39 hours.

All students were asked to identify their immediate plans after graduation. Sixty percent (60%) of students indicated their immediate plans were to transfer to a four-year college; of this group, 92% felt very well prepared or prepared to transfer (Graph #3).

**Transfer Student Responses:**
*Students Who Self-identified as Earning a Transfer Degree (AA, AS, AFA) or AGS*
Students earning these degrees were asked to rate their
satisfaction with courses they took. All four of these items received an average score between 4 and 5 on a scale where 4 equals satisfied and 5 equals very satisfied (Graph #4).

Students earning transfer and AGS degrees were also asked to indicate their agreement that PSC helped them develop skills/abilities associated with two of PSC’s general education outcomes: problem solving and creative thinking. Over 90% of students agreed or strongly agreed that PSC helped them develop the five outcomes related to problem solving (Graph #5). Just under 90% agreed PSC helped them develop creative thinking skills (Graph #6).

Ninety-eight percent (98%) of students earning transfer and AGS degrees would recommend PSC to a friend or family member.

**Occupational Student Responses:**  
**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 average score between 4.25 and 4.47 on a scale where 4 equals satisfied and 5 equals very satisfied (Graph #7).

Ninety-four percent (94%) of occupational students would recommend PSC to a friend or family member.

**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 were related to self-efficacy and/or an improvement in various life skills.

Of the 34% of students whose responses were related to self-efficacy, multiple comments focused on 1) never giving up, 2) it’s never too late to get your degree, and 3) persevering to overcome obstacles. Of the 16% who cited growth in life skills, students commented that they had gained patience, communication and leadership skills, and how to ask for help. An additional 10% identified skills such as time management needed to balance school/work/family, and 8% mentioned learning how to learn or how to be a good student.

**Conclusion**  
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. However, timing of the survey (after finals – during cap and gown pick up) could be seen as a limitation. The graduates who opt to participate in commencement are arguably very proud and excited. This could positively skew results.