



**PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE** 2013-2014

# student handbook



# 2013-14 Student Handbook

## **Welcome to Palm Beach State College!**

This book is dedicated to the students of Palm Beach State College, whose hard work and determination to succeed are an inspiration to those who teach and support them. We look forward to working with you to help you achieve your educational goals.

Your success is the reason that we are here. We encourage you to meet early and often with an academic advisor, who will work with you to develop an educational plan. Palm Beach State also offers a full array of support services and student activities for learning and recreation. May this academic year be both rewarding and challenging for you.

*Dennis P. Gallon, Ph.D.*  
*President*

## **College Mission**

Palm Beach State College, founded in 1933 as Florida's first public community college, is a diverse, comprehensive institution dedicated to serving the educational needs of Palm Beach County. Integrally linked to the community through strong partnerships, the College provides associate and baccalaureate degrees, professional certificates, workforce development and lifelong learning.

Palm Beach State College's mission is to create and sustain a dynamic teaching and learning environment that provides a high-quality, accessible, affordable education, preparing students to contribute and compete ethically and successfully in a diverse global community.

## **Accreditation**

Palm Beach State College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the associate and baccalaureate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Palm Beach State College. The Commission should be contacted only if there is evidence that appears to support an institution's non-compliance with an accreditation requirement or standard.

This handbook is provided as a supplement to the College Catalog. Should this document or the catalog not provide the information you require, please contact the appropriate department for assistance.

Upon request, this publication can be made available in alternative formats to persons with disabilities. Requests should be made prior to the need for access by calling College Disability Services at 561-868-3375 (V/TTY).

The procedures and guidelines stated herein are subject to change. The Palm Beach State District Board of Trustees policies shall supersede any regulations stated in this handbook.

**District Board of Trustees**

David H. Talley, Chairperson  
Carolyn L. Williams, Vice Chairperson  
William Berger  
John W. Dowd, III  
Wendy S. Link  
Laura E. Stevens, Student Trustee

**Non-Discrimination Policy**

Palm Beach State College is an equal opportunity institution. The College complies with all state and federal laws granting rights to applicants for employment or admission to the College. Palm Beach State College is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation. See page 14 for associated procedures for filing a complaint.

The following persons coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and with section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972:

**Admissions**

*Edward Mueller 561-868-3032*

**Disability Support Services/Access**

*Susan Lang 561-868-3375*

**Employment Access**

*Juanita Benjamin 561-868-3111*

**Facilities Access**

*John Wasukanis 561-868-3480*

**Sexual Harassment**

*Mareta Iosia-Sizemore 561-868-3842*

Students may access programs and services at these Palm Beach State College locations:

**Belle Glade**

1977 College Drive  
Belle Glade, FL 33430-3699  
561-996-7222

**Boca Raton**

3000 Saint Lucie Avenue  
Boca Raton, FL 33431-6490  
561-393-7222

**Lake Worth**

4200 Congress Avenue  
Lake Worth, FL 33461-4796  
561-967-7222

**Palm Beach Gardens**

3160 PGA Boulevard  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410-2893  
561-207-5000

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# College Administration Directory

## President

Dennis P. Gallon, Ph.D. 868-3500 AD210

## Vice Presidents

### Academic Affairs

Sharon A. Sass, Ph.D. 868-3147 AD207

### Administration and Business Services

Richard A. Becker 8683137 AD201

### Student Services & Enrollment Management

Peter Barbatis, Ed.D. 868-3142 AD204

Executive Assistant to the President, Erin McColskey 868-3139 AD202

General Counsel, Vacant 868-3143 AD203

## Academic Affairs

Dean, Baccalaureate Studies, Anita Kaplan, Ed.D. 868-4101 TE106

Dean, Curriculum, and Educational Technology  
Ginger Pedersen, Ed.D. 868-3892 TC420

## Student Services

College Registrar, Edward Mueller 868-3032 CS123

Director of Athletics, David Holstein, Ed.D. 868-3004 PE105

Director of College-wide Student Programs, Susan Lang 868-3375 BK110

Director of Financial Aid, Vacant 868-3390 CS112

Director of Recruitment and Dual Enrollment,  
Robin Johnson 868-3377 CS124

Director of TRiO & Outreach, Van Williams 868-3609 CRB105

Student Life Manager/Title IX Coordinator,  
Mareta Iosia-Sizemore 868-3842 TE101

# Palm Beach State at Belle Glade

## **Provost**

Holly Bennett, Ph.D.	993-1126	CRA104
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## **Educational Services**

Dean, Barry Moore, Ed.D.	993-1134	CRA105.2
Assistant Dean, Sheri Goldstein, Ph.D.	993-1156	CRB131.5

## **Student Services**

Campus Registrar, Gerri Romero	993-1121	CRA117
Academic/Career/Counseling Manager, Gwenette Royal	993-1182	CRA105.6
Disability Support Services Manager, John Pierson	993-1139	CRA106.0
Financial Aid Manager, Ruth Ann Guerra	993-1133	CRA105.7
Student Activities Manager, Leonard Earl Bryant	993-1169	CR105.4
Testing Services Manager, John Pierson	993-1125	CRA106
Wellness Center Coordinator, Leonard Earl Bryant	993-1169	CRB 131.4

## **Business Services**

Bookstore	993-1173	CRB128
Cashier	993-1132	CRA116



# Palm Beach State at Boca Raton

## **Provost**

Bernadette Russell, Ph.D. 862-4400 AD409

## **Academic Affairs**

Dean, Michael Foster, Ph.D. 862-4410 AD407

## **Student Services**

Dean, Nicole P. Banks 862-4311 AD149  
Campus Registrar, Paula Souza 862-4340 AD133  
Academic Advisement Manager, Dawn Debuwitz 862-4375 AD151  
Career Center Manager, Courtney Trzcinski 862-4355 BT125  
Disability Support Services Manager, Jean Sether 862-4316 AD144  
Financial Aid Manager, Vacant 862-4330 AD147  
Student Activities Manager, J. Marc Davis 862-4396 AD126  
Testing Center Manager, Donna Marquardt 862-4321 BT127.2  
Wellness Center Coordinator, Laura Henry 862-4571 BT145

## **Business Services**

Bookstore 862-4360 BK100  
Cashier 862-4611 AD156

## **College-Wide Recruitment**

Sharon Simmons 862-4335 AD135

# Palm Beach State at Lake Worth

## **Provost**

Maria M. Vallejo, Ph.D.	868-3400	CRA100
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## **Academic Affairs**

Dean, Irving Berkowitz, Ph.D.	868-3218	CE104
Dean, Health Sciences and Public Safety, Jacqueline Rogers	868-3414	ETA150
Dean, Business Trade and Industry, Patricia Richie	868-3117	ETA141

## **Student Services**

Dean, Penny McIsaac	868-3055	PG105
Assistant Dean, Vacant	868-3055	PG104
Campus Registrar, David Garwood	868-3305	PG101
Academic Advisement Manager, Kathleen Karran-McCoy, Ed.D.	868-3020	CT109
Career Center Manager, Gail Tomei	868-3049	CT106
Disability Support Services Manager, Jeledia Kirk	868-3046	CT109
Financial Aid Manager, Amy Shepard	868-3568	PG115
Student Activities Manager, Olivia Morris-Ford	868-3010	BK109
Testing Services Manager, Karline Prophete	868-3017	CT127
Wellness Center Coordinator, Lyn Becker	868-3366	FT102
Workforce Services Manager, Jane Hardell	868-3557	ETA132

## **Business Services**

Bookstore	868-3282	BK101
Cashier	868-3250	FN111

# Palm Beach State at Palm Beach Gardens

## **Provost**

Jean Wihbey, Ph.D. 207-5400 AD200

## **Academic Affairs**

Dean, Edward W. Willey 207-5410 AD205

## **Student Services**

Dean, Scott MacLachlan 207-5325 AD111  
Campus Registrar, Ronnie Malave 207-5305 AD107  
Academic Advisement Manager, Vacant 207-5341 BR122  
Career Center Manager, Tracy Joinson 207-5351 BR127  
Disabled Support Services Manager, Ken Swain 207-5345 BR131  
Financial Aid Manager, Felicia Phair 207-5331 AD102  
Intramurals, Vacant 207-5051 AA104  
Student Activities Manager, Angela Allen 207-5355 BR141  
Testing Center Manager, Diane Cotignola 207-5360 BR137  
Wellness Center Coordinator, Lindsey Swann 207-5098 SC118

## **Business Services**

Bookstore 207-5660 BR101  
Cashier 207-5610 AD122

## **College-wide Recruitment**

Thomas Ferazzoli 207-5335 AD106

# Web Addresses

**Academic Affairs**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/AcademicAffairs](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/AcademicAffairs)

**Academic Calendar**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/AcademicCalendar](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/AcademicCalendar)

**Admissions**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Admissions](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Admissions)

**Advising**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Advising](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Advising)

**Athletics**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Athletics](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Athletics)

**Blackboard**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/eLearning](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/eLearning)

**Bookstore**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Bookstore](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Bookstore)

**Campus Life**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/campuslife](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/campuslife)

**Campus Locations**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Locations](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Locations)

**Career Center**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Career](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Career)

**Cashier's Office**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/finance/offices/student-account-services/Cashiers-Office.aspx](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/finance/offices/student-account-services/Cashiers-Office.aspx)

**Catalog**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Catalog](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Catalog)

**Contact Us**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/ContactUs](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/ContactUs)

**Continuing Education**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/CCE](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/CCE)

**Counseling Center**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/CounselingCenter](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/CounselingCenter)

**Course Descriptions**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/CourseDescriptions](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/CourseDescriptions)

**Current/Returning Students**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Current](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Current)

**Disability Services**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Disability](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Disability)

**Distance Learning**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/eLearning](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/eLearning)

**Dual Enrollment**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/DualEnroll](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/DualEnroll)

**Email Information**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/helpdesk/Student-Email-FAQ.aspx](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/helpdesk/Student-Email-FAQ.aspx)

**Emergency Alert**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Alert](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Alert)

**Events Calendar**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/CollegeEvents](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/CollegeEvents)

**Financial Aid**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/FinancialAid](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/FinancialAid)

**Graduation**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Graduation](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Graduation)

**Global Education Center**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/GlobalEducation](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/GlobalEducation)

**Honors**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Honors](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Honors)

**Hours - Student Services**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/StudentServices](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/StudentServices)

**International Students**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/International](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/International)

**Library**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Library](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Library)

**Outreach and Recruitment**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/OutreachTrio](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/OutreachTrio)

**PantherCard**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Panthercard](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Panthercard)

**PantherWeb**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/PantherWeb](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/PantherWeb)

**Parking**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/security/Traffic-and-Parking](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/security/Traffic-and-Parking)

**People Finder**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/PeopleFinder](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/PeopleFinder)

**Program Areas**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/AreasofStudy](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/AreasofStudy)

**Prospective Students**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/ProspectiveStudent](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/ProspectiveStudent)

**Registration**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/admissions/HowtoRegister.aspx](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/admissions/HowtoRegister.aspx)

**Residency**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/admissions/florida-residency-for-tuition-purposes-guidelines.aspx](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/admissions/florida-residency-for-tuition-purposes-guidelines.aspx)

**Safety**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Safety](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Safety)

**Scholarships**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/foundation/student-scholarships](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/foundation/student-scholarships)

**Security**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Security](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Security)

**Student Activities**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/studentactivities](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/studentactivities)

**Student Learning Centers**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/SLC](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/SLC)

**Student Updates**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/StudentUpdates](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/StudentUpdates)

**Testing Center**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Testing](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Testing)

**Transcripts, Records, Grades**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/admissions/transcript-request.aspx](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/admissions/transcript-request.aspx)

**Transfer Agreements**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/Transfer](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Transfer)

**Tuition and Fees**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/finance/offices/student-account-services/tuition-fees.aspx](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/finance/offices/student-account-services/tuition-fees.aspx)

**Veteran Affairs**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/VeteransServices](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/VeteransServices)

**Wellness Center**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/WellnessCenter](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/WellnessCenter)

**Wireless Locations (PAW)**

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/PAW](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/PAW)

# Contacts for Resolving Student Problems

Palm Beach State College recognizes that sometimes a student feels unfairly treated or would like further clarification of a rule or policy. Students are invited to request clarification, or register a complaint. They are, however, asked to follow the path described below.

If the appropriate contact is not immediately available, students should make an appointment with that contact rather than continuing to the next level. Problems continuing to the second level require a written explanation using the Student Problem Resolution Form found at PantherWeb. (Click on "Information," "Student Problem Resolution Form.") The Student Problem Resolution should only be used when you have already interacted with an office about a problem and cannot get resolution. Please speak with appropriate campus personnel or use Live Chat before completing this form.

ISSUE	FIRST CONTACT
Academic/Instruction	Supervising Associate Dean
Admissions Application	Campus Registrar
Advising	Campus Advising Manager
Athletics	Coach
Bachelor's Degree	Academic Advisor
Bookstore	Campus Bookstore Manager
Cashier	Cashier Supervisor
Class Availability	Academic Program Associate Dean
Discrimination between students	Campus Dean of Students
Discrimination of student by employee	Campus Dean of Students
Entry Testing	Campus Testing Manager
Financial Aid	Campus Financial Aid Manager
Florida Residency	Campus Registrar
Graduation	Graduation Office, Lake Worth
Harassment between students	Campus Dean of Students
Harassment of student by employee	Campus Dean of Students *
International Admissions	International Student Office, Lake Worth
Library	Campus Director of Library/Learning Resources
Limited Access Admissions	Limited Access Office on campus where program is located
Lost and Found	Campus Security Office
New Student Orientation	Campus Manager of Academic Advising
Not on Class Roster	Campus Registrar
Parking Ticket	Campus Security Supervisor
Refund Requests	Campus Registrar
Registration	Campus Registrar
Security	Campus Security Supervisor
Student Financial Accounts	Campus Cashier
Student Activities	Campus Manager of Student Activities
Students with Disabilities	Campus Manager of Disabilities Services
Transcripts	Campus Registrar
Veterans	Campus Financial Aid Manager
Wellness Center	Wellness Center Coordinator

\*Please Note: All complaints of harassment or discrimination of a student by an employee must be forwarded to the executive director of human resources or the manager of employment/assistant to the President for equity programs. These complaints may or may not be presented in writing, as the Office of Human Resources will formally document all such complaints.

# Academic Policies

Students are advised to read the syllabus for the course to better understand the faculty member's policies regarding such matters as attendance, absences, grading and examinations.

## Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled classes. For eLearning classes, students are expected to regularly log in to access the class website and participate in the course according to the schedule of events outlined by the faculty/instructor. Any class session or activity missed, regardless of cause, reduces the opportunity for learning and may adversely affect a student's achievement in the course.

Specific attendance and grading requirements for each course are stated in the respective course syllabus. These requirements may vary from course to course, and it is the student's responsibility to read and adhere to the attendance policies set forth by each class faculty/instructor. Students must read and adhere to the course syllabus requirements regarding class absences and examinations. Students should seek any needed clarification from the class faculty/instructor. The College policy of reinstating students for financial aid reasons or for having been dropped due to College error supersedes individual faculty/instructor's attendance policies.

Students, when officially representing the College, such as on a field trip, shall not be counted absent, provided their faculty/instructors are given prior notification and any missed assignments are subsequently completed to each faculty/instructor's satisfaction. Students will be granted excused absences in the case of a substantiated emergency such as a confining illness, a serious accident, the death of an immediate relative, or a religious observance. (See religious observances, page 23.) Faculty/instructors decide on the validity of the excuses and provide opportunities for students to complete any required makeup work. Students are responsible for immediately informing their faculty/instructors when they must miss class sessions for emergencies.

## Standards of Academic Progress

### **Good Academic Status**

Students who are not on academic probation or dismissal from the college are considered in good academic status.

### **Academic Probation**

Students in credit programs must maintain a cumulative grade point average\* (CGPA) of:

- 1.4 or better for 1-14 semester hours attempted
- 1.6 or better for 15-27 semester hours attempted
- 1.8 or better for 28-45 semester hours attempted
- 2.0 or better for over 45 semester hours attempted.

\*The college administration will continually assess the impact of the academic progression policy and make adjustments as necessary to the academic probation grade point average table above. It is anticipated that the cumulative grade point average to remain in good academic standing will increase in the future. Therefore, it is imperative that students meet with an academic advisor on a regular basis to discuss academic success issues and support services and carefully plan their academic program.

Probation will be continued as long as the student fails to achieve the standard CGPA for the number of hours attempted (see table above). Probation will be calculated at the end of each term. Transfer students whose CGPA does not meet the standard for good academic status will enroll on academic probation. Any student on academic probation will be limited in course load to a maximum of 12 semester hours during the fall, spring and summer terms and must maintain a 2.0 term GPA or achieve good academic status.

Students on academic probation are required to meet with an academic advisor prior to registering for subsequent terms. Academic advisors are authorized to limit the number of hours and types of



courses taken by students on academic probation. Academic probation is noted on the student's permanent record.

### **Academic Suspension**

Academic suspension is the first involuntary separation. Academic suspension results from a student's failure, while on academic probation, to regain good academic standing or achieve a minimum 2.0 term grade point average (GPA). Suspension requires the student to stay out of school for one semester to reflect on his/her academic goals and level of commitment to education. Academic suspension is noted on the student's permanent record. Students readmitted after an academic suspension will be on academic probation and must meet with an academic advisor prior to registering for classes.

### **Academic Dismissal**

Academic dismissal is a subsequent involuntary separation imposed upon a student who, having been previously suspended from the College and readmitted, fails to regain good academic status or achieve a minimum 2.0 term grade point average (GPA). After one calendar year, students on academic dismissal are eligible to appeal for readmission to the College-wide Appeals Committee. Academic dismissal is noted on the student's permanent record. An appeal for readmission is not automatic, and the decision of the committee is final.

#### **Notes:**

1. Students on academic suspension or dismissal are eligible to enroll in PSAV or avocational courses.
2. Financial Aid Standards of Progress are different from these standards and are listed in the Financial Information section of this Handbook.
3. Students attending Palm Beach State as "Transient Students" (see Catalog for full definition) are not subject to Standards of Academic Progress policy, but must adhere to the Code of Conduct and Disciplinary regulations.

## **Non-Degree Status**

Students who have been admitted for credit course work may classify themselves as non-degree seeking (credits will be granted for completed courses). The non-degree status may be used only in those cases where it is not necessary for the student's previous academic records to be on file. The non-degree status shall not be used with degree-seeking, certificate-seeking students, students seeking any type of financial aid (Social Security, veteran benefits, federal grants, etc.), or by international students on an F1/M1 visa. Non-degree-seeking students are not eligible for financial aid. Non-degree-seeking students may be required to submit placement scores in order to register for certain courses. Please see the Course Listing section of the College Catalog or speak with an academic advisor.

Students are required to declare a degree status prior to beginning their 22nd hour of enrollment. Students with an A.A., A.S., A.A.S., or higher degree are exempt from the 21-hour requirement provided they show proof of previous degree. Students wishing to appeal the 21-hour non-degree-seeking requirement must speak with their campus registrar.

