

2019 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. 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.

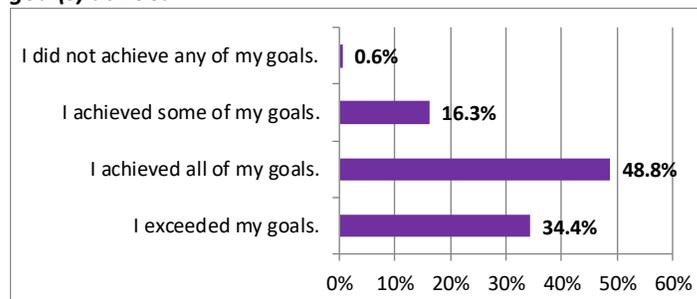
All students were asked to identify their immediate plans after graduation. Sixty percent (60%) of students indicated their immediate plans were to transfer to a four-year college; of this group, 92% felt *very well prepared* or *prepared* to transfer (Graph #3).

Transfer Student Responses:

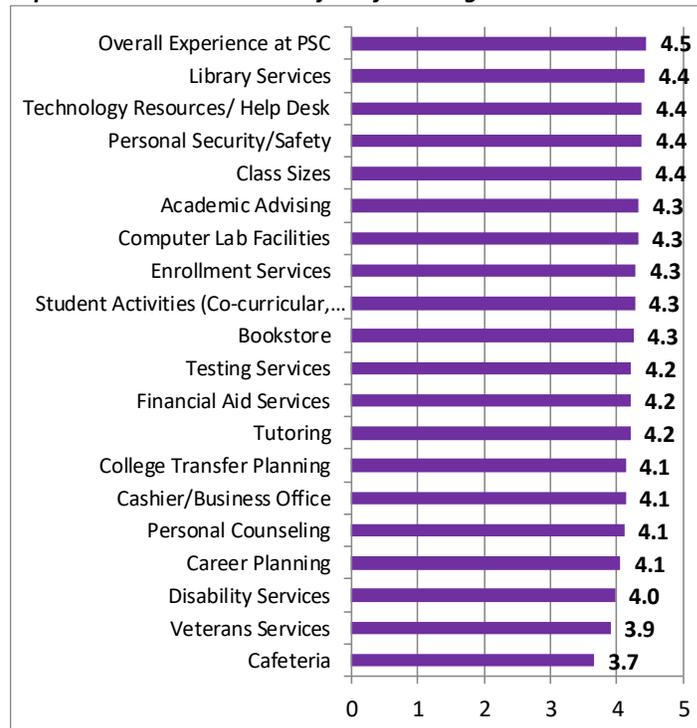
Students Who Self-identified as Earning a Transfer Degree (AA, AS, AFA) or AGS

Students earning these degrees were asked to rate their

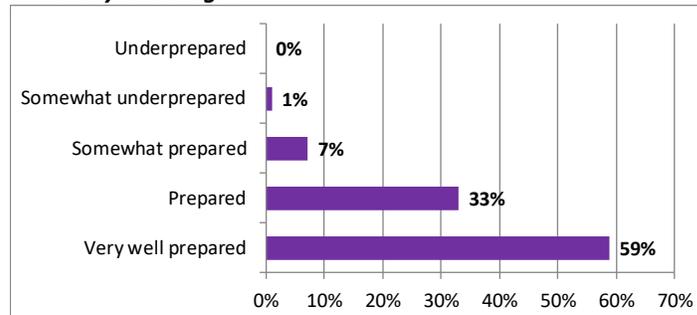
Graph #1: To What extent did you achieve your educational goal(s) at PSC?



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



Graph #3: How prepared do you feel to transfer to a 4-year university or college?



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

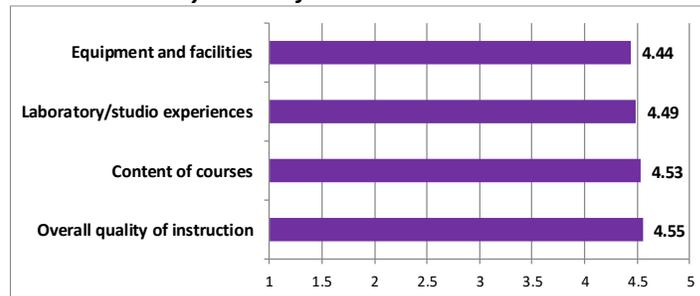
All students were asked the open-ended question: “What is the most valuable thing you learned or gained from your experience as a student at PSC?” The majority of students’ responses were related to self-efficacy and/or an improvement in various life skills.

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.

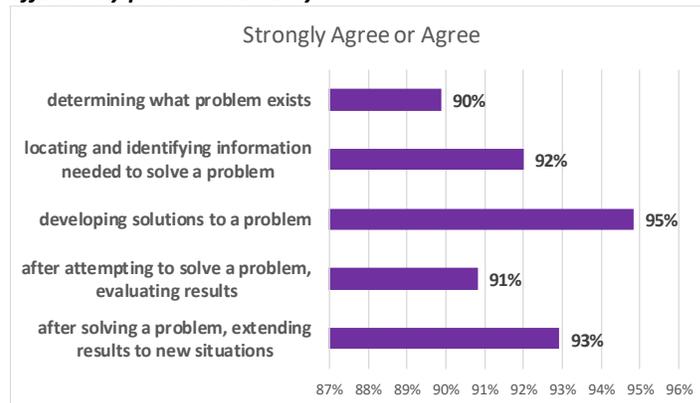
Conclusion

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.

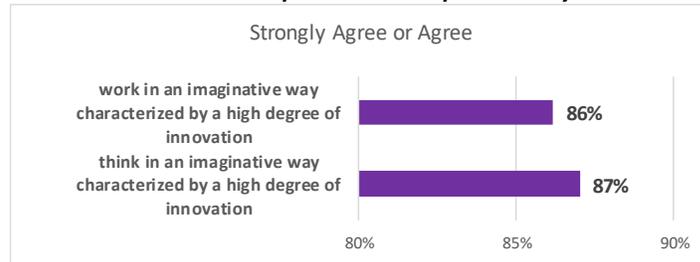
Graph #4: The following items relate to the courses you took at PSC. Please rate your satisfaction with each.



Graph #5: Please indicate your agreement with the following statements: PSC has helped me develop the ability to effectively problem solve by:



Graph #6: Please indicate your agreement with the following statements: PSC has helped me develop the ability to:



Graph #7: AAS Students: The following items relate to the courses you took within your program of study at PSC. Please rate your satisfaction with each.