## **Requests for Copies of Records**

Students may make an appointment to view their student record in the Campus Registrar's Office. In the event the student does not live within driving distance of the College, or extenuating circumstances exist, students may request copies of their records through written requests to the College Registrar. The request must specify the types of records to be copied. The registrar will comply with a request for a meeting and/or copies in a reasonable timeframe depending upon the complexity of the records requested and the time during the term in which the request is received. In no case will the registrar take more than 30 days to comply with a request for records. Students will pay a fee of 50 cents per page for any copies of their records.

Requests for records or serving of subpoenas should be made to the College Registrar's Office located on the Lake Worth Campus. Subpoenas of student records must be issued by a court of competent jurisdiction and specify the type of records being requested. A fee of \$35 will be charged per subpoena. Those requesting records by subpoena must allow sufficient time, defined as 10 business days, for the affected student to be notified prior to the issuance of records.

## Fourth-Attempt Override Appeal Procedure

Students who fail to pass a course after three attempts may request an override to take the course a fourth time, based on illness or some other emergency beyond the student's control that prevented the student from successfully completing the subject area within three attempts. Each request must be accompanied by appropriate documentation of the condition on which the request is made. The request should be made to the campus dean of student services, who will confer with the appropriate academic affairs manager. Palm Beach State does not permit fifth attempts, and this may not be appealed.

## 100 Percent Payment of the Full Cost of Instruction

Students will be assessed the full cost of instruction (equivalent to out-of-state tuition), for the third and fourth attempts of a college credit or college preparatory course. This rule impacts only those students whose fee assessment is based on in-state residency. Students may not withdraw from the third or fourth attempt in any course.

### **Appeal of the 100 Percent Payment of Full Cost of Instruction**

Students who fail or withdraw from a course two times due to extenuating circumstances and wish to reenroll in the course may appeal the 100 percent payment rule to the campus registrar for the third attempt and to the Campus Dean of Student Services for the fourth and final attempt. Appeals must include copies of supporting documentation and completion of the form available in the Registrar's office. The Campus Registrar shall determine the validity of the circumstances of the appeal and grant an exception only once for each class, if merited. All appeals will be considered on an individual basis. Extenuating circumstances are those determined by the College to be exceptional and beyond the control of the student, which may include, but are not limited to:

- documented serious illness
- documented medical condition preventing completion
- death of an immediate family member (father, mother, sister, brother)
- involuntary call to active military duty
- documented change in conditions of employment
- other emergency circumstances or extraordinary situations, such as national disasters
- documented financial hardship (criteria for determining financial hardship shall include, but not be limited to, qualifications for federal need-based financial aid.)

## Late Withdrawal/Add Requests

All add requests submitted after the end of the drop/add period and prior to the end of the academic term should be submitted by the campus registrar or campus coordinator of financial aid to the dean of student services/educational services for resolution. These requests must be based on documentable College error. The dean of student services/educational services will confer with the dean of academic affairs as necessary.

All withdrawal requests during the withdrawal period can be submitted online at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/PantherWeb](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/PantherWeb) or in writing to the admissions office. All audits must be submitted in writing to the admissions office prior to the end of the add/drop period for the requested class audit.

All withdrawal/audit requests submitted after the end of the withdrawal/audit period should be submitted to the vice president of student services and enrollment management, with the campus registrar's recommendation, for review by the College-wide Appeals Committee.

## Reinstatement

Reinstatement requests submitted after the ending of the academic term are referred to the dean of student services/educational services, with the campus registrar's and academic dean's recommendation, for review.

# Health-Related Leave Policy

College can be stressful for many students. Some students are able to adequately cope with stress, while others may find that it becomes unmanageable and interferes with learning. In a few instances, stress may affect a student's physical or emotional condition interfering with the student's learning; this has the tendency to result in significant risk of harm to the health and safety of the student or others or may even disrupt the learning of others. When one or more of these situations happens, a student may not know that the College is here to offer guidance and assistance in supporting the student in making an appropriate decision, for the College and the student, in seeking a health-related leave or withdrawal from the College.

## I. Voluntary Health-Related Withdrawal

A voluntary health-related withdrawal may be initiated by any student with a serious health problem who, in the opinion of the attending physician or therapist, cannot complete coursework. All such requests will be reviewed and approved by the campus registrar. To return to the College, the student must present evidence that the health problem no longer interferes with the successful completion of college coursework.

- A. To request a voluntary health-related withdrawal, a student must withdraw from all courses for the semester, notify the campus registrar in writing and submit a refund request form (if the withdrawal is prior to mid-term) available at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/admissions/Forms.aspx](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/admissions/Forms.aspx).
- B. The completed form must be submitted to the campus registrar, who will notify the campus dean of student services/educational services.
- C. A student will be eligible to apply for a voluntary health-related withdrawal if a health-related condition has disrupted his/her coursework as documented by an appropriate health care professional. When requesting leave, the student must provide appropriate supporting documentation.
- D. To re-enroll in the College, a student must present evidence to the campus dean of student services/educational services that the health problem no longer interferes with the successful completion of college coursework and/or the student's ability to appropriately participate in and benefit from the college learning environment.
- E. In most cases, at least one full academic semester must have passed before readmission from health-related withdrawal can be considered.

## II. Involuntary Health-Related Leave of Absence

An involuntary health-related leave of absence may occur only in extraordinary circumstances, when a student is unable or unwilling to request a voluntary leave of absence, and such a leave may be necessary because the student poses a significant threat to the safety of others or where the student's behavior disrupts the College's learning environment. Before an involuntary leave is considered, the College will take all efforts to encourage the student to take a voluntary leave, thus preserving, to the extent possible, confidentiality and privacy.

A student may be placed on involuntary health leave of absence for the following reasons:

### A. Medical Condition

1. When a faculty/instructor or staff member has reason to believe that a student may have a health situation, physical or mental, that poses a significant risk of causing substantial harm to the health or safety of the student or others, or has seriously disrupted others in the academic environments; and
2. Either the student's threatening or disruptive behavior is determined to be the result of a medical condition or the student has refused to cooperate with efforts by the College's Counseling Center to determine the cause of the behavior and appropriate intervention.

## B. Risk to the Community

The student is alleged to have violated the student code of conduct and presence on campus poses significant risk to the safety of others or to the educational environment of the community.

### A. Procedure for Involuntary Health-Related Leave of Absence

1. The College faculty/instructor or staff member must make a written referral to the dean of students/educational services setting forth the student's name and describing the student's behavior in order to assist the dean of students/educational services in deciding upon a course of action.
2. The dean of students will meet with the person making the referral and consult with the appropriate College staff. The dean of students/educational services will forward the referral and any additional information to the provost and the vice president for student services and enrollment management.
3. The dean of student services/educational services or a designee will notify the student that an involuntary leave is under consideration.
4. The dean of student services/educational services or a designee will discuss with the student the implications of and procedures relating to an involuntary health-related leave of absence. A copy of this policy will be provided to the student.
5. The dean of student services/educational services or a designee will confer as soon as feasible, but not later than two days, with the following individuals or their designees (or the campus behavioral intervention team) regarding the need for a leave of absence:
  - a) Appropriate academic dean (person in charge of the program in which the student is enrolled)
  - b) College-wide student programs director
  - c) Academic program staff as appropriate
  - d) Director of security
  - e) College-wide Counseling Center coordinator/counselor
  - f) Others as appropriate
6. During these consultations, these individuals will pay particular attention to the criteria for invoking an involuntary leave, specifically whether the student poses a direct threat to the safety of that student and/or others, or whether the student's behavior disrupts the College's learning environment.
7. The dean of student services/educational services or a designee may require a psychological or physical evaluation or request documentation from the student's physician or therapist if he or she believes it will facilitate a more informed decision.
8. Following these consultations, the dean of student services/educational services or a designee will make a decision regarding the involuntary leave of absence, and must provide written notice of this decision to the student.
9. Within five days of receiving the decision, the student may submit an appeal of the decision in writing to the provost. The provost will only hear appeals that involve relevant information not available to the dean of student services/educational services. After reviewing the matter fully, the provost or designee will issue a written decision, which shall be final.

### B. If Involuntary Health-Related Leave Is Imposed:

The dean of student services/educational services or a designee will inform the student, along with the notice of the decision, as to the steps that must be taken when the student wishes to re-enroll. The dean of student services/educational services will administratively withdraw the student from all courses for the semester and place a disciplinary hold on the

student's record. The duration of the leave will be determined based on the individual circumstances but will not be less than one full semester.

### C. If Involuntary Health-Related Leave Is Not Imposed:

The dean of student services/educational services or a designee may consider other conditions and/or requirements under which the student's ability to remain at the College might be appropriate. This could include referral to the campus disciplinary process.

### D. Request for Re-enrollment:

A student may request re-enrollment in the College by submitting a written request to the dean of student services/educational services, along with any appropriate supporting documentation that the circumstances that led to the leave have been satisfactorily addressed. The student should describe his or her activities during the leave and the steps taken to resolve the health-related issue. The request must contain a letter from the treating physician/psychiatrist or health care professional. The request should be submitted no earlier than two months in advance of the date the student wishes to re-enroll. The request will be reviewed by the dean of student services/educational services, who, with the provost, must approve the re-enrollment.

## Withdrawal from College after Completion of the Term

Students who request a withdrawal from College for medical or other special reasons after the term is completed shall submit a written request to the campus registrar. The request must be accompanied by appropriate documentation of the condition on which the request is based. The College-wide Appeals Committee will consider the request and make a recommendation for the vice president of student services and enrollment management's approval and action. Students who are granted a withdrawal from College through this process shall receive a "W" in their classes and shall not be eligible for a refund of fees unless a College error or responsibility is involved. Please note that requests will not be granted beyond one calendar year from the semester in question. Students who are granted a withdrawal from College through this process shall receive a "W" in their classes and shall not be eligible for a refund of fees unless a College error or responsibility is involved. **Please note that requests will not be granted beyond one calendar year from the semester in question.**

# Student Appeals

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Academic Progress

***How can I appeal being suspended (stay out of school for one semester) from the College?***

*Type of Appeal: Academic suspension appeal...see page 16*  
*Whom should I talk to first? Academic advisor*

***How can I appeal being dismissed from the College?***

*Type of Appeal: Academic dismissal appeal...see page 16*  
*Whom should I talk to first? Director of college-wide student programs*

### Multiple Course Attempt Appeals

***How can I appeal having to pay 100% cost of instruction to take a course a third time?***

*Type of Appeal: Third attempt appeal...see page 17*  
*Whom should I talk to first? Campus registrar*

***Can I repeat a course for a fourth time?***

*Type of Appeal: Fourth attempt appeal...see page 17*  
*Whom should I talk to first? Campus dean of student services/educational services*

***Can I appeal having to pay 100% cost of instruction to repeat a course a fourth time?***

*Type of Appeal: Fourth attempt appeal...see page 17*  
*Whom should I talk to first? Campus Registrar*

### Withdrawals and Refunds

***Can I withdraw from a class after the published deadline to withdraw?***

*Type of Appeal: Late withdrawal appeal...see page 17*  
*Whom should I talk to first? Campus registrar*

***Can I get my money back if I withdraw from a class during the term?***

*Type of Appeal: Refund appeal...see page 42*  
*Whom should I talk to first? Campus registrar*

***Can I change my registration in a course to audit, and not take tests or get a grade, after add/drop?***

*Type of Appeal: Change to audit appeal...see College Catalog*  
*Whom should I talk to first? Campus registrar*

### Course-Related Appeals

***Can I add a class after the end of add/drop?***

*Type of Appeal: Late add or course transfer...see page 17*  
*Whom should I talk to first? Associate dean over academic area*

***What do I do if the college has made an error and dropped me from a course?***

*Type of Appeal: Reinstatement in a class...see page 17*  
*Whom should I talk to first? Campus dean of student services/educational services*

**Can I register for a class after the term has ended if I attended and earned a grade, but forgot to register?**

Type of Appeal: **Course reinstatement after end of term...see page 17**

Whom should I talk to first? **Campus registrar**

**What can I do if my faculty/instructor is not allowing me to observe my religious holidays?**

Type of Appeal: **Denial of religious observance...see page 23**

Whom should I talk to first? **Associate dean over faculty/instructor**

**My faculty/instructor is accusing me of cheating; what can I do to appeal?**

Type of Appeal: **Appeal charge of academic integrity...see page 33**

Whom should I talk to first? **Faculty/instructor**

**What can I do to appeal a final course grade that I believe is inaccurate?**

Type of Appeal: **Final Course Grade appeal...see page 26**

Whom should I talk to first? **Faculty/instructor**

**How can I complain about a classroom-related issue?**

Type of Appeal: **Academic complaint...see page 28**

Whom should I talk to first? **Faculty/instructor**

## Disciplinary Appeals

**How can I appeal a disciplinary action against me?**

Type of Appeal: **Disciplinary appeal...see page 38**

Whom should I talk to first? **Campus dean of student services/educational services**

## Other Appeals

**I think there is an error on my student transcript. How can I get it corrected?**

Type of Appeal: **Student Records Amendment Appeal...see page 23**

Whom should I talk to first? **College Registrar**

**I have been told I've lost my eligibility to receive financial aid. How can I appeal?**

Type of Appeal: **Loss of Financial Aid Eligibility Appeal...see page 45**

Whom should I talk to first? **Campus financial aid advisor**

**I have been denied Florida residency status my first semester. To whom can I appeal?**

Type of Appeal: **Initial Florida residency appeal**

Whom should I talk to first? **Campus registrar**

**I have been denied a change from out-of-state to in-state residency. What can I do to appeal?**

Type of Appeal: **Request to change residency for tuition purposes.**

Whom should I talk to first? **College registrar**

**I believe I am being sexually harassed by another student or employee. Whom do I contact?**

Type of Appeal: **Sexual Harassment...see page 39-41**

Whom should I talk to first? **Campus dean of student services/educational services**

**I believe I've been discriminated against in the admissions process.**

Type of Appeal: **Admissions...see page 38**

Whom should I talk to first? **Campus registrar**

# Student Rights

## I. INTRODUCTION

The students, faculty/instructors and staff of Palm Beach State College constitute an academic community committed to the preservation, communication and discovery of knowledge, as stated in the College's mission statement located in the College Catalog, and to the active pursuit of truth. Consistent with this purpose, the College acknowledges the obligation to afford each student the opportunity to develop his or her educational potential while retaining free exercise of rights and freedoms as a citizen or resident of the United States. The only restriction placed upon any right will be in order to ensure equality of opportunity to all students and the attendant requirement of orderly operation of the educational processes including adherence to academic honesty and the health, safety and welfare of all persons within the College community. Each person within this community will assume the obligation of self-conduct to act in a manner consistent with a respect for the right of others and with the College's function as an education institution that encourages diversity of thought, expression, participation and enrollment.

## II. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Students with disabilities enjoy all of the same rights and privileges as all other students as delineated herein below and, additionally, have the rights as prescribed by federal law specifically under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to reasonable accommodations for purpose of the learning environment and right to privacy as to information that relates to a disability. Such information shall only be immediately accessed by the support services staff. Students who apply for services from the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) will be fully informed as to how this information will be used. The use of information will be limited to only that which is needed, usually to assure that the College provides reasonable accommodation to the student. If a student elects to have persons other than the DSS staff receive the information, such request must be in writing and signed by the student or the student's legal representative.

## III. FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

Under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, as amended in 1993, 2008, and 2011, students have a right to be notified annually as to the rights of maintenance of and access to students' records that include: academic records, admission records, disciplinary records, placement file and financial aid records.

The College abides by federal and state regulations regarding the privacy of student records and complies with the laws regarding access procedures. Complete information regarding student records, retention, and access is listed in the College Catalog.

### **Student Records Amendment Appeal Process:**

If a student believes there is an error in the permanent record, the student should contact the College Registrar's Office in Lake Worth to arrange a hearing. A hearing will be conducted according to FERPA.

The hearing will be within a reasonable period of time after the request is received.

The student shall be given notice of date, place and time reasonably in advance.

The College Registrar shall make a written decision within a reasonable period of time after the hearing. The written decision and summary shall be based on evidence presented and reasons for the decision.

## IV. RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

Students have the right to reasonable accommodation in admission, class attendance, scheduling of examinations and work assignments in regard to religious observances, practices and beliefs of individual students, as required by Florida law. Students must make arrangements in writing with faculty/instructors and other appropriate College personnel at least one week prior to an anticipated religious observance for holidays not recognized on the academic calendar and that come within the accommodation requirement. A student who is denied accommodation may appeal in writing to the associate dean or supervisor over the faculty/instructor or staff member who denied the request



within 10 class days from the time of the denial. If the student is not satisfied with the determination at this level, an appeal may be made to the next level of academic management. To expedite the process, the maximum time period between all appeals and responses will be 10 class days.

The student may appeal to the dean of academic affairs for a committee hearing if the student is not satisfied with the results of the preceding steps. The committee, to be appointed by the campus provost, will hear the facts and provide a recommendation to the provost, whose decision on the matter shall be final.

## V. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The College encourages an intellectual environment whereby the creative efforts and innovations of its students can be encouraged and rewarded. The College, therefore, does not claim ownership rights to the intellectual property created by students in the scope of their attendance except where the student has utilized substantial resources of the College in the development of the work beyond those resources commonly provided to students for production of publications or class projects.

Intellectual property is meant to include both traditional forms of intellectual property such as student publications, class project outcomes and student papers, as well as non-traditional intellectual property such as CD-ROMS, computer programs, TV courseware or other electronically recorded materials. All such intellectual property remains the property of the authoring student. However, the College retains an interest in said property by virtue of the College's assistance and support for its development, production and dissemination and, therefore, shall have reasonable access to and use of the intellectual property for such purposes as student evaluation and reproduction in exercising its administrative duties. Students generally have the right to give their consent for the College to use student-created or originated intellectual property.

## VI. OTHER RIGHTS

Students have all of the rights otherwise preserved under the United States Constitution and Constitution of the State of Florida, which rights include:

- A. The right to educational programs that meet the learning outcomes of the class syllabus, to teaching consistent with those learning outcomes and to a learning environment that encourages the students' engagement with their education.
- B. The right to be informed by the faculty/instructor near the beginning of each semester/course regarding requirements, evaluation procedures and evaluation criteria to be used, and the right to expect that those criteria be employed.
- C. The right to take reasonable exception to the data and views offered in any course of study; the students are, however, responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled.
- D. The right to be evaluated based solely on relevant academic criteria.
- E. The right to request and receive timely assessment of their academic work by the faculty/instructor teaching the course.
- F. The right to request and receive a reasonable and timely review of their grades by the faculty/instructor teaching the course.
- G. The right to be informed of the correct procedures to apply for financial aid, attendance policy, types of aid available, how financial need is determined, criteria for awarding aid and how academic progress is determined and what has to be done to continue receiving financial aid.
- H. The right to information under the Federal Campus Security Act (The Clery Act) regarding annual disclosure of campus crime statistics and other security information.
- I. Upon separation from the College, students have the right to request their discipline record be expunged. This request should be made in writing to the campus dean of student services, where the record is maintained.
- J. Students have the right to file a grievance according to the procedures identified below:

**Academic:** Refer to page 28, Item B: Academic Complaint Procedure.

**Discrimination:** Refer to pages 39-41, Section XI, Items B, C and D.

- K. Students have the right to information about retention and completion in each of the academic programs. This information is available at the popular Web site, College Navigator, the National Center for Education Statistics, <http://nces.ed.gov/>. The availability of this information satisfies the federal disclosure requirement for this information.
- L. A student who is the alleged victim of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense has the right, upon written request, to the results of any disciplinary hearing against the student who is the alleged perpetrator of the crime or offense. If the alleged victim is deceased as a result of the crime or offense, Palm Beach State will provide results of the disciplinary hearing to the victim's next of kin, if so requested.

# Student Responsibilities

## I. INTRODUCTION

Palm Beach State College, as an educational institution, has interests and purposes, the protection and promotion of which are essential to its effective functioning. These include (1) maintenance of the opportunity for students to attain their educational objectives; (2) the creation and maintenance of a stimulating, intellectual and educational atmosphere free of intimidation throughout the College; (3) protection of the health, safety, welfare, property, and human rights of all members of the College; and (4) protection of property of the College. The College has responsibility in the area of student conduct to protect and promote the pursuit of its goals as outlined above. The College's approach to student conduct emphasizes the College's obligation to foster independence, maturity and responsibility in students.

Students are expected to adhere to all federal, state and local laws, and, in addition, must abide by the rules and regulations of the College. A student violating the Code of Conduct will be subject to the College disciplinary processes. Criminal offenses may result in both criminal prosecution and referral to the College disciplinary procedure.

The goal of any established institution is to govern its members by fair and unobstructed measures of desired conduct. The governance includes activities students participate in through their academic work as well as their College-related social activities. Behavior that deviates from these measures will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures outlined in this handbook.

When students attend the College, they become subject to its jurisdiction. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner in all areas of campus life. By enrolling, they agree to obey the rules and regulations of the College and are responsible for observing all Board of Trustees' policies and procedures as published in the Student Handbook, College Catalog and other College publications. The College community considers the disciplinary procedures identified here to be secondary to modeling, counseling and guidance to promote civility and personal responsibility on campus.

## II. STUDENT ORGANIZATION CONDUCT

Student organizations are subject to provisions of the proscribed student conduct described herein. In the event of the commission of an act of proscribed conduct, a referral may be made to the office of the dean of student services/educational services by the person(s) witnessing the irregularity. Student organizations in violation of College policy may be subject to the maximum sanction of termination of recognition by the College and/or other appropriate lesser sanctions. Sanction, which may be taken against such organizations, includes notification of the action taken by the College to the state or national umbrella organization in existence.

For purposes of this document, in cases involving student organizations, the term "student organizations" should be substituted for reference to student offenses and related procedures.

## III. ACADEMIC ISSUES AND PROCEDURES

### A. Final Course Grade Appeal Process

#### **Philosophy of the Procedure**

The evaluation of academic work is the responsibility of the faculty member/instructor. The method for assigning the final course grade is established by the faculty member/instructor. Per Board Rule 6Hx-18-3.191, faculty/instructors shall communicate the grading policy of the course to their students in writing. If this policy changes during the term, students should be notified of any changes in writing. The method to determine final course grades must be given to students in a course syllabus at the beginning of the class.

The final course grade appeal is NOT to be used to review the judgment of a faculty member/instructor in assessing the quality of the student's work. Grounds for final grade appeals shall be evaluated in terms of the standards established by the faculty member/instructor as stated in the syllabus. Criteria for an appeal are:

- a) An error in the calculation of the grade, or
- b) The assignment of a grade was a substantial departure from the faculty member/instructor's previously printed standards in the syllabus.

## 1. Informal Appeal Process:

The informal appeal process must be initiated within 10 business days after the final course grade is assigned. If a student believes that he/she has not been graded appropriately, based upon the criteria set forth in the course syllabus, every attempt should be made by the student to informally resolve the grade issue with the faculty/instructor. Should the College no longer employ the faculty/instructor or the faculty/instructor is not on duty, then the student may initiate this process with the appropriate associate dean, assistant dean (Belle Glade) or dean of the bachelor's degree programs. Please note: Faculty/instructors are not required to retain student grades beyond one academic year.

### Steps for the Informal Appeal of Final Course Grade:

- a) The student should seek clarification from the faculty/instructor regarding any confusion or misunderstanding that the student may have about the grading of any assigned work before waiting for the end of the term and/or the final grade.
- b) If the student believes that he/she has not been graded according to the criteria set forth in the course syllabus for the final grade, the student must first discuss his/her concerns with the faculty/instructor. The student can do this either in writing or verbally.
- c) The faculty/instructor should respond to the student's concern by documenting in writing the substance of the student's concern and how it was resolved.
- d) If the student is dissatisfied with the faculty/instructor's resolution of the informal final course grade appeal, the student may appeal the faculty/instructor's decision to the appropriate associate dean, assistant dean (Belle Glade), or bachelor's degree programs dean. The associate dean, assistant dean (Belle Glade), or bachelor's degree programs dean should review the student's information, the faculty/instructor's written documentation, (if appropriate, consult with the program manager or department chair) and the reasons why the grade should stand in reaching a determination of the informal appeal. The associate dean, assistant dean (Belle Glade) or bachelor's degree programs dean is required to report his/her resolution of the informal appeal to the student by college email.
- e) If the student is dissatisfied with the associate dean's, assistant dean's (Belle Glade) or bachelor's degree programs dean's resolution of the informal appeal, the student has the option to make a formal appeal.

## 2. Formal Appeal Process of Final Course Grade

The Formal Final Course Appeal Process must be initiated no later than the 10 business days after classes begin in the following fall or spring term. The end result of the appeals process could result in a grade change (raised or lowered). Students must initiate the formal appeal process with a written statement. See steps below.

### Steps for the Formal Appeal:

**Step 1.** If the student is not satisfied with the outcome of the informal appeal process, the student may dispute the final course grade formally.

- a) The student must submit a written statement outlining the basis for the appeal along with the appropriate documentation. The student must submit the documentation to the faculty/instructor who issued the grade that is being appealed.
- b) If the faculty/instructor is no longer employed, the documentation may be given to the appropriate associate dean, assistant dean (Belle Glade) or the bachelor's degree programs dean, who will respond based upon the documentation on file with the department.

**Step 2.** Within five business days of receiving the student's written appeal, and after consideration of the student's appeal, the faculty/instructor must respond in writing to the student with a copy of the response forwarded to the immediate supervisor and appropriate associate dean, assistant dean (Belle Glade), or bachelor degree programs dean. The decision will be communicated to the student by the associate dean, assistant dean (Belle Glade) or bachelor's degree programs dean by college email.

**Step 3.** Within five business days after receiving the faculty/instructor's decision, the student may appeal in writing to the appropriate associate dean, assistant dean (Belle Glade), or bachelor's degree programs dean.

**Step 4.** If there is no new information presented by the student, the associate dean, assistant dean (Belle Glade), or bachelor's degree programs dean must inform the student that the faculty/instructor's grade stands. If the student has presented new information related solely to the grading criteria set forth in the syllabus, the student may appeal in writing to the appropriate academic dean, dean of educational services, or bachelor's degree programs, who is responsible for convening the Campus Final Course Grade Appeal Committee (Dean's Office).

**Step 5.** Within five business days after receiving the student's appeal, the chairperson will convene the Campus Final Course Grade Appeal Committee, which will be comprised of five members, of which three must be faculty/instructors. The student and/or faculty/instructor may appear before the committee. The chair of the Campus Final Course Grade Appeal Committee will notify the student of the hearing by College email and certified mail.

**Step 6.** The Campus Final Course Grade Appeal Committee will review all information and submit a written recommendation to the appropriate dean of academic affairs, dean of educational services or bachelor's degree programs.

**Step 7.** Within five business days after receiving the Final Course Grade Appeal Committee recommendation, the dean of academic affairs/educational services or bachelor's degree program or will notify the student and the faculty/instructor of the decision. Copies of the dean of academic affairs/educational services or bachelor's degree program's decision will also be sent to the appropriate associate dean, department chair, program manager, provost, and the Campus Final Course Grade Appeal Committee. The decision of the dean of academic affairs/educational services or bachelor's degree programs is final.

\*The dean of academic affairs/educational services or bachelor's degree programs may extend any of the timelines specified above if extenuating circumstances makes this necessary.

## Campus Final Course Grade Appeal Committee

Each campus and the bachelor's degree programs shall have a standing Final Course Grade Appeal Committee that is convened for one academic year. A chairperson is appointed and is responsible for convening the Final Course Grade Appeal Committee and sending out all formal communications.

**NOTE:** All Health Sciences or Public Safety program appeals are handled through a separate process. Please see the Health Sciences or Public Safety associate dean or program manager for more details.

## B. Academic Complaint Procedure

1. A student seeking to file a complaint regarding derogatory or other inappropriate behavior on the part of a faculty/instructor or staff member that does not involve academic dishonesty, grade appeal, or another disciplinary action shall:

- a) Attempt to resolve the situation with the faculty/instructor involved.
  - b) If resolution is not achieved, present the situation to the faculty/instructor's immediate supervisor, in writing, with a copy to the campus dean of student services.
  - c) If resolution is not achieved at this level, the student is entitled to pursue the complaint to the next highest administrator within the campus to which the faculty/instructor is assigned.
2. If the student's complaint involves a full-time faculty/instructor who is covered by a collective bargaining agreement with Palm Beach State College, reference must be made to that agreement for the purposes of following the proper procedures.

## IV. PUBLIC FORUM POLICY

Behavior that disrupts an event, intimidates or attempts to intimidate the speaker or performer, interferes with others' ability to benefit from the program or prevents the program from continuing will be subject to the following process. Disruptive activity must stop immediately upon request.

Silent and symbolic dissent may be permitted by the administration. However, the dissenter must not substantially interfere with the speaker's ability to communicate or the audience's ability to hear and see the speaker. It is also unacceptable for such dissent to interfere with the free flow of traffic into or out of the event or to interfere substantially with the speaker's communication. Silent or symbolic protest will be permitted outside the meeting room or area at a proximate location to be determined by the administration.

This policy applies to all levels of student participation whether attendance is voluntary or mandatory.

### A. Procedure Regarding a Student Disruption

**First Offense:** Student(s) will be asked to stop and refrain from continued behavior and warned that further disruption may result in removal.

**Second Offense:** Student(s) will be removed and privately warned that the disruptive behavior must cease in order to continue attendance or participation.

**Third Offense:** Student(s) will be permanently removed from the activity. A security report and referral to the dean of student services will be made. The dean will consider further disciplinary action according to the Student Code of Conduct and the existing College disciplinary process.

### B. Procedure Regarding Threatening or Violent Behavior

Security will contact the local law enforcement authority for action.

### C. Procedure Regarding a Non-Student Disruption

Offender will be asked to stop. Failure to stop will result in removal. Refusal to leave, violent or threatening behavior will result in local law enforcement being called.

## V. STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Each student must follow the Code of Conduct in this Handbook, and, additionally, students enrolled in the Ophthalmic Medical Technology, Criminal Justice, Firefighter, Criminal Justice Institute, Dental Hygiene, Dental Assisting, Registered Nursing, Practical Nursing, Patient Care Assisting, Surgical Technology, Medical Transcription, Medical Assisting, Medical Coding, Health Information Management, Paramedic, Emergency Medical Technician, Respiratory Care, Radiography, Diagnostic Medical Sonography or Massage Therapy programs shall also follow the applicable rules, regulations and Code of Conduct for the applicable program. The Dean of Student Services shall have the authority to initiate disciplinary actions for violations of any of the above programs' Code of Conduct.

Prohibited student conduct for the College Code of Conduct includes, but is not limited to, those listed in items A-X below. Any student who is found to have violated these acts while on campus or on property controlled by the College or its affiliates (e.g., clinical sites, volunteer sites, career placement sites, etc.) or in connection with any off-campus College activities or non-College related activity may be subject to the maximum penalty of expulsion or any other penalty authorized herein.

A student present during the commission of an act by another student, which constitutes a violation of College policy, may also be charged if the student's subsequent behavior constitutes support of the violation. Students witnessing any act(s) which constitute(s) a violation of College policy should report such incidents to a College official.

## A. Public Endangerment, Physical Harm, Assault, Threat or Extortion (as defined in Florida Criminal Code)

1. Actual or threatened physical assault or intentional or reckless injury or harm to persons, property or reputation.
2. Behavior or activities that endanger the safety of oneself or others, including, but not limited to, riding bicycles, skateboards or inline skates in hallways or on walkways.
3. Verbal, written or printed communication maliciously threatening to accuse another of any crime or offense.
4. Verbal or written communication that unlawfully exposes any individual or group to hatred, contempt or ridicule, and thereby injures the person, property or reputation of another.

## B. Disruption/Disorderly Conduct

1. Deliberate or persistent disruption, obstruction, intimidation or repeated interruption of the learning environment, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings or other College activities that has the purpose and effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the College's program or activity. This includes inappropriate use of cell phones, laptops or other electronic devices.
2. Disorderly, lewd, or obscene conduct or language on campus or at any College-sponsored or College-supervised activity. This includes the sending of harassing, lewd, or obscene messages that have the purpose and effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the College's program or activity.
3. Wearing styles or articles of clothing or accessories that cause disruption of the learning environment, or intimidation of others in the learning environment, or violate published classroom protocols of individual professors that have the purpose and effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the College's program or activity.
4. Disruption as set forth in §877.13, Florida Statutes.

## C. Failure to Obey Reasonable Order of College Official(s)

1. Failure to respond to a request by a College official (or contracted College affiliate) for identification when a student is suspected of violating a stated College policy, or is posing or has posed a threat to another person or themselves.
2. Failure to obey a written or verbal request/order by a College official.

## D. Falsification of Records

1. Misuse of College documents forging, transferring, altering or otherwise misusing a document receipt, other College identification, or any other College document or record.
2. Making false statements, including but not limited to, the application for admission to the College or College program(s), Financial Aid, petitions, requests, or other official College documents of records; forgery of "add" or "drop" processes or action on other College records or documents, whether by use of computer or other means of communication. **Falsification of application shall subject the student to immediate dismissal with no refund.**
3. Contracting in the name of Palm Beach State or claiming official representation of the College for any purpose.

## E. Violation of Prior Disciplinary Sanctions or Warnings

Violation of any of the restrictions, conditions or terms of a prior sanction that resulted from a prior disciplinary action.

## F. Theft/Damage of Property

1. Attempted or actual theft of and/or damage to property of College or property of a member of the College community or other personal or public property, including, but not limited to, the theft of textbooks or library books and parking decals. The sale of a stolen textbook or parking decal shall be considered a violation of the Code.
2. Check fraud
3. Possession or sale of stolen property.

## **G. Unauthorized Use of College Property or Unauthorized Presence**

1. Presence in an unauthorized area of a building or other unauthorized premises.
2. Use of College property or property of members of the College community or College affiliates without prior expressed approval by College personnel or in violation of any section of the Code.
3. Forcible entry into a building or other premises.
4. Fraudulent and/or unauthorized use of the College name, logo, seal, nickname, slogan or any registered service mark of the College.
5. Violation of an official College or campus restriction or trespass order or court order related to a student, faculty/instructor or member of the College community.

## **H. Gambling**

Gambling in any form as defined by the Florida statutes.

## **I. Possession of Alcohol, Narcotics and Illegal Drugs**

1. Possession, promotion, manufacture, distribution, sale, use, transfer, purchase or delivery of drugs (including drugs not prescribed for the user) or alcoholic beverages.
2. Possession of drug paraphernalia or any other item that could potentially contain or does contain illegal residue.
3. Public intoxication on campus or at a College-related site or activity.

## **J. Smoking**

1. Smoking in any enclosed facility or building on campus or in College vehicles or where otherwise posted.
2. Smoking in areas other than those specifically designated by the campus.
3. Smoking Policy Violation Citations will be issued to those smoking outside the designated areas. Violators will be required to attend an online Smoking Awareness course. Failure to complete the course successfully within two weeks of the issuance of a citation will result in a hold being placed on student records for registration and graduation. Repeat violations may result in disciplinary action.

## **K. Misuse of Emergency Equipment**

Tampering with fire and safety equipment, including failure to evacuate a College building or facility when a fire alarm is sounded.

## **L. Misuse of College Mail Services**

Inappropriate use of College mail or email services.

## **M. Duplication of Keys**

Unauthorized possession of or duplication of College keys.

## **N. Violation of Any Municipal, State or Federal Law, Rule or Mandate**

1. Violation, arrest or conviction of any municipal, state or federal law, rule or mandate.



2. Lewd, obscene, indecent conduct or expression as defined by Florida state statute.

## O. Possession of Weapons

Possession or use of firearms, fireworks, dangerous weapons or possession of chemicals on College property or at a College-sponsored activity without written authorization by an appropriate College official is expressly forbidden. Dangerous weapons may include, but are not limited to, knives, firearms, explosives, tasers, or any other item that may cause bodily injury or damage to an individual or property. Students in possession of a firearm on campus or at a College-sponsored activity will be automatically dismissed from the College. This policy specifically revokes an individual's right to store a firearm in a vehicle at any College location or at any College-sponsored activity, including in the parking area for the College or the activity.

## P. Illegal Use of a Campus Computer

1. Use for the violation of personal privacy or for the committing of crimes.
2. Unauthorized access to or use of computer, computer system, network, software or data.
3. Unauthorized alteration of computer equipment software, network or data.
4. Unauthorized duplications or use of computer programs or files.
5. Making unauthorized changes to a computer account or other deliberate action that disrupts the operation of computer systems serving other students or the College community generally.

## Q. Inappropriate Online Communication

Posting or transmitting threatening, harassing, vulgar, or pornographic content to any College chat rooms, bulletin boards, College-sanctioned social networking sites or e-mails. Posting or transmitting any unsolicited e-mail, advertisement, promotional materials or any other forms of solicitation to students.

## R. Sexual Harassment

1. Any unwelcomed conduct (verbal, nonverbal or physical) of a sexual nature that is sufficiently severe or pervasive that has the purpose and effect of denying or limiting a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the College's educational program or activity; or
2. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's status in a course, program, activity or work; or
3. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by a student is used as a basis for employment, academic and/or other educational decisions affecting a student; or
4. Sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment. Gender-based harassment, which may include acts of verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping, even if those acts do not involve conduct of a sexual nature, is prohibited if it has the purpose and effect of denying or limiting a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the College's educational program or activity.

## S. Stalking

Following or otherwise contacting another person repeatedly, so as to put that person in fear for his/her life or personal safety.

## T. Hazing

1. An action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization sanctioned by the College as an official College activity or organization.
2. The prohibition against hazing includes, but is not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual, and also includes any activity that would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct, which could result in extreme

embarrassment, or other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.

3. Florida Statutes, §1006.63, prohibits students from engaging in any form of hazing, either on or off campus.

## U. Academic Integrity

Academic misconduct including, but not limited to, unauthorized use of aids, cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty in the classroom or other college environments, as defined below:

### **Plagiarism**

Although difficult to define, plagiarism consists of taking the words or specific substance of another and either copying or paraphrasing the work without giving credit to the source. The following examples are only some of the many forms plagiarism may take:

1. Submitting a term paper, examination or other work written by someone else. This is a flagrant instance of plagiarism.
2. Failure to give credit in a footnote for ideas, statements of facts or conclusions derived by another.
3. Failure to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another person, whether it is a paragraph, a sentence or even a part thereof.
4. Close and extended paraphrasing of another.

### **Cheating**

Using unauthorized notes, study aids, or information from another student or student's paper on an in-class examination; altering a graded work after it has been returned, then submitting the work for regrading; and allowing another person to do one's work and to submit the work under one's own name.

### **Fabrication**

Presenting data in a piece of work that were not gathered in accordance with guidelines defining the appropriate methods for collecting or generating data and failing to include a substantially accurate account of the method by which the data were generated or collected.

### **Aiding and Abetting Dishonesty**

Providing material or information to another person with knowledge that these materials or information will be used improperly.

### **Forgery**

Altering documents affecting academic records; forging a signature of authorization or falsifying information on an official academic document, election form, grade report, letter of permission, petition, or any document designed to meet or exempt a student from an established College academic regulation.

## V. Fraud

Use of deception or misrepresentation for unlawful gain or unjust advantage over another person who is enrolled in the College, faculty, staff member, or in furtherance of a student's educational pursuits at the College or transfer to another College or educational institution.

## W. Interference with Disciplinary Proceedings

Noncompliance with the Student Disciplinary System, including, but not limited to:

1. Failure to appear before the Dean of Student Services, Discipline Committee, or other College officials when requested to do so.
2. Falsification, distortion, or misrepresentation of information during the course of the disciplinary process or before a Discipline Committee.
3. Disruption or interference with the orderly conduct of a disciplinary hearing.
4. Knowingly making false accusations of student misconduct without cause.
5. Attempting to discourage an individual's proper participation in, or use of, the student discipline system.

6. Attempting to influence the impartiality of a member of a Discipline Committee prior to, and/or during the course of, the disciplinary hearing.
7. Harassment (verbal or physical) and/or intimidation of a member of a Disciplinary Committee prior to, during, and/or after a disciplinary hearing.
8. Failure to comply with the sanction(s) imposed under the Student Code of Conduct.
9. Influencing or attempting to influence another person to commit an abuse of the student discipline system.

Note: Student cannot be compelled to attend or participate in a disciplinary hearing.

## X. Conspiracy

Conspiracy to commit a violation of any of the above, or aiding, abetting, assisting, hiring, soliciting or procuring another person to violate any of the above.

# VI. STUDENT DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM

## A. Philosophy

Palm Beach State College is committed to providing a learning environment that supports the growth and development of all students. An orderly, positive and intellectually stimulating environment that fosters fair and ethical behavior of students is essential to our mission. This disciplinary process is designed to foster learning, personal growth and development, but it will result in punitive action, if necessary. The College may exercise its discretion to not officially charge students with violations of the Student Code of Conduct in the event that viable alternatives to disciplinary action are appropriate, such as mediation or counseling.

The disciplinary processes outlined in this document are not criminal in nature; they are administrative. Therefore, they should be considered broadly in context with the mission of the College. In the case of a criminal violation, the College may proceed with the disciplinary process or may elect to delay proceedings until the outcome of any criminal case.

## B. Authority

The dean of student services at each location is responsible for the administration of policies, regulations and procedures falling under jurisdiction of this document at his/her location. In the case of academic dishonesty charges, the dean of academic affairs/educational services or dean of bachelor's degree programs at each location is responsible for the administration of these policies, regulations and procedures.

The dean determines procedures for investigating the accusation. The dean has the authority to review, affirm, reverse or modify any action by the Discipline Committee for just cause. The dean has the authority to review the method of adjudication of all cases. The Dean of Academic Affairs/Educational Services/Bachelor's Degree Programs should confer with the Dean of Student Services/Educational Services in applying sanctions for violation of the Academic Integrity Code of Conduct. The dean of student services will maintain all disciplinary files for his/her location including those administered by the dean of academic affairs/educational services and the dean of bachelor's programs.

While the procedure in disciplinary cases may vary in formality with the gravity of the offense and the sanctions that may be applied, certain minimal due process standards must prevail. The following College disciplinary procedures are designed to ensure reasonable protection of the student, a fair determination of the facts, and the application of appropriate sanctions.

## C. Code of Conduct Jurisdiction

The jurisdiction of the Student Code of Conduct extends to all College locations, off-campus sites hosting a College event, class or other gathering, including College-sanctioned social networking sites and College-sanctioned student travel. In the event of a breach of the College Code of Conduct, the College Student Disciplinary Procedures shall apply. Additionally, the College reserves the right to impose discipline based on any student conduct, regardless of location, that may adversely affect the College community. In cases where the student is enrolled in one of the following programs and is accused of a violation of the program's code, the program's due process guidelines and the program's disciplinary and appeal procedures may be followed: Ophthalmic

Medical Technology, Criminal Justice Institute, Dental Hygiene, Dental Assisting, Registered Nursing, Practical Nursing, Patient Care Assisting, Surgical Technology, Medical Transcription, Medical Assisting, Medical Coding, Health Information Management, Firefighter, Paramedic, Emergency Medical Technician, Respiratory Care, Radiography, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, or Massage Therapy. The program administrator will consult with the appropriate dean of academic affairs in implementing the due process procedures. All programs shall adhere to the basic due process procedures set forth in the Code of Student Conduct. Exceptions to this are based on legislative or accreditation standards affiliated with the program.

## VII. STUDENT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

### A. Referral to the Disciplinary Process

- Any member of the College community may report an incident to the campus Security Office or the campus dean of student services.
- Determination of whether disciplinary action is initiated is the responsibility of the dean of student services or his/her designee.
- Referral of infractions by College student organizations is made to the dean of student services.
- Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated for any case involving a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

### B. Disciplinary Proceedings

- An investigation will be conducted by the dean or his/her designee. This investigation can include, but is not limited to, meeting with the accused student, gathering additional written documentation and/or conferring with appropriate College personnel or witnesses.
- If, after investigating, the dean or his/her designee determines that the complaint is not supported by the evidence presented, the complaint will be dismissed and the student will be notified in writing or via e-mail that no charges will be filed.
- If the investigation reveals that a violation may have occurred, the student(s) accused of misconduct will be notified in writing of the charges and advised that they are required to attend an informal hearing with the dean.
- During the informal hearing the charges will be read and explained to the student, and the student will be asked to respond to the charges. The student also will have an opportunity to ask any questions.
- If the student admits responsibility, the dean will notify the student of the sanctions; the student can either accept or reject the sanctions. If the student rejects the sanctions, a formal disciplinary hearing will be convened pursuant to the procedures outlined in this handbook. If the student accepts the sanctions, the student will sign a waiver accepting the sanctions and waiving the right to a formal hearing.
- If the student denies responsibility, written notice informing the student of the time and place of the hearing will be sent to the student's address of record and to his/her college e-mail address.
- The dean or his/her designee will make available to the student any evidence in his/her possession and, upon written request, any files, subject to the provision of Florida State Statutes and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. This evidence will be made available at least 48 hours in advance of the formal hearing.
- Where several persons are alleged to have been involved in an incident, the dean will determine if separate hearings will be held.
- Pending a disciplinary hearing, the student will be permitted to attend class and otherwise participate in College activities, except in the case of a temporary suspension.
- The College's burden of proof shall be based on a preponderance of the evidence.
- All disciplinary proceedings are confidential unless confidentiality is waived in writing by the student or the proceedings are found not to be confidential by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- Resolution of any situation not outlined in this process will be at the discretion of the dean of student services.
- In the case of a distance learning student who is not a resident of Palm Beach County, this process will be conducted electronically.

## C. Notice of Formal Discipline Hearing

The student will receive written notification via certified mail and e-mail notification five business days in advance as to the time and place of the hearing unless the student waives the right to notice of such duration. This notice shall include the following information:

- The charge(s) filed.
- A student advocate may be provided by the College, upon request, to assist a student through the disciplinary process, or the student may elect to have an independent advocate present at his/her own expense. In either case, the advocate may only counsel the student, not address the committee or others participating in the hearing.
- All hearings will be open only to those involved in the process as determined by the dean.
- The student has the right to face his/her accusers, to direct questions to those witnesses through the committee chair, and to present a defense and witnesses in his/her own behalf.
- The student may not be compelled to testify against himself/herself.
- The student has the right to admit to or deny responsibility for the charges prior to the hearing.
- The College reserves the right to make a recording and will notify all parties at the beginning of the hearing.

Note: The disciplinary hearing is a non-adversarial proceeding and is intended to be fact-finding. Accordingly, students may have an advocate present, but may not have legal counsel present, at the formal disciplinary hearing.

- Failure to appear or refusal to testify or to answer questions in the course of the hearing shall not be regarded as admission of responsibility. Should the student choose to ask questions of witnesses or otherwise pursue a defense, this will not equate to a student's forfeiture of his/her right to remain silent provided that the student does not offer personal testimony in defense.

## D. Temporary Suspension

A temporary suspension may be imposed when the dean of student services determines that a student's continued presence on the campus or at any College-related activity or class constitutes an ongoing danger to persons or property or an ongoing disruption or threat to the educational process, or student is non-compliant with requests from the Dean of Student Services Office for a disciplinary conference. Prior to a temporary suspension, notice of the charges will be given to the student verbally in order to effect an immediate interim suspension. Within one business day of such oral notification, written notification will be delivered to the student's College e-mail address and within three (3) days to the mailing address on record.

If the student denies the charges, a hearing may be requested in writing within two business days and will be convened within five (5) business days of the request, or the Dean of Student Services may proceed with the hearing.

# VIII. CAMPUS DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

## A. Who will be on the committee?

The campus dean of student services shall initiate the formation of a Campus Discipline Committee whenever there is a case to be heard or may establish a standing disciplinary committee for the academic year. In the case of academic dishonesty charges, the dean of academic affairs/educational services shall initiate the formation of a Campus Discipline Committee whenever there is a case to be heard or may establish a standing disciplinary committee for the academic year.

The committee shall be composed of five persons including two students, two instructors and one administrator. In addition, three alternates will be identified. Potential members are to be carefully screened, and only those with the ability to be impartial and fair-minded in the case under consideration will be selected to serve on the discipline committee. Faculty/instructors, staff and students who are directly involved in the case may not serve on the committee. The dean shall select one of the committee members to serve as chairperson.

## B. What role will the chairperson have on the committee?

- Call the hearing to order and introduce all parties present.
- Explain to the student and all participants the manner in which the hearing will be conducted.

- Read the charges being considered.
- Maintain proper decorum and order, dismissing any person who impedes or threatens to impede a fair and orderly hearing.
- Ensure that the student and the person bringing the charges each have the opportunity to testify and present evidence and witnesses in his/her behalf.
- Ensure that all available relevant evidence is presented and that the decision is based solely upon the evidence and any testimony given.
- The committee chairperson is a neutral party and shall facilitate the hearing process, only voting in the case of a tie.
- The chairperson may call a recess at his/her discretion.

### C. What will happen during the hearing?

- Opening remarks will be given by the chairperson.
- The individual bringing the charges will present any evidence and witnesses regarding the charges.
- The student accused of the charges will present his/her perspective including any witnesses or documentation.
- Any witnesses can be recalled by either party or the committee chairperson.
- A summary statement will be given by each side.
- At the conclusion of the fact-finding portion of the hearing, the participants will be excused, and in closed session, a decision will be rendered by a majority vote.

### D. How will the committee make its decision?

The process for determining the outcome of the hearing is called deliberation. This process involves a review of the evidence and testimony, discussion and a vote. The committee will use the preponderance of evidence standard to determine whether the student is responsible for the offense.

The chairperson will ensure that only evidence presented at the hearing itself may be taken into account in reaching a decision and that the committee adheres to standards of confidentiality as provided for in state and federal law (i.e., Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act).

Findings will be delivered initially via the student's College e-mail address within two business days and in writing to the address on record within five (5) business days.

The dean of student services will maintain findings, including any sanction to be imposed and supporting documentation. All records are confidential, per the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

If the student wishes to appeal or have time to consider making an appeal, the dean of student services or his/her designee will hear arguments for withholding the imposition for the sanctions until the time for filing an appeal has expired or until an appeal decision has been rendered.

Evidence of prior criminal convictions and/or College disciplinary action may be considered in determining the sanction only after the charges have been validated and the student found to be responsible.

Conduct of College disciplinary officers must take into account the necessity of preserving and protecting the rights and interests of the student. In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, information regarding a student's disciplinary status may not be discussed with persons who are not concerned College officials without written authorization of the individual in question.

## IX. WHAT ARE DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS?

### A. Recommendation to the Dean of Student Services/Educational Services or the Dean of Academic Affairs/Educational Services/Bachelor's Degree Programs

For academic integrity issues, if the committee finds the student is responsible for the charges filed, the committee will determine and recommend sanctions to the dean. These sanctions shall be

included in the written notification of the violation by the committee. Conditions of sanctions will be clear and precisely stated.

## B. Sanctions

Sanctions that may be imposed by the College include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Dismissal -- mandatory separation from the College and any College program with no promise of future readmission. A student who has been dismissed is barred from enrolling at, or visiting, any of the campuses of Palm Beach State College.
- Suspension -- mandatory suspension from the College for a period of time as specified in the sanctions.
- Disciplinary probation -- notice that the student's behavior is in violation of this Code. Another violation may result in suspension.
- Behavior Agreement -- Student signs and agrees to abide by College behavior agreement.
- Disciplinary Warning -- notice that the student's behavior is inappropriate, and further problems will result in more permanent and formal sanctions. (See Code of Conduct, #5: Violation of Prior Disciplinary Solutions or Warnings.)
- Restitution -- When imposed for offenses involving damage to, destruction of, or misappropriation of property, agreement by the student to make restitution may constitute grounds for mitigation of the sanction.
- Other such sanctions as deemed appropriate, including, but not limited to, written apologies, revocation of privileges, counseling or community service.
- Parental notification for drug or alcohol use or offenses involving weapons, where appropriate.

\*Any student who is the subject of a Florida Atlantic University trespass order may also be trespassed from one or all of the Palm Beach State College campuses.

## C. Appeal of the Outcome of a Hearing

Students wishing to appeal the outcome of a disciplinary hearing should contact the dean in writing within five business days for appropriate guidance in filing an appeal with the campus provost. The campus provost is the final point of appeal. In any case, appeals will only be heard if the student can provide additional documentation or evidence that the committee did not hear or see at the time of hearing. Students may request to have an advocate be present during appeal proceedings.

Note: The advocate cannot be legal counsel for the student.

## X. ETHICAL STANDARDS

Conduct of College disciplinary officers must take into account the necessity of preserving and protecting the rights and interests of the persons accused. In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, information regarding a student's disciplinary status may not be discussed with persons who are not concerned College officials without written authorization of the individual in question or, in the case of students under the age of 18, the student's parent or guardian.

## XI. NON-ACADEMIC COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

### **Board Policy Number 6Hx-18-5.86**

Palm Beach State College is committed to providing an educational climate that is conducive to the personal and professional development of each individual. Discrimination and/or other harassment based on the age, color, ethnic background, disability, family status, gender, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, genetic information or other immutable characteristic of individuals or any other subgroup stereotyping or grouping within the College is unacceptable. It is illegal and constitutes a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Florida law.

The College designates the vice president of student services and enrollment management or designated representative to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, and with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Students who feel that they have been harassed or discriminated against or who believe that the College has not adequately fulfilled its obligations under the provisions of Title IX or the ADA should follow the Complaint Procedure stated below. For grievances concerning grades, follow the Final Course Grade Appeal procedure on page 28.

## **A. Definition of Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment is (1) any unwelcomed conduct (verbal, nonverbal or physical) of a sexual nature that is sufficiently severe or pervasive that has the purpose and effect of denying or limiting a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the College's educational program or activity; or (2) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's status in a course, program, activity or work; or (3) submission to or rejection of such conduct by a student is used as a basis for employment, academic and/or other educational decisions affecting a student; or (4) such conduct has the purpose and effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or sexually offensive work or academic environment. Sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment, which may include rape, sexual assault, sexual battery and sexual coercion, gender-based harassment, which may include acts of verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping, even if those acts do not involve conduct of a sexual nature, is prohibited.

## **B. Complaint Procedures for Harassment or Discrimination**

Palm Beach State College shall provide an education, employment and business environment free of sexual harassment, harassment or discrimination. Sexual harassment, including sexual violence, is a form of discrimination that is not tolerated by the College. Sexual violence may include physical sexual acts committed against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim's use of drugs or alcohol or where a person is unable to give consent due to intellect or other disability. (Note: While the use of drugs or alcohol may violate the College's Code of Conduct policy, this shall not be considered when investigating a complaint.)

When a faculty/instructor or staff member receives a complaint, or has reason to know of or believes that a student is the victim of harassment or discrimination, he or she shall immediately advise the student to notify the campus dean of student services. Failure to immediately notify the campus dean of student services of suspected harassment or discrimination is a violation of this policy. However, consensual relationships are inappropriate and prohibited because they often lead to sexual harassment issues, as well as conflicts of interest, favoritism and low morale.

Retaliation against individuals who have filed a complaint or participated in an investigation or opposed any unlawful practice is prohibited and will subject the person who retaliates to disciplinary action.

Substantiated harassment or discrimination complaints may result in disciplinary action against the offender, up to and including dismissal of the student. In addition, complainants who make accusations of harassment or discrimination in bad faith may be subject to equivalent disciplinary action.

### **i. Filing A Complaint**

Palm Beach State College requires any person who believes that he or she has been subjected to sexual harassment or any other type of harassment or discrimination to file a complaint with the campus dean of student services when the incident involves a student within 60 business days. The dean of student services will notify the executive director of human resources, safety and risk, or the assistant to the president for equity programs as to the complaint if the incident involves an employee, faculty or third party. The executive director of human resources, safety and risk or designee will meet with the student alleging the harassment or discrimination.

A formal complaint must be made in writing by the student, stating in detail the nature of the complaint, any relevant dates, and the names of any potential witnesses and submitted to the dean of student services.

The campus dean of student services and/or the executive director of human resources, safety and risk, or her designee will conduct a thorough and prompt investigation of the complaint. An interview will be conducted with the accused person regarding the nature of the complaint and will provide the



accused with a copy of the complainant's written complaint within 10 business days. The accused will have five business days to respond in writing to the complaint. In situations deemed to be an emergency, the dean of student services may temporarily suspend the accused person.

Any persons thought to have information relevant to the complaint shall be interviewed, and such interview shall be appropriately documented. It is expected that interviewees would cooperate in providing all requested information; however, witnesses have the right to refuse to engage in self-incrimination. Other acceptable methods for gathering information include, but are not limited to, visual inspection of literature or other documents that support the complainant's complaint or are offered by the accused, and follow-up interviews.

## **ii. Complaint Process**

This complaint process is intended to provide a fair, prompt and reliable determination about whether the College's sexual harassment, harassment or discrimination policy has been violated. Anyone who, at the time of the alleged harassment, was either employed or enrolled at the College may file a complaint alleging violation of this policy. This policy applies to all College employees and students; it also applies to high school students participating in a College recruitment program and to visiting student athletes.

In most cases, a complaint will be initiated by the target of the alleged harassment. However, the College reserves the right to initiate a formal investigation (or to continue processing a complaint even after the request to withdraw has been submitted) when, in the opinion of the dean of student services, it is appropriate. A student who wishes to withdraw a complaint must do so in writing to the campus dean of student services. The complaint process is not intended to impair or limit the right of anyone to seek a remedy available under state or federal law.

All persons involved in any aspect of this process will act at all times to preserve the confidentiality of these proceedings. When possible, the College will attempt to keep the complainant's name confidential; however, the College cannot guarantee anonymity. Information will be shared with those individuals who have a legitimate and operational need to be informed, and to the extent that is necessary to maintain the effectiveness of this process. Individuals who have violated the confidentiality of this process may be subject to disciplinary proceedings under the applicable College rules and regulations.

The complainant and accused student/employee will be treated with dignity, courtesy, sensitivity, and understanding and will not be prejudged or blamed for what occurred. The College will take all reasonable steps to prevent unnecessary or unwanted contact or proximity between the complainant and the accused student. The complainant has the right to appeal an adverse decision.

The accused student/employee has a right (1) to receive a written copy of the complaint; (2) if charges are issued, to receive a copy of the investigation file, notices of charges, investigator's summary report, witness statements and any other relevant documents; (3) to meet with the Investigator and provide a written response; (4) to refuse to engage in self-incrimination; (5) to provide witnesses on his/her behalf; (6) to have an advocate during the investigation process; however that advocate is not permitted to speak on behalf of the student/employee. The accused student has the right to appeal an adverse decision.

The dean of student services, executive director of human resources, safety and risk, or the assistant to the president for equity programs will conduct an investigation of the incident. Upon completion of the investigation a written report of the investigation will be prepared. The report shall include the following: (1) a summary of the findings; (2) whether there is a reasonable basis for taking further action; (3) a recommendation to pursue or not pursue disciplinary action against the accused; (4) a proposed disciplinary sanction; and (5) the basis for the recommended action. A copy of the report will be sent to the Title IX coordinator as appropriate.

If either the complainant or the accused disagrees with the determination, an appeal may be made to the vice president of student services and enrollment management within 10 business days of receipt of the written report. The vice president of student services and enrollment management shall review all such appeals and may, at his or her discretion, further investigate the matter. The vice president of student services and enrollment management shall issue a decision within 20 business days of receiving the request, which may include an affirmation of the recommended sanctions, or reduced or increased sanctions. If either the complainant or the accused disagrees

with the determination of the vice president of student services and enrollment management, a final appeal may be made to the College president. An appeal may be made to the College president within 15 working days of receipt of the written report. The College president shall review all such appeals and has discretion to further investigate the matter. The president shall issue a decision within 30 days of receiving the request. The determination of the College president shall be the final step of the internal review procedure. Any discipline administered for full-time faculty shall be subject to the grievance and arbitration procedure as outlined in the faculty union contract.

The College shall use a preponderance of the evidence standard (i.e., it is more likely than not that the sexual harassment/violence, harassment or discrimination occurred) when resolving allegations under this policy.

Confidentiality shall be maintained to the greatest extent possible within the law and the requirements for conducting appropriate investigations.

### **iii. Record of Complaint**

All proceedings and records concerning sexual harassment, harassment or discrimination complaints shall be confidential to the extent permitted by law. Memoranda describing any formal reprimand or disciplinary action that the student receives for violating the College's harassment or discrimination policy will be placed in the student's permanent file.

# Financial Information

## Payment of Fees

Students must pay fees by their payment due date. The calculated payment due date is listed on the schedule fee receipt. If the payment deadline falls on a day that the College is closed, the payment due date will automatically be extended to the next business day. Payments are accepted through:

- **College website** at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/PantherWeb](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/PantherWeb) Payment over the Web can be made with a Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover Card or any Discover network Global Brand.
- **Cashier's Office.** Each office accepts cash, check, money orders, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Optima, Discover, JCB or non North American Diners Club.
- **Drop boxes.** Drop boxes are located outside each campus Cashier's Office and payments left in drop boxes can be made with a check or money order. Drop box payments made less than one hour prior to closing for the day will be posted the following business day.
- **Mail-in payments.** Payment can be made with a check or money order and must be received by the due date listed on the student's schedule fee receipt. Payments should be mailed to:

Palm Beach State College Cashier's Office  
Mail Station 11  
4200 Congress Ave.  
Lake Worth, FL 33461

- **Wire transfers** can be arranged through the Cashier's Office.
- No payments are accepted over the phone.

**Special Note:** Students are strongly advised to register early for the upcoming session. Early registration and timely payment of fees enhance the student's opportunity to enroll in the courses needed to complete his/her course of study.

## Refunds

The refund schedule is based upon the dates listed in the registration calendar that appears in the College Catalog and on the website. No refunds for the current term will be issued until the add/drop period for the term is completed. All refunds are subject to the recovery of debts/obligations owed to the College. Refunds are issued on a regular basis throughout the semester. Refunds are issued in accordance with the method of payment. Payments made by credit card will be credited back to the most recent credit card used for payment. Students who paid with a check or cash will be issued a refund check or direct deposit. Without exception, all checks are mailed. It is the student's responsibility to maintain a current address on his/her student account through PantherWeb or the Registrar's Office.

Any student who officially withdraws from the College or reduces his/her course load prior to the end of the published add/drop period is automatically eligible for a full refund of refundable fees after the session's add/drop period has ended. No grade is recorded on the student's transcript. No other refunds are granted except in those cases where a student withdraws from classes due to a personal emergency beyond the student's control as identified below.

## Refund Appeal Process

Refunds requested after the official add/drop period of the course(s) must go through the [College-wide Appeals Committee](#) process. This process takes approximately five weeks. Appeals must include copies of supporting documentation and completion of the form available in the campus Registrar's Office. Refunds approved will be computed on a pro-rata basis. Students will be notified in writing of the Committee's decision, and decisions will be based on the documentation provided. If approved, a student's refund will be issued in accordance with the method of payment. Any financial debt/obligations owed to the College will be deducted from the refund. If the student is no longer attending, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course(s). Submitting a refund form does not officially withdraw a student from a class or the College,

## Required Documentation

Supporting documentation must accompany refund requests based on a College action or personal emergency.

The following documentation is required:

- **Death of an immediate family member** -- Documentation of the death and the student's relationship to the deceased. Immediate family members are limited to spouse, child, parent and sibling.
- **College change or error** -- A letter from the appropriate College official documenting the situation in which the College was in error or initiated an action that caused the student to have to withdraw.
- **Employment** -- A letter on company stationery indicating that the student's employer changed his/her work schedule (listing old and new work schedule) and that this change prevents the student from completing the term.
- **Medical** -- A letter from the student's physician or health care agency specifically indicating an illness of such severity or duration that the student cannot continue in a course(s). The letter must include dates of the illness and treatment.
- **Military Service** -- Documented involuntary call to active military duty.

## Direct Deposit of Financial Aid Payments and Refunds

Students can choose to have refunds/financial aid funds due back to them automatically deposited with their financial institution. Direct deposit reduces the risk of those funds being lost or delayed. Log in on PantherWeb and view the information under "My Details". For information on how to sign up for, change or cancel direct deposit, go to [www.palmbeachstate.edu/Finance](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Finance). Any direct deposit forms submitted to the campus Cashier's Office will remain active until modified or canceled by either submitting an updated form or a letter of cancellation.

## Returned Check Fees

According to Florida Statutes, § 832.05 (giving worthless checks, drafts, and debit card orders, etc.):

- Worthless checks up to \$150.00 constitute a first degree misdemeanor.
- Worthless checks over \$150.00 constitute a third degree felony.

The College reserves the right to take necessary actions against those check writers by assessing the maximum fees allowable by law including:

Current bank service fee for returned checks plus amount allowed by law; the current College returned check fees are as follows:

- Checks under \$50.00 will be charged \$26.50.
- Checks from \$50.00–\$299.99 will be charged \$31.50.
- Checks from \$300.00–\$800.00 will be charged \$41.50.
- Checks over \$800.00 will be charged 5 percent of the check amount.

Students who have presented two returned checks will no longer be allowed to pay by personal check. All fees are subject to change.

## Collection Costs

Students who fail to pay any balance owed to the College on a timely basis will be referred to an outside collection agency and subsequently reported to any credit bureau as part of the process. Collection costs associated with any individual account balance referred to a collection agency will be passed on to the student, as authorized in Florida Statutes §1010.03. Additional collection costs can increase your debt owed to the College substantially; so, please be mindful of any billing or past due notice sent by the College in order to prevent your account from becoming delinquent.

# Student Financial Aid

Financial aid is available for full- and part-time students who enroll in an eligible program and meet the qualifying criteria. Your data from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and your enrollment status determine the amount of your award package. For detailed information on the types of financial aid available through the College, please refer to the Web at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/FinancialAid](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/FinancialAid)

## Your Financial Aid Information on PantherWeb

You can always check the status of your financial aid on PantherWeb. It is updated every night. Also, Financial Aid publishes a Student Newsletter linked from your PantherWeb, which provides important and topical advice.

## Financial Aid Payments

Students are strongly encouraged to sign up for direct deposits to your bank of any excess financial aid funds. The direct deposit form is available on PantherWeb. Students who do not have direct deposit will receive a check, mailed to their permanent address. It is the student's responsibility to have a current address on file with the Registrar's Office. Financial aid payments are made throughout the term.

## Financial Aid Calendar

**May 1:** You should file your FAFSA after your family's tax returns are complete. The IRS filing date is April 15. Many Foundation Scholarships require the FAFSA be filed by May 1 as well.

The Financial Aid Office staff strives to have any financial aid situation resolved before the tuition payment is due, and this is usually possible if students file an accurate FAFSA by:

**May 1** Priority date for fall term. Completed applications received by this date are given priority when awarding any need-based scholarships, grants or on-campus employment.

**Nov. 1** Priority date for spring term. Completed applications received by this date will be eligible for tuition and fee coverage up to the amount of their financial aid awards for the spring term.

If the College receives your FAFSA information after these dates, you should be prepared to pay your tuition and fees by the due date printed on your class schedule.

Please submit a student loan application by the priority deadlines listed above in order to be eligible for tuition and fees covered by your loan. If you submit a loan application after the priority deadline you are responsible for paying your tuition and fees by the due date printed on your class schedule.

## Palm Beach State Foundation Scholarships

Please see the Financial Aid section of the Web site for application instructions. Applications are solicited at several times during the year.

## Private Scholarships

Please submit verification of scholarships you have earned from private sources, and make sure the check is sent to Palm Beach State College, 4200 Congress Avenue, Mail Station #7, Lake Worth, FL 33461, by the above dates in order to ensure tuition coverage from these awards.

## Financial Aid for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are eligible to apply for any and all forms of financial assistance that are available through the College. Students should be aware that they must meet the same eligibility criteria, including Standards of Academic Progress, as other students. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, students with documented disabilities for whom part-time enrollment is a necessary accommodation are eligible for the full-time Florida Student Assistance Grant. A financial aid advisor can determine how a reduced course load will affect your aid.

## **Attendance and Enrollment**

Federal regulation requires calculation of Pell Grants based on the number of credits taken, and the student financial aid budget will be adjusted accordingly. In addition, to receive a Federal Direct Loan or to have a previous loan deferred, the student must take at least six credits each semester.

You must attend each class at least once during the first week of class to be eligible to receive a financial aid disbursement. Failure to attend each class for which you are registered will result in a loss or reduction of your financial aid awards.

## **Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Students**

According to federal regulations, students participating in any Title IV financial aid program offered through Palm Beach State College will be subject to the standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress. These standards will also apply to state programs. Calculation under these standards will include all terms of enrollment, regardless of whether or not the student was a financial aid recipient. For additional information, please see your campus Financial Aid Office or the financial aid Web site, [www.palmbeachstate.edu/FinancialAid](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/FinancialAid)

### **Minimum Standards**

To meet the standards of satisfactory academic progress, students who have attempted more than 12 credit/clock hours must maintain a minimum of 2.0 cumulative GPA (grade point average). For students who have attempted 12 credit/clock hours or less, the minimum GPA required is 1.5. All students must successfully complete a minimum of 67 percent of all classes attempted (audits, failures, incompletes, prep courses, repeats, and withdrawals are included in calculating attempted hours).

All incomplete grades (grades of I) will be counted as failing grades (grades of F) until the Registrar's Office posts the final grade on the transcript.

Federal regulations require that students complete their programs in a period no longer than 150 percent of the published program length. Students seeking an A.A. degree will be eligible to participate in the financial aid programs offered at Palm Beach State until they have attempted 90 credit hours. Student seeking A.A.S. and A.S. degrees and certificates will also be eligible until they have attempted 150 percent of the number of credit hours needed for their program as published in the College Catalog. All credits that appear on the student's transcript will be counted as cumulative hours attempted regardless of the grade received, including transfer credits, CLEP hours, prep coursework and repeated courses, and certain ESOL courses if designated as credit courses by the transferring institution.

For clock hour programs, students can only receive financial aid for the number of hours required by their program.

These standards will be assessed at least once per year. Students who fail to meet the minimum standards will be suspended from all federal and state financial aid program participation until they have earned the appropriate grade point average (GPA) and have achieved the required minimum completion rate. Students who exceed the maximum time frame will be terminated from all federal and state financial aid program participation at Palm Beach State College.

A student who is placed on financial aid suspension or termination will not be eligible to receive any federal or state funding, including student loans. Students who are suspended must pay for their own classes until they have earned the minimum required GPA and hours. Students will not be reimbursed for the courses taken while on suspension.

### **Appeals**

Students may appeal suspension or termination status based on the following mitigating circumstances:

- Death in the immediate family affecting the student's academic performance
- Illness of the student or immediate family member having direct effect upon the student's academic record
- Other extraordinary circumstances determined acceptable by the Financial Aid Office

Students with mitigating circumstances may submit a Financial Aid Appeal Request form to the Financial Aid Office. Special circumstances must be documented, and the student must indicate

what has changed in the student's situation that would allow the student to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress at the next evaluation.

All documentation must be submitted for the appeal to be reviewed. Submission of an appeal does not guarantee approval. If the appeal is approved, aid eligibility will be reinstated for one payment period only.

## Return of Federal Title IV Funds

If you are a recipient of any of the Title IV Federal Financial Aid programs and are considering withdrawing from all classes prior to completing more than 60 percent of the term, your eligibility for aid will be recalculated based on the percent of the term completed. This may result in your having to return a portion of the aid that you have received. In addition, if you stop attending all of your classes prior to completing more than 60 percent of the term, and/or if your transcript reflects unsuccessful completion of all courses, this will be considered an unofficial withdrawal. Your financial aid eligibility will be recalculated based on 50 percent of the term completed, unless documentation of an academic-related activity (defined by the faculty/instructor) is provided to the Financial Aid Office, in which case your financial aid eligibility will be calculated using this date.

Please contact the Financial Aid Office immediately to learn how your withdrawal or lack of attendance could impact your financial aid. Students will not be eligible to register for future terms until all financial obligations are paid in full.

Title IV aid includes the following programs at Palm Beach State College:

- Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loans
- Federal Subsidized Direct Loans
- Federal Direct PLUS Loans
- Federal Pell Grants
- Federal SEOG Grants

## Bookstore Allowance

If you qualify for a bookstore allowance, it will be available starting three or four days before classes begin and continuing through the add/drop period each semester. Books for express terms need to be purchased during the add/drop period for the main session each term.

Financial aid awards cannot be used to purchase books on credit before or after these periods. A copy of your schedule and a picture I.D. are required.

Purchases for out-of-stock items must be made during these specified dates. You can request a voucher from the bookstore, which will enable you to prepay for an item that is on back order.

Bookstore allowances are a maximum of \$750 and are based on expected excess of financial aid and your level of enrollment. After add/drop, your financial aid awards will be pro-rated based on actual enrollment. This may result in an over-award of your bookstore allowance, which you are obligated to pay. You are advised to retain all receipts for items purchased using your bookstore allowance.

## Veterans Affairs

Upon enrollment, veterans and veteran-dependents are required to pay all regular fees and charges like other students. The exceptions are precertified Chapter 31 students (disabled veterans under vocational rehabilitation). Any VA student may receive one (1) deferment per academic year to pay his/her fees by completing the appropriate forms in the veterans' section of the Financial Aid Office. Veterans who choose to defer their fees and fail to pay by the due date will be treated like other students who fail to pay fees. Upon certification by the College and Veterans Administration, an educational allowance is paid monthly to the student for training time computed as follows:

### Veterans Affairs Allowance

Time	Regular Term	6-Week Session
Full	12 hours or more	4 hours or more
3/4	9-11 hours	3 hours
1/2	6-8 hours	2 hours
Fees Only	15 hours	1 hour

Students claiming benefits and eligible to receive a monthly benefit check should be prepared to meet their expenses in full for the first two or three months prior to receipt of their first VA check. When eligibility is established, checks usually arrive by the 10th of each month.

### **Standards of Progress for Veteran Students**

Palm Beach State College has established the following standards of progress for all veterans or eligible persons receiving VA benefits to comply with Veterans Administration regulations:

1. Complete academic records are maintained on each veteran who is certified as eligible for benefits under the public laws. The records must show continuous pursuit of a degree and the rate at which progress is being made. They include final grades in each subject for each term, record of withdrawal from any subject to include the last day of attendance for a course and record of enrollment in subjects from which there was a withdrawal.
2. Complete academic records are maintained on previous college-level academic training, and these records indicate the amount of credit accepted that proportionately shortens the training period. The record is cumulative in that it shows the results of each term of enrollment, subjects taken and grades earned.
3. Students receiving VA benefits should note that excessive absences would result in termination of benefits. A veteran or other eligible student will be subject to the attendance criteria covered in this Handbook. PSAV students with absences totaling more than the equivalent of 10 percent of the total hours for the enrollment period will result in the student being terminated from receipt of VA benefits due to unsatisfactory attendance.
4. Policies relative to standards of conduct and progress required of the student are enforced. All students must adhere to the College Academic Standards of Progress found in the Academic Policies section of this handbook. PSAV students who fail to maintain progress are not permitted to continue enrollment in the program and would not, therefore, be certified as eligible to receive benefits.
5. A notice of change in enrollment status will be sent to the Veterans Administration when the student withdraws from a course during the term or changes status.
6. Unsatisfactory progress will be reported when a student accumulates punitive grades (Fs) equivalent to more than the minimum number of credit hours considered to be full time (12).
7. PSAV students are expected to complete a program within the number of training hours approved by the State Approving Agency for Veterans Training. Likewise, the state requirement for Basic Skills must be met for the particular program. If at any point it is determined that a student cannot successfully complete the program within the approved number of hours, the student's VA benefits will be terminated because of unsatisfactory progress.
8. PSAV students at the end of any evaluation period who have not attained and maintained satisfactory progress (70 percent or above on written exams and passing or above on all skills and technical requirements) will be placed on academic probation for the next evaluation period. Should the student not attain and maintain satisfactory progress by the end of the probationary period (one evaluation period), the student's VA benefits will be terminated due to unsatisfactory progress.

**Note:** It is the responsibility of the veteran to advise the Veterans Affairs Office of any changes in status, i.e., address, withdrawal from class, etc. The VA certifying official is located in the Financial Aid Office.



# Student Services

## Student Advocate

The director of College-wide student programs shall serve as student advocate or ombudsperson for students. This student advocate or his/her office shall assist students in resolving conflicts and in processing appeals through established procedures. The director of College-wide student programs (student advocate) can be reached at 561-868-3375. (See section 1006.51, Florida Statutes.)

## Academic Advising

Students can request assistance with course selection, educational planning, transfer or graduation by contacting the academic advising office on their campus. It is recommended that students meet with an academic advisor at least once a semester.

Belle Glade: 561-993-1182

Boca Raton: 561-862-4313

Lake Worth: 561-868-3036

Palm Beach Gardens: 561-207-5340

Bachelor's Degree: 561-868-4102

More information is available at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/advising](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/advising)

## Career Centers

Career planning and employment services are available at all locations of the College. The Career Center staff can help you with deciding on a major, researching occupations, employer identification and job search skill development. You are encouraged to visit the Career Center on your preferred campus and meet with a counselor or advisor for assistance achieving your career goals.

Belle Glade: Student Services, Room CRB 231.5, 561-993-1182

Boca Raton: Boca Tech, Room BT125, 561-862-4325

Lake Worth: Student Services, Room CT104, 561-868-3066

Palm Beach Gardens: Burt Reynolds Student Center 129, 561-207-5350

Information is also available on the Web at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/Career](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Career)

## Counseling Services

The College-wide Student Counseling Center, located on the Lake Worth campus, provides services at all campus locations to help students maintain their emotional well-being in order to achieve their educational goals. Services are confidential and provided free of charge to currently-enrolled students.

Services include:

- Crisis intervention
- Brief counseling
- Referral services
- Faculty/instructor and staff training

For more information, call the Center at 561-868-3980.

[www.palmbeachstate.edu/CounselingCenter](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/CounselingCenter)

## College TRIO/Student Support Services

Student Support Services is a U.S. Department of Education-funded program that provides support services to low-income, first-generation college students and students with disabilities. Services include advising, tutoring, financial aid assistance, cultural events, college tours, workshops, career development, grant aid, and transfer assistance. See <http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/sss>

## **Disability Support Services**

Palm Beach State College complies with all laws and regulations applicable to qualified individuals with disabilities as required in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. These laws mandate reasonable accommodations that ensure students with disabilities the opportunity for equal access to, and participation in, all College facilities, programs, activities and/or services.

It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodations by registering with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office on his/her campus, and to provide appropriate documentation from a qualified clinician in support of the request for services. Students must confer with the designated DSS manager at their individual campuses each term/session, as appropriate accommodation may vary from course to course. The DSS campus coordinator will authorize the accommodations through written notification to each faculty/instructor for whose course accommodation is mandated.

Consistent with the American with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAA), the College is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities who rely on service animals are able to access all public areas, attend classes, and participate in campus activities. The entire service animal policy can be viewed by clicking "Policies" from the Disability Support Services webpage: [www.palmbeachstate.edu/disability](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/disability)

Students with disabilities are required to adhere to the same academic standards, conduct codes and policies and procedures expected of all Palm Beach State students.

### **Disability Support Services Telephone Numbers:**

Lake Worth 561-868-3046

Palm Beach Gardens 561-207-5345

Boca Raton 561-862-4316

Belle Glade 561-993-1139

ADA Coordinator 561-868-3375

### **Admission and Graduation Substitutions for Students with Disabilities**

In compliance with Florida Statutes, sections 1007.264 and 1007.265, eligible students with disabilities shall be considered for reasonable substitutions or waivers with regard to admission and graduation requirements, provided that the inability to fulfill the requirement is due directly to the disability, that appropriate accommodations will not result in success, and where the substitution will not constitute a fundamental alteration in the nature of the program. Eligible students include, but are not limited to, students documented as having a hearing impairment, including deafness; a visual impairment, a specific learning disability, an orthopedic impairment, a speech or language impairment; an emotional or behavioral disability, autism spectrum disorder, or traumatic brain injury.

Students must formally submit a written request for a substitution and/or college preparatory exemption to their campus Disability Support Services (DSS) Manager. Documentation of a disability, which includes evidence that the failure to meet the requirement is related to the disability, must also be provided. Students may appeal a substitution denial or a determination of ineligibility to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, who will review the case and make a recommendation to the President. This appeal must be initiated within 45 days of the student's notification of the committee's decision. In accordance with Rule 6A-10.041(3), the College will accept all substitutions previously granted by other state postsecondary institutions.

### **Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC.org)**

FLVC.org is Florida's official college advising website. Find information on Florida's state universities and colleges and their programs. You can apply for financial aid and scholarships online, as well as explore the College transfer process, Florida institution transient process, access career planning,

and review academic transcripts. FLVC.org does not substitute for regular meetings with an academic advisor.

## **First-Year Experience**

The First-Year Experience (FYE) at Palm Beach State College assists incoming first-year students with their transition to college. Recognizing that the experience that students have during their first year of college sets the tone and foundation for their ongoing success, the FYE has developed specific programs to provide information about resources and support services that will help with their acclimate to the College as engaged learners and active participants in the life of the College. See [www.palmbeachstate.edu/fye](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/fye)

## **Graduation**

It is the student's responsibility to apply for graduation for associate and bachelor's degree programs. This should be done at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/Graduation](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Graduation) prior to beginning your last semester.

# Student Activities

The Department of Student Activities promotes student engagement through numerous co-curricular opportunities on and off campus. Students can enhance their college experience by participating in social events, diversity awareness programs, intramural sports, club sports, leadership development, student government and volunteer opportunities. Students may take a break at any of the Student Activity Center locations and play billiards, video games, cards, surf the net or just stop by and chill for a while. Students are encouraged to visit their campus Student Activities Office for a list of upcoming events and a current list of campus organizations:

Belle Glade – 561-993-1169, Bldg. CRA, Rm. 1054  
Boca Raton – 561-862-4327, Bldg. AD, Rm. 126  
Lake Worth – 561-868-3024, Bldg. BK, Rm. 109  
Palm Beach Gardens – 561-207-5356, Bldg. BR, Rm. 141

## Student Government

The Student Government Association (SGA) is the official voice of the student body and an important link in the College's endeavors to ensure a positive learning environment. Participation in SGA provides many opportunities for involvement at the local, district and state levels of student government through the Florida Junior/Community College Student Government Association. SGA aims to achieve positive advancements for students, promote civic engagement, and facilitate smooth working relationships among students, administration, faculty/instructors and staff. Each year, officers are selected to make up the Executive Board, which plans the SGA's activities. To find out if you are eligible to apply for an officer position, or to join SGA, contact your campus Student Activities Office.

## Student Publication

The student newspaper, *The Beachcomber*, is produced by student journalists under the guidance of a faculty advisor. The paper gives the students practical experience in reporting, advertising, editing, photography and business management.

The student newspaper is one of the strongest means of encouraging an atmosphere of open discussion of intellectual exploration at the College. Thus, responsible student journalism is protected by the College administration. Student journalists are expected to be governed by accepted general canons of responsible journalism such as accuracy; equal and fair reporting of the news; and the avoidance of obscenity, undocumented allegations, attacks on personal integrity and plagiarism. Contact *The Beachcomber* at 561-862-4432 or [www.palmbeachstate.edu/Beachcomber](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Beachcomber)

## Center for Student Leadership

Palm Beach State College strives to offer top quality leadership development through practical experiences. The mission of the Center for Student Leadership (CSL) at Palm Beach State College is to provide students with the opportunity to engage in a variety of leadership activities that will assist students in developing the skills, knowledge and values necessary to become effective leaders. CSL is committed to training future leaders in effective communication, team building, ethics, professionalism, and conflict resolution. The program is a year-long commitment that includes monthly meetings at various campuses and locations. The program also requires each participant to complete an application, maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 cumulative, and perform 20 hours of community service. For more information on CSL, contact the student life manager at 561-868-3842 or e-mail [iosiasm@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:iosiasm@palmbeachstate.edu)

## Math Olympics

The purpose of the Math Olympics is to provide a meeting place for students who enjoy math. The Math Olympics promotes problem-solving skills through the preparation for and participation in events such as the Florida Math Olympics and the AMATYC Math league. Activities include field trips to engineering firms and other related businesses, guest speakers and tutoring sessions held by the Math Olympics Team for the general student population. If you would like more information about the team, contact Professor Roy Boulware at 561-207-5216.

## Student Organizations

Get involved! Palm Beach State College is the host to a wide variety of social, faith-based, special interest, academic, service, and occupational-type campus organizations. The College offers more than 100 clubs and organizations, which provide students personal, interpersonal, and organizational development. All clubs and organization are open to all currently enrolled Palm Beach State students.

Can't find a club? No worries...Visit Student Activities to pick up the proper forms and a list of criteria to start a new club at the College. These and other policies and procedures, including how to appeal a club request denial, are available at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/studentactivities/how-to-form-a-club.aspx](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/studentactivities/how-to-form-a-club.aspx)

To hold office in a student organization, students must have a 2.0 grade point average at the beginning of the tenure of office, and must maintain a 2.0 or better average during each semester of their stay in office.

For a current listing of student clubs and organizations at Palm Beach State College, select your campus by clicking on the link below:

### **Belle Glade**

<http://belleglarestudentactivities.orgsync.com/clubsandorganization>

### **Boca Raton**

<http://bocaratonstudentactivities.orgsync.com/clubsandorganization>

### **Lake Worth**

<http://lakeworthstudentactivities.orgsync.com/clubsandorganization>

### **Palm Beach Gardens**

<http://palmbeachgardensstudentactivities.orgsync.com/clubsandorganization>

## Student Participation in Institutional Decision Making

The College encourages student participation in institutional decision making. One important means of influence in the governance of the College is the Student Government Association on each campus. These associations have an open door to the President and other administrators of the College. The SGAs on each campus act as liaisons to college administrators for student issues and concerns.

Each student organization develops a budget request for the organization and submits it through the College's budgetary process. Upon approval of the budget, the organization is responsible for submitting requests for expenditures in accordance with the accounting procedure of the College. In general, students are responsible for the operation and programming of their respective organizations.

Students are also invited to participate on the College-wide Student Activities Funding Committee, Disciplinary Committees, Diversity Committee, Accreditation Committees, Enrollment Management Committee and other committees as appropriate.

Moreover, on occasion, students are given the opportunity through opinion questionnaires to evaluate various College programs and activities and give their opinions on various College issues. Information obtained through this process is of significant value in making operational decisions.

## Student Trustee

In keeping with the College's commitment to student involvement, Palm Beach State has established a student position on the District Board of Trustees. This position is non-voting and designed to ensure that student issues and concerns are represented. Students interested in

serving in this capacity must apply for the position. To be considered, a student must meet the following criteria:

- At least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average
- Two letters of recommendation (One letter must be from a faculty/instructor and one letter can be from a faculty/instructor or staff member.)
- A typewritten essay on why he/she wishes to become a student trustee

Applications are available in the spring term from the campus student activities coordinator. A committee makes the final selection.

## **Intercollegiate Athletics**

Palm Beach State College has achieved national recognition and high status among state colleges for its strong support of athletics and its outstanding achievements in athletic competition. The College offers students the opportunity to participate in the following sports:

**Men:** Baseball, Basketball

**Women:** Volleyball, Softball, Basketball

All student athletes must meet standards of academic progress as defined by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), Florida Community College Activities Association (FCCAA), and the College. Contact the Director of Athletics for further information or go to [www.palmbeachstate.edu/athletics](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/athletics). All intercollegiate athletic programs are located on the Lake Worth campus.

## **Intramural Sports**

Currently-enrolled Palm Beach State students are encouraged to play and compete in campus recreational intramural sports or sports clubs. Intramural Sports are available for currently-enrolled students to participate in structured activities at a competitive or recreational level. We offer team sports and individual sports as well as leisure events.

Intramural by definition means “within the walls,” and therefore all teams/individuals that participate are affiliated with the College. A few examples of intramural sports are open gym for basketball, volleyball, flag football, soccer, bowling, and table tennis. No matter what your skill level, you will have a good time.

For more information about intramural sports, contact the campus Student Activities Office:

Belle Glade – Room CRB 131.4, 561-993-1169  
Boca Raton – Room AD 127, 561-862-4327  
Lake Worth – Room BK 107.3, 561-868-3346  
Palm Beach Gardens – Room BR 141, 561-207-5356

Sports clubs are any sports offered at the College that compete competitively with other colleges and/or organizations, but are not regulated by the NJCAA. Sports clubs can exist at schools that do have teams that are NJCAA-sanctioned. However, they are student-driven clubs with no scholarships. Examples of sports clubs are women’s soccer, ice hockey, and the running club.

For more information on sports clubs, contact the Student Life Office:

Lake Worth – CE/104, 561-868-3842

## **Wellness Centers**

The mission of Palm Beach State College’s Wellness Centers is to promote healthy lifetime practices through guidance and educational programming. Our facilities are available to eligible users at **no additional cost**. All participants in the Wellness Center must complete an orientation prior to the use of this facility. An orientation consists of completing paper work and a review of the use of equipment and safety precautions. For more information on hours of operation, contact your campus center or visit in person:

Belle Glade – Room CRB 131.4  
Boca Raton – Room BT 144.2

Lake Worth – Public Safety Training Center  
Palm Beach Gardens- Room SC 118

# Testing Services

## Testing Center Contact Information

Belle Glade  
561-993-1125

[westtesting@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:westtesting@palmbeachstate.edu)

Boca Raton  
561-862-4324

[southtesting@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:southtesting@palmbeachstate.edu)

Lake Worth  
561-868-3012

[centraltesting@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:centraltesting@palmbeachstate.edu)

Palm Beach Gardens  
561-207-5359

[northtesting@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:northtesting@palmbeachstate.edu)

A variety of national and state exams, such as PERT, Compass, CLEP, Accuplacer, TABE, and others are administered in the testing centers, as well as instructor make-up exams and testing for distance-learning courses. Current or prospective students taking a test at the College's testing centers must be prepared to sit for the full amount of time allotted for the test. Students must present a government-issued, valid photo identification card before being allowed to sit for any test. For information on tests administered, hours of operation, test fees, payment and policies and procedures, please go to the website: [www.palmbeachstate.edu/testing](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/testing)



# Campus Safety and Security

## A Drug-Free Campus

The Federal Controlled Substances Act provides penalties of up to 15 years imprisonment and fines of up to \$25,000 for unlawful distribution or possession with intent to distribute narcotics. For unlawful possession of a controlled substance, a person is subject to up to one year of imprisonment and fines of up to \$5,000. Any person who unlawfully distributes a controlled substance, including alcohol, to a person under 21 years of age may be punished by up to twice the term of imprisonment and fine otherwise authorized by law.

Under Florida law, Palm Beach County and city ordinances, it is unlawful for any person to sell, purchase, manufacture, deliver or possess with the intent to sell, purchase, manufacture or deliver a controlled substance. A person who violates this provision is guilty of a felony of the first, second or third degree, which is partially determined by the type of drug and the quantity involved. Violators may be subject to the stiffest penalties available.

Under Florida law, the maximum penalty for trafficking specific amounts of cocaine or any mixture containing cocaine, including, but not limited to crack, is a first-degree felony punishable by life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. Under certain circumstances, such an offense is a capital felony punishable by death.

Based on the quantity involved, penalties for trafficking in illegal drugs including, but not limited to, the narcotics morphine, opium and heroin range from a mandatory imprisonment of three years and a \$50,000 fine to 25 years and a \$500,000 fine.

Based on quantity involved, other penalties for trafficking in illegal drugs include, but are not limited to, marijuana, inhalants, depressants and other stimulants range from five years' imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine to 30 years imprisonment and a \$15,000 fine.

Further, it is unlawful for any person to use or to possess with intent to use or deliver drug paraphernalia.

It is unlawful for any person to sell, purchase, manufacture or deliver, or to possess, with the intent to sell, purchase, manufacture or deliver a controlled substance on or within 200 feet of the real property comprising a public or private college, university or other postsecondary education institution.

For further information, please consult Florida Statutes, Chapter 893, and Palm Beach County and local city ordinances.

The legal age for drinking alcoholic beverages is 21 in Florida. Selling, giving or serving alcoholic beverages to persons under 21 is unlawful. Possession of alcoholic beverages by persons under age 21 is prohibited by Florida law. The minimum penalty is 60 days in jail or a \$500 fine. Alcoholic beverages include, but are not limited to, beer, wine, distilled spirits, wine coolers and liqueurs. Students are prohibited from possessing, selling or using alcoholic beverages on campus or at any College function.

It is unlawful for any person to misrepresent or misstate his or her age. This includes the manufacture or use of false identification. Use of altered identification for the purpose of procuring alcoholic beverages is a misdemeanor. Use or possession of a counterfeit license or identification is a felony.

It is unlawful to drive while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Penalties range from a mandatory suspension of a driver's license for 90 days to fines up to \$500, to hours of community service, to imprisonment for six months. Students shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by the College authorities.

In accordance with applicable state and federal laws, students who are under the age of 21 and are found responsible for a drug or alcohol violation may have notification regarding the violation and sanction sent to their parent(s), legal guardian and/or guarantor. Such notification will occur on the first drug violation. Such notification may occur after the first alcohol offense if the mitigating circumstances justify parental notification. Additionally, the applicable persons will be notified if a student is provided emergency medical transport.

## Children on Campus

Palm Beach State faculty/instructors and staff assume no responsibility for minors not officially enrolled at the College. Minors not officially enrolled at the College are prohibited from using College facilities except with the permission of a faculty/instructor, supervisor or other College official.

Any unaccompanied minor who creates a disturbance or appears to be lost and unattended shall, for his/her safety, health and welfare be put in the care of the supervisor of campus security or an appropriate College administrator to locate a responsible person for the minor.

Faculty/instructors and staff are forbidden from entertaining on campus their own minor children or children for whom they are responsible who are not enrolled at the College. This prohibition does not deny entry of minor children to campus activities to which they are officially invited.

## **Restraining Orders -- Court Issued**

Students who have obtained a restraining order should provide the campus Security Office and the campus dean of student services with a copy. College personnel will assist the students in providing as safe an environment as possible.

Violators of restraining orders properly filed with the College will be referred to local law enforcement for removal from campus.

## **Restraining Orders -- College Issued**

In order to provide reasonable protection for our students, College administrative restraining orders are issued by the dean of student services when a student provides written notification of harassment or stalking by another student. A student who receives a College administrative restraining order is required to abide by its directions or face disciplinary action. College administrative restraining orders do not take the place of civil or criminal restraining orders issued by the court; students are urged to pursue this avenue of protection as well. Students who receive a restraining order may discuss their options with the dean of student services.

## **Sexual Predator Policy/Procedure**

Any Palm Beach State student or potential student who is a registered sexual offender must notify the campus dean of student services of his/her intent to register for classes each semester. The dean of student services will schedule a conference with the student to discuss any restrictions to campus activities. If the student intends to register on more than one Palm Beach State campus, the student must notify the other campus deans of student services. Each campus Security Office maintains a list of registered sexual offenders that is available for public inspection upon request.

## **Student Accident (Education/Training) Insurance**

Palm Beach State College students who are enrolled in classes that may result in injury during training or clinical experience situations (e.g., in certain Criminal Justice, Health Sciences, Public Safety and Trade & Industry programs) are responsible for all medical and/or personal expenses resulting from treatment of any such injury. To assist with this expense, all students in covered programs are covered by Student Accident (Education Training) Insurance coordinated by the College and paid for by the student as part of the course registration fee. This insurance coverage is in excess of any private insurance the student may have and is in effect only during classwork and/or training. If the student has his/her own private health insurance coverage, this policy will pay for any out-of-pocket expenses not covered by the student's own insurance; e.g., any deductible or co-payment. If the student has no private health insurance, the policy will cover an accident fully up to its limit of \$15,000. However, students returning to the College for agility tests, re-certifications, etc., are not eligible for this insurance.

If you are a student who becomes injured while participating in classwork or training in one of the covered programs, you should immediately inform your class supervisor. Following any medical treatment and your payment of any costs or receipt of an invoice from the treating facility for that treatment, you should provide all documentation to your class supervisor. Your class supervisor is responsible for submitting the claim and supporting documentation directly to the College's claims reporting company, Fringe Benefits Coordinators. The claim form includes a section for both the supervisor and student to complete, including signatures. Please be sure to contact Security for each and every incident that occurs so they may complete a formal Accident – Incident Report, which is required as part of the claim submission. In accordance with the policy requirements, claim forms must be submitted within 30 days of the injury, which may mean that the claim would have to be submitted before treatment is completed or any costs are incurred.

The Student Training Accident Insurance link on the College's Safety and Risk Management web page at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/safety](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/safety) provides additional information, including links to a Summary of Coverage, a Q & A and Claims Procedure, a listing of programs covered by this policy, the Hartford

Insurance Company's Certificate of Insurance and an Accident Claim Form. The Claim Form can also be accessed at <http://www.fbc-inc.com> If you have any questions or comments regarding Student Accident (Education Training) Insurance, please contact Ginny Rizzo at [rizzov@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:rizzov@palmbeachstate.edu) or (561) 868-4014.

## **Firearms on Campus Policy for Law Enforcement Officers Attending Palm Beach State**

Law enforcement officers in uniform may carry their weapon in view. Officers in civilian clothes are encouraged to carry their firearm concealed and/or follow their employing department's guidelines on the carrying of firearms on or off duty.

## **Emergencies**

### **Fire**

In case of fire, an alarm will sound (short, repeated rings). File out quickly to the red Safe Assembly Pole nearest to the building. Reenter the building only after getting an "all clear" from the authorities in charge of the situation.

### **Accident/Incident**

Call 911 immediately for medical emergencies. Report all incidents involving accident, illness or injury as well as those involving property damage or theft to the Security Office.

Emergency-related information should be directed to the campus Security Office.

Belle Glade	561-993-1120
Boca Raton	561-862-4600
Lake Worth	561-868-3600
Palm Beach Gardens	561-207-5600

## **Palm Beach State Alerts**

Palm Beach State College now uses Blackboard Connect to communicate with students and employees in an emergency. These emergency messages are sent via text messages on mobile devices, audio messages on cell phones and/or home phones, and emails. To keep your contact information up to date, see instructions at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/alert](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/alert)



**EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES**  
**IN AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 911 AND/OR CAMPUS SECURITY**

**EVACUATION**

REASONS TO EVACUATE	IF YOU OBSERVE A FIRE OR SOME OTHER REASON TO EVACUATE:	WHEN AN ALARM SOUNDS OR YOU ARE TOLD TO EVACUATE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire alarm sounds</li> <li>• Power outage</li> <li>• Announcement made to evacuate</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Activate local fire alarm.</li> <li>2. Notify others and call 911 and/or campus Security, if possible.</li> <li>3. Remain calm; do not panic.</li> <li>4. Proceed to the nearest Safe Assembly Area.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leave the building immediately in a calm, orderly manner.</li> <li>2. Take all your belongings with you.</li> <li>3. Close doors <b>ON THE WAY OUT!</b></li> <li>4. Walk, do not run.</li> <li>5. Follow your evacuation route (check the floor plan in the room or hallway if uncertain). Leave the building through the nearest safe exit.</li> <li>6. DO NOT USE ELEVATORS.</li> <li>7. Listen for instructions from the Building Coordinators, Security personnel and Emergency Responders.</li> <li>8. Move away from the building and report to the building's designated Safe Assembly Area.</li> <li>9. Report any missing or trapped people to the Emergency Responders.</li> <li>10. Remain at the Safe Assembly Area until all personnel have been accounted for and the "All Clear" signal is given. Listen for instructions and watch out for vehicular traffic.</li> <li>11. Do not reenter the building until Emergency Responders indicate it is safe.</li> </ol>

**LOCKDOWN**

<b>WHAT IS "LOCKDOWN"?</b>	Lockdown is an emergency response measure in which individuals on campus receive instructions to immediately enter or remain inside a structure in order to protect themselves from an imminent threat of violence believed to be on the premises.
<b>WHY?</b>	<p>A threat of violence may include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active Shooter on campus</li> <li>• Hostage situation</li> <li>• Riot</li> <li>• Significant criminal or law enforcement activity in the neighborhood adjacent to the campus</li> <li>• Lockdown of nearby schools</li> </ul>
<b>WHAT DO I DO?</b>	<p>When an announcement of initiation of Lockdown is made, the following must occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediately cease all activity.</li> <li>• You may leave the campus if you believe it is safe to do so.</li> <li>• Otherwise, if outdoors, go into the nearest building and/or proceed to an area that can be secured.</li> <li>• If inside a building, enter the nearest classroom, office or secure space with locking capabilities.</li> <li>• Faculty/staff should look outside their classroom/office to direct any students or staff in the hallway into the room immediately.</li> <li>• Anyone in a hallway, restroom, gym or cafeteria should move to the nearest classroom or other secure area immediately.</li> <li>• Use Lockdown keys to lock doors to classrooms and offices from the inside.</li> <li>• Secure and lock windows of classrooms and offices and close window coverings.</li> <li>• Turn off lights and computer monitors. Silence cell phones; if used, text only.</li> <li>• Everyone seek concealment and keep quiet.</li> <li>• Do not open doors during a Lockdown, even in the event of a fire alarm.</li> <li>• Stay in secured areas until directed by Security, law enforcement or a College Official.</li> </ul>

**SHELTER IN PLACE**

<b>WHAT IS "SHELTER IN PLACE"?</b>	Shelter in Place is an emergency response wherein building occupants and persons outside buildings are to seek refuge in areas of the facility that offer protection from an environmental event occurring outside, e.g., a hazardous material spill, severe weather that makes being outdoors dangerous or when evacuation of a building might place the occupants at greater risk than sheltering them within the facility.
<b>WHY?</b>	The purpose of Shelter in Place is to use a building as a barrier between yourself and the phenomenon posing danger.
<b>WHAT DO I DO?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go inside as quickly as possible.</li> <li>• In the case of a tornado warning, avoid seeking refuge in auditoriums, gymnasiums and other buildings with large roof spans. Occupants of such structures should move into adjacent or nearby offices.</li> <li>• Move to an interior room with no windows on the lowest floor possible of the building using stairs, not the elevator.</li> <li>• Move to an interior stairwell or a hallway not directly connected to the outside if all rooms have windows. Otherwise stay away from windows and glass.</li> <li>• <u>Close and lock all windows</u> if you are in a room with windows.</li> <li>• Close window coverings (e.g., blinds, drapes, shades) if present and <u>if there is time</u>.</li> <li>• Close doors and lock them if so advised. Stay in the center of the room away from windows and doors.</li> <li>• Use the phone only for emergencies.</li> <li>• Stay in place until the danger has passed or until you are told it is safe by Security or law enforcement personnel or a College official.</li> </ul>

See the College's Emergency Operations Plan at <http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/safety/Documents/EmergencyOperationsPlan.pdf> for more detail.

## **Campus Security**

All Palm Beach County ordinances and Florida laws apply to the campuses and facilities of Palm Beach State College. The College has adopted policies, rules and regulations to provide security for the students, staff, visitors and buildings. Security officers are stationed at all campus locations.

Belle Glade ..... 561-993-1120

Boca Raton..... 561-862-4600

Lake Worth ..... 561-868-3600

Palm Beach Gardens.... 561-207-5600

## **Campus Crime Awareness**

In compliance with the Federal Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 and the Palm Beach State College District Board of Trustees Policy 6Hx181.21, the Annual Security Reports are available on the Security website at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/Security](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Security)

# Traffic and Parking

## Vehicle Registration

All students driving a motor vehicle on campus must obtain a Palm Beach State parking permit.

1. The parking decal shall be adhered to the outside of the left rear window or left rear bumper.
2. Remove the decal upon transferring ownership of the vehicle.
3. Notify campus Security of vehicle title transfer.
4. Florida Atlantic University is no longer honoring Palm Beach State decals at the FAU Boca Raton campus, with the exception of vehicles parked in Parking Garage #1 at the FAU library and lot #19. FAU decals are honored at all Palm Beach State campuses, and students with an FAU decal must comply with Palm Beach State traffic and parking regulations.

## Reserved Parking

Reserved decals are restricted to full-time and regular part-time employees and will not be issued to temporary or student employees. Reserved parking areas are for faculty/instructors and staff only. Students can park at any unmarked space, but may not park in Reserved or Visitor spaces.

## Handicapped Parking

These spaces are clearly marked with handicapped parking signs and are monitored by campus Security and law enforcement agencies.

## Permits

### Temporary Permits

This dashboard pass will be issued for classes less than six weeks in duration by the host division or to employees of contractors working on campus.

### Short-Term Permits

The Security office will issue a pass for unregistered vehicles, valid for up to three days. These passes must be displayed on the dashboard with expiration dates clearly visible.

## Traffic and Parking Regulations

1. Drivers must obey all posted signs, arrows, control devices, and lines displayed for public safety.
2. Driver and vehicle must be registered in accordance with state law.
3. Maximum speed on campus is 20 miles per hour.
4. Vehicles displaying a defaced, altered or expired decal could result in a citation.
5. Pedestrians have the right of way at all campus crosswalks. Vehicles must come to a complete stop when a pedestrian is in the crosswalk.
6. Vehicles displaying a student decal must park in spaces with unmarked wheel stops. Parking in a space marked Visitor or Reserved at any time will result in a citation.
7. Licensed motorcycles must display a parking decal and are subject to four-wheel vehicle regulations.
8. Parking or driving on planted areas or sidewalks is prohibited.
9. No overnight parking is permitted, except for College-sanctioned and authorized educational or athletic activities.
10. Vehicles may occupy only one parking space and are not permitted to park or stand curbside, in a fire lane or in a no parking area.

## Fines

Registration, transcripts and final grades will be withheld until fines are resolved.

Traffic and Parking violation: \$20 per infraction.

Handicapped violation: Fines vary, depending on the jurisdiction; may exceed \$300.

## **Appeals**

If you receive a parking citation that you feel is unjust, you may initiate an appeal online or by going to the Security Office on the campus where you were issued the citation. For more information on appeals, visit [www.palmbeachstate.edu/security](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/security)

## **Towing Policy**

### **Disabled/Abandoned Vehicle**

After five business days, vehicles left on campus will be towed from campus at the owner's expense. Extended vehicle repair on campus is prohibited.

### **Vehicle Hazard**

Vehicles creating a hazard by parking in roadways, fire lanes or loading zones may be towed immediately at the owner's expense.

# General Information

## Advertising Distribution

Advertisement of a noncollegiate nature may only be distributed through College publications, bulletin boards or enclosed receptacles. Advertisements may not be placed on cars or distributed by hand. Permission to place receptacles must be requested in writing, with representative samples, to the dean of student services at each location. Receptacles must meet standards specified by the dean of student services and will only be placed in approved, designated locations.

Solicitation on Palm Beach State College campuses is prohibited

## Bus Service

For bus service information, contact the Transportation Authority of Palm Beach County: 877-930-4287 (toll free). Reduced fares are available for students -- any person 21 or younger with an ID issued from a school or from Palm Tran. The number for Palm Tran Connection is 561-649-9838. The website is: [www.palmtran.org](http://www.palmtran.org)

## College Bookstores

Campus bookstores are operated by Follett Higher Education Group at all four locations of Palm Beach State College. Hours of operation and operating policies and procedures are available at each store and at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/bookstore](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/bookstore).

## Emergency Messages and Alerts

Emergency notifications and updates are communicated through the Palm Beach State Alert system. Go to [www.palmbeachstate.edu/alert](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/alert) for information on options for receiving these messages, including text messages and emails.

## Food Service

A full-service cafeteria is available to students at the Lake Worth, Palm Beach Gardens and Boca Raton campuses. Food service at the Belle Glade campus is provided by The Pepe James Café. See your campus website to confirm food service hours of operation.

## Health Information

Students are encouraged to have adequate insurance to take care of medical expenses incurred.

### AIDS/Infectious Disease Policy

The College will allow students with infectious diseases including, but not limited to, AIDS, AIDS Related Complex (ARC) or those testing positive for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) to participate in any student programs unless it can be demonstrated that such students are a direct threat to other students, employees, or the public.

If it is determined that a student who has an infectious disease appears to pose a threat to other persons, the condition will be reviewed by a College committee consisting of the vice president of student services and enrollment management, two College employees in the health care field, and one other administrator, counselor or faculty/instructor appointed by the President. The committee will review the facts and recommend to the President whether or not action should be taken. The committee will consider "reasonable accommodation" if it is determined that some type of action is required.

The committee will take reasonable measures to safeguard the confidentiality of medical records or other information it has obtained.

### Measles Immunization

It is strongly recommended that all students who are either under the age of 35 years and have not had measles (rubella) or who were immunized for this disease before 1965 obtain measles immunization prior to attending the College. Certain Limited Access programs require documentation of immunization. Refer to specific program information. Immunization can be



obtained in the Belle Glade, Delray Beach, Lake Worth, Riviera Beach and West Palm Beach Health Department clinics

## Lost and Found

Books and articles found should be turned in promptly to campus Security. Claims may be made upon proper identification. Articles not claimed within 60 days are subject to disposal.

## PantherCard

The PantherCard serves as your student ID card, library card, student lab access card, print/copy card and debit card for Palm Beach State bookstores, cafeterias, and Dunkin Donuts locations. A valid, government-issued ID is required in order to obtain a PantherCard. There are PantherCard production stations at each of the four Palm Beach State locations:

Belle Glade -- LLRC

Boca Raton -- Bookstore

Lake Worth -- Bookstore/Panther Card Office

Palm Beach Gardens -- Bookstore

### **PantherCard Contact Information:**

4200 Congress Avenue

Lake Worth, FL 33461

Phone: 561-868-3567

e-mail: [panthercard@palmbeachstate.edu](mailto:panthercard@palmbeachstate.edu)

or visit the PantherCard website at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/Panthercard](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/Panthercard)

## Policy for Communication with Students

The College assigns all students a College email address when processing their applications. This email address will be used by the College faculty/instructors and staff for official communications with students. Students must check their College email frequently to ensure that they obtain critical information and assignments.

In addition to their College-assigned email accounts, students should regularly check the Students Updates Web page, located at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/StudentUpdates](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/StudentUpdates) for timely announcements. The College also may communicate with students through certified mail, return receipt requested

**Note:** Computers for student use are located in the College libraries, Student Learning Centers and other campus locations.

## Policy on Evening and Weekend Activities Sponsored by Student Groups

**Purpose:** This policy is to ensure the safety, welfare and equitable treatment of those participating in on-campus and off-campus evening and weekend College-sanctioned activities sponsored by student groups and to protect the property, resources and general interest of the College.

**Stipulations:** College-sanctioned activities sponsored by campus clubs, organizations or other student groups on weekends or that extend beyond 9 p.m. during weekdays must adhere to the following stipulations:

1. Must be approved by the advisor and the dean of student services.
2. Must have adequate security and supervision as determined by the dean of student services; however, a minimum of two adult supervisors, who are College personnel, is required.
3. Must conclude by midnight, unless special exception is granted by the provost.
4. All alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are strictly prohibited. Persons suspected of using such substances will be immediately reported to the proper authority and expelled from the activity.
5. The Student Code of Conduct as outlined in this handbook will be strictly enforced.
6. Written requests should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.
7. A facility request form must be completed in accordance with established procedures.

## **Use of Public Forums and/or Distribution of Materials Guidelines for Students and Student Clubs and Organizations**

Palm Beach State College reaffirms its commitment to an environment in which members of the College community may freely express themselves. It is the purpose of this Policy, and all others that may impact free expression, to impose limitations only where necessary to ensure that the pursuit of the College's educational mission by members of the College community is not materially impaired by those exercising their expressive freedoms. This policy applies to those students or clubs/organizations that wish to use public forums. Students or clubs/organizations that desire to exercise their free speech may do so in public areas that do not impede the normal flow of traffic, and disrupt ongoing instructional activities, or other campus activities.

Students or clubs/organizations that require a setup (tables and chairs) to distribute materials to the public may use those campus areas designated as public forums to speak and/or distribute printed materials on campus, but only on the following terms and conditions:

1. Such activities may only take place in a public forum, the availability of which is requested in advance by the student, club or organization and confirmed by the College. See the campus map designations for public forum areas at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/locations](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/locations)
2. Requests to use a public forum must be submitted in writing on the form found on the Student Activities homepage ([www.palmbeachstate.edu/StudentActivities](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/StudentActivities)), and returned to the Campus Student Activities Office ("CSAO") at least two business days prior to the proposed date of distribution or the use of the public forum. Once the CSAO confirms that the requesting party is a current student, club or organization in good standing, the CSAO will so advise the requesting party. Once approved, all permitted activities must remain behind tables provided by the Campus in the designated public forum. Good standing is determined by (1) whether a student is not subject to any disciplinary sanctions; (2) whether a club/organization and/or its officer(s) are not subject to any disciplinary sanctions; or (3) whether a club/organization has a current constitution and bylaws approved, has an advisor, and has complied with the College's Cash Collections & Deposit Guidelines for Student Activities.
3. Once approved, all permitted activities must remain behind tables provided by the campus in the designated public forum.
4. In the event a specified public forum is requested by more than one student, club or organization for any particular time, the CSAO may take into account the number of prior occasions that a requesting party has used that public forum in a given school (semester) term. The College reserves the right to restrict the use of public forums by a student, club, or organization to no more than three separate dates in a school term (semester) in order to accommodate all requests. The College will try to accommodate all requests for a specified location. Factors that will be considered in determining whether a specified location is available will depend upon the audio needs, prior scheduled College sponsored events that conflict with the student's or club/organization's request, and/or safety or security concerns.
5. Students are allowed to distribute materials or use public forums between the hours of 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. for a maximum of no more than four hours a day. These hours may be extended or limited for those clubs or organizations that participate in College-sponsored events or programs.
6. Audio equipment must be adjusted so as not to interfere with nearby classrooms, study activities or administrative functions. Upon request from any College official or faculty member, students, clubs or organizations using such equipment shall reduce its volume to a level that does not interfere with the College's academic or administrative activities.

7. The sale of items or publications is not permitted. Student clubs or organizations are permitted to sell items or materials as a fundraising activity for their club or organization.
8. Students, clubs or organizations are required to pick up any literature that has been scattered on the ground. The College reserves the right to assess a student, club or organization a fee to defray the costs of cleaning up such materials.
9. Literature or materials that promote or advertise the use, sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia are prohibited.
10. Publications and advertisements may not be placed on cars.
11. Students are reminded that the Student Code of Conduct and laws of the State of Florida impose sanctions for actions that injure others or materially interfere with the opportunity for others to participate in the College's academic programs or administrative activities.
12. The College may order a person(s) distributing literature to cease distribution when it would affect the health, safety and welfare of individuals or property, which may include, but is not limited to, the following:
  - a. Where the distribution materially and substantially disrupts the operation of the campus.
  - b. Where the distribution of materials would incite individuals so as to create a clear and present danger to persons or property.
  - c. Where the person(s) litters, defaces or destroys campus property.
  - d. Where the person(s) distributing literature is harassing, stalking or forcing their literature on any person(s).
  - e. Where the person(s) distributing literature is in violation of any applicable federal, state, and local laws or College policies.

Failure to comply with these regulations and other rules and regulations of the College (including the Student Code of Conduct) may result in the revocation of a club or an organization's privilege to distribute materials or use a public forum at the College. Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary sanctions. Persons violating this policy may be asked to leave the College by campus administration or security.

If distribution is stopped, the person(s) distributing literature may appeal this decision in writing to the dean of students of the relevant campus within seven days after being ordered to stop. The dean of students must issue a written decision on the appeal within seven days after receipt of the written appeal. The dean of students' decision shall be final on behalf of the College. If the dean of students affirms the decision to stop distribution, the person distributing literature may seek judicial review through the state courts.

# Glossary of Terms

**A.A.:** (Associate in Arts degree) a degree designed for transfer to an upper-division college or university.

**Academic Integrity:** Instances of dishonesty are described in Section 5. Student Code of Conduct, 21. Academic Integrity.

**A.S.:** (Associate in Science degree) a degree designed to prepare students to enter a career upon completing the degree, with no further study required.

**Accreditation:** Palm Beach State College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Various academic and workforce programs maintain state and/or national accreditation, as well as national certifications.

**ATC:** Advanced Technical Certificate programs range from 9 to 16 credit hours and are designed for students who have already earned an associate degree. They provide advanced skills in a specific area to be studied.

**ATD:** Applied Technology Diploma certificate programs are either clock-hour noncredit or credit hour based. They provide entry-level courses in a specific area that usually can be applied towards an Associate in Science or Associate in Applied Science degree.

**Attempts:** course attempts include withdrawals, audits and non-passing grades.

**Audit:** credit course taken for noncredit.

**Bachelor's degree:** (B.A. for Bachelor of Arts, B.S. for Bachelor of Science, and B.A.S. for Bachelor of Applied Science) is usually a four-year course of study. The first two years of study can be general education earned at Palm Beach State, or general education courses can follow a two-year Associate in Science program at Palm Beach State.

**Bachelor of Applied Science degree:** This degree is designed for students who wish to earn a bachelor's degree after earning an associate degree (or at least 60 hours with 15 hours of transferable general education) to gain career advancement.

**Bachelor of Science degree:** This degree is designed for students who wish to earn a bachelor's degree after earning an associate degree (or at least 60 hours with 15 hours of transferable general education) to gain career advancement.

**Blackboard component courses:** These are face-to-face classes that meet routinely throughout the term. Your faculty/instructor has chosen to use an online tool to assist in the delivery of the course content. Faculty/instructors may choose to post their syllabi, course calendar, assignments, quizzes, student evaluations as well as use e-mail, discussion boards, and chat rooms to enhance their course. These courses are password protected. Further information will be available in class.

**CCC:** college credit certificate programs vary in length from 12 to 43 credit hours and provide the student with a set of technical skills in a specific area of study. Each college credit certificate applies towards an associate of science degree.

**CLEP:** (College-Level Examination Program) credit by examination by College Entrance Examination Board test in specified subjects, with such credit applicable toward a degree.

**C.E.U.** (Continuing Education Unit): One C.E.U. is awarded for every 10 contact hours of instruction in an organized continuing professional education course.

**Clock hour:** one (1) hour of course time associated with noncredit courses or programs.

**Corequisite:** a course required to be taken at the same time as another course.

**CCE:** Corporate and continuing education courses are noncredit offerings tailored to individual needs and designed to maintain or improve job performance. Some programs meet continuing education requirements for occupational license renewal.

**Credit hour:** a semester hour of credit usually equals an hour per week that a class meets per regular session.

**Degree:** the rank given by a college, university or institute to a student who has completed a required course of study.

**Dismissal:** student status under which he/she is not permitted to attend college indefinitely.

**Distance learning:** courses that use alternative learning environments, such as the Internet.

**Dual enrollment:** concurrent enrollment at two educational institutions.

**EAP:** English for academic purposes.

**Fee:** a nonrefundable financial charge for services rendered, such as for admission, laboratory, special tests and graduation.

**Foreign language requirement:** the requirement by Florida's state universities that students transferring to the university must have earned two years of sequential foreign language at the high school level or the equivalent at a community or state college.

**Full-time student:** a student registered for 12 semester hours or more for credit.

**General education:** Florida Statute 1007.25 specifies that General Education courses come from five core areas: communications, humanities, mathematics, natural science and social science. In accordance with the state articulation agreement (State Board of Education Rule 6A10.024), each community college and/or university shall honor the completion of General Education courses if such completion is noted on the student's transcript. General Education courses must be completed with a "C" or higher to apply to any degree program.

**Gordon rule:** The State of Florida requires all public colleges and universities to include writing and mathematics in their curriculum to ensure students have achieved substantial competency in these areas as specified in State Board of Education Rule 6A10.30 (Gordon Rule).

**Grade:** alphabetical measure of academic success or failure ranging from excellent (A) to failure (F).

**GPA:** (grade point average) dividing total quality points earned by total semester hours completed. GPAs range from 4.0 downward.

**Graduate degrees:** (master's, specialist and doctoral) awarded upon successful completion of a specialized course of study. A bachelor's degree is generally required before a graduate degree can be obtained.

**Grant:** funds awarded for college expenses to qualified students in financial need.

**Hybrid:** classroom-based course with 50% of the content occurring online.

**International Student:** a student who has entered the United States on a nonimmigrant visa, most often an individual on a student visa. Immigrants, refugees and U.S. citizens who do not speak English as a native language are not classified as international students at Palm Beach State.

**Online courses:** On-campus time is not required, with the exception of testing. All syllabus information, lectures, notes, assignments, projects as well as textbook requirements can be found online. Students will communicate online with the faculty/instructor and fellow classmates.

**Online using Blackboard:** online courses using the course management system Blackboard. Your faculty/instructor has chosen to place course materials online. Faculty/instructors may choose to post their syllabi, course calendar, assignments, student evaluations, quizzes as well as use email, discussion boards, and chat rooms to enhance their course. These courses are password-protected. Students will communicate online with the faculty/instructor and fellow classmates. On-campus time is not required with the exception of testing. All course information can be found online at the eLearning site: [www.palmbeachstate.edu/eLearning](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/eLearning)

**Part-time student:** student enrolled for fewer than 12 semester hours during the 16-week term, or fewer than 6 semester hours during an 8-week term.

**Prerequisite:** course which must be satisfactorily completed before a higher-level related course can be taken.

**Probation:** a status given to students who fail to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

**Program Objective:** the area of specialization you select to study. Explore a variety of fields before you make your final decision.

**PSAV:** Postsecondary adult vocational certificate programs are clock-hour based noncredit programs that provide the student with broad entry level skills in the chosen field of study. Many of these programs can apply towards an associate in science or associate in applied science degree.

**Quality points:** the value, ranging from 4 to 0, for grades for A to F for all courses completed, used in determining academic average. See also GPA.

**Residency:** used for determination of tuition costs. Students who can provide appropriate documentation that they have been legal residents for Florida for the 12 preceding months may qualify for "in-state" fees.

**Scholarships:** financial assistance for tuition and fee payment granted by donors to qualified recipients.

**SAT:** (Scholastic Aptitude Test) assessment used for placement purposes.

**SGA:** (Student Government Association) official representatives of the student body to the administration in matters concerning student life.

**SLC:** (Student Learning Center) Academic support labs, supplemental instruction, and programs that provide assistance to Palm Beach State students for a variety of courses and tests.

**Student load:** number of credit hours carried by a student in any session.

**Suspension:** student status under which he/she is not permitted to attend the College for a specified period of time.

**TABE:** Test of Adult Basic Education; Assessment test associated with PSAV programs.

**T.B.A.:** to be arranged or announced.

**Transcript:** official record of college courses taken by a particular student.

**Transfer student:** student who attended a college or university before coming to Palm Beach State.

**Transient student:** student taking one (1) or more classes at Palm Beach State to complete degree requirements and major coursework at another institution.

**Tuition:** financial charge for each credit hour of instruction.

**Tutorial assistance:** special academic help in specified subjects.

**University parallel program:** course of study leading to A.A. degree which parallels the lower-level requirements of a four-year degree.

**Withdrawal:** removal from a course(s) by completion of proper forms in the Registrar's Office, or by faculty/instructor for excessive absences.

# Classroom Etiquette and Student Behavior Guidelines

As a learning-centered environment, the classroom should be unhindered by disruptive behavior, and college students are expected to act in a mature manner. Faculty/instructors have the authority to manage their classrooms to ensure an environment conducive to learning, per section 1006.61, Florida Statutes, and Palm Beach State Board Rule 6Hx18.3.35:

Any person who accepts the privilege extended by the laws of this state of attendance at any public postsecondary institution shall, by attending such institution, be deemed to have given his or her consent to the policies of that institution, the State Board of Education, and the Board of Governors regarding the State University System, and the laws of this state. Such policies shall include prohibition against disruptive activities at postsecondary educational institutions. After it has been determined that a student at a state institution of higher learning has participated in disruptive activities, such student may be immediately expelled from the institution for a minimum of two years.

## **Take responsibility for your education**

There is a common myth among students that because they pay tuition, they deserve to receive credit for the class. This is not true. In fact, students pay approximately 36 percent of the cost of their education; taxpayers pay the rest. Your learning depends on your willingness to listen, ask appropriate questions and do the work necessary to pass the course. If your academic preparation from high school is weak or if you have been out of school for some time, you may have to work harder and seek more help in order to succeed.

## **Attend every class**

Students who attend every class, listen to the faculty/instructor, and take good notes will more likely pass with a higher grade. If you have an emergency or illness, contact your faculty/instructor ahead of time to let him/her know that you will be absent. A local study showed that students who missed the first class meeting were more likely to withdraw or fail.

**Important note:** It is important to read the course syllabus to know the faculty member's policy on class absence.

## **Get to class on time**

Students who walk into the classroom late distract other students and disrupt the learning environment. All students should attend class on time.

## **Practice common courtesies**

Do not have private conversations in class, and silence cellular phones and beepers. Your classmates deserve your respect and support. Others may have different ideas and opinions from yours, and they deserve the same level of respect from you as you wish from them.

## **Ask appropriate questions**

It's good to ask questions and make comments, but keep them related to the discussion at hand.

## **Respect your faculty/instructor**

If you take issue with the faculty/instructor's information or instructional methods, make sure that your comments are made without confrontation or antagonism. You may want to discuss your issues with her/ him privately.

## **Faculty/instructors' classroom policies, procedures and teaching styles vary**

Each faculty/instructor has the freedom and authority to set guidelines and policies for his/her classroom (within the overall policies of the College).

### **Come to class prepared**

Students who forget common classroom supplies, such as pencils, paper, books, test materials, etc., usually waste class time. Students who have not completed their homework assignments often ask questions that could have been answered through their assignments. Be engaged in your learning; be prepared.

### **Turn in your work on time**

It is important to plan ahead. Students who wait until the last minute to do their work usually make lower grades and are more likely to miss deadlines.

### **If you are struggling with your coursework, seek assistance**

If you need academic assistance, the Student Learning Center on each campus offers tutoring. Subjects vary by campus, but include English, writing, reading comprehension, literature, poetry, study skills, math, computers, chemistry, biology, vocational preparatory instruction, and English for speakers of other languages. Seek help early in the semester from our friendly tutors.

SLC Labs and online services are available to all Palm Beach State students. Bring your PantherCard to use any Student Learning Center Lab. The SLC is here to help you succeed. Check out the SLC Labs at all campus locations: [www.palmbeachstate.edu/SLC](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/SLC)

If you are an online student, SMARThinking (online tutoring) is available, as well as online help from the [Student Learning Centers](#), the [Library Learning Resource Centers](#) and [Live Chat](#).



# Student Success Tips

## Test Taking Strategies

### Objective Tests

1. Survey the entire test.
2. Read the directions carefully, making sure you understand exactly what is expected.
3. Determine the point value for each question. Find out if you are penalized for guessing. If not, always guess and do not leave any unanswered questions.
4. Read each question carefully, underlining key words.
5. Don't read into the question what is not there.
6. Pass over the difficult or debatable questions on your first reading, then come back after completing those of which you were sure.
7. Use information from other questions.
8. If you know you made an error, change your first answer. If it is just a guess, keep your first impression.
9. Ask the faculty/instructor for clarification if you have specific questions. Spot check every fifth question for accuracy if you are using a computer-scored answer sheet.

### Multiple Choice Tests

10. Anticipate the answer and then look for it. Read all the alternatives before answering.
11. When your anticipated answer is not one of the options, discard it and concentrate on the given ones systematically. Cross out options that are clearly wrong (if you are allowed to write on test). Be sure your choice fits the item exactly.
12. When two or more options look correct, compare them with each other. Study them to find out what makes them different. Choose the more encompassing option unless the question requires a specific answer.

### True-False Tests

13. In all questions, especially the true-false type, look for specific determiners. Words such as rarely, usually, sometimes and seldom allow for exceptions: "never," "always," "no," and "all" indicate no exceptions.
14. Mark statements true only if they are true without exceptions. If any part of the statement is false, the whole statement is marked false.

### Matching Tests

15. Stay in one column of a matching test (usually the column with definitions) and work backwards to find the words or symbol that match. Be sure to find out if the answers can be used more than once.

### Essay Tests

Essays are the most challenging types of tests because you really have to know and understand the material well. There are many strategies to keep in mind as you begin the essay part of a test. Read the directions carefully. Though reading directions is part of the general rules, it is especially important on essays. The essay directions will tell you:

1. How many essay questions you need to answer. Sometimes you will be given a choice of questions to answer, such as three out of five. In this case, make sure to only answer three. If you answer four, chances are that the faculty/instructor will count the first three you wrote, not the best three.
2. How long the essay should be. Few faculty/instructors enjoy reading excessively long essays, especially when they instruct you to write 250 words or one to two pages. Follow the instructions and come as close as you can to the length you are being asked to write.
3. How to budget your time. The amount of time you allow for answering essay questions depends on the number of points the questions are worth, the required length of the answers and how quickly you think you can come up with an answer. This is where previewing the test is very helpful.
4. The type of answer to give. Before you answer any essay question, understand first what the question is asking you to do. Always avoid giving your opinion unless you are asked for it. Read and learn from the table below on understanding essay directions.
5. How many questions you are to answer. Some essay questions ask you to respond to more than one question.

## **Review**

Reviewing means pulling together the separate facts and ideas in your readings to form a whole. In many cases, it means restudying the material, verifying, and reciting the main content. Write out a quiz question or two and see if you can answer them. Review periodically to see the relationship of new chapters to the old ones.

## **Time Management**

Make class time your best study time: come prepared, take notes, and listen attentively.

Make a daily list: prioritize academic and personal goals.

Make a weekly schedule: include classes, work, extracurricular activities, and study time. Learn to say "no."

Make a semester calendar.

Be realistic in your expectations of yourself. Can you really work 40 hours and be successful as a fulltime student?

Seek out assistance early and often. Don't wait until the semester is almost over to seek out assistance if you are having trouble with a course. Begin by discussing your issues with your faculty/instructor. Go to the labs for tutoring assistance early and often. Don't let a small problem become a major issue. Don't hesitate to ask questions to get the help you need. The College wants you to succeed!

## Procrastination Quotient

Directions: Mark an "X" in the column for your response to each of the 12 items. Total the "X's" in each column, multiply by the weight at the bottom of the column, and add your products.

		Almost Always	Frequently	Occasionally	Almost Never
1.	I find reasons for not acting immediately on a difficult assignment.				
2.	I know what I have to do but find that I have done something else.				
3.	I carry my books/work assignments with me to various places but do not open them.				
4.	I work best at the "last minute" when the pressure is really on.				
5.	There are too many interruptions that interfere with my most important study goals.				
6.	I avoid setting priorities for the day and doing the most important tasks first.				
7.	I avoid or delay unpleasant decisions.				
8.	I have been too tired, nervous or upset to get started on my assignments.				
9.	I like to get my room in excellent order before starting a difficult study task.				
10.	I wait for inspirations before becoming involved in important study/work tasks.				
11.	I fear failing at my most important study tasks.				
12.	I demand perfection in my work/study performance.				
Total number of "X's"					
		X 4 =	X 3 =	X 2 =	X 1 =
P.Q. = TOTAL SCORE (add all four columns)					

P.Q. score below 22 -- Procrastination is a minor concern.

P.Q. score 23 to 32 -- Procrastination is a moderate concern.

P.Q. score above 32 -- Procrastination is a major concern.

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE 2013-2014

# student handbook



**PALM BEACH STATE**  
**COLLEGE**

Your Pathway to Success



**BELLE GLADE**  
1977 College Drive



**BOCA RATON**  
3000 St. Lucie Avenue



**LAKE WORTH**  
4200 Congress Avenue



**PALM BEACH GARDENS**  
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