



Student Course Taking Patterns

Analyzing how students take courses at multiple campuses

Academic Affairs

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Introduction

This report will document student course taking patterns across campuses. At the time of admission, all students are required to declare a “home” campus. Typically, students will then enroll in classes at their campus. Historically, however, we know that students often attend classes at multiple PBCC campuses. Before the distance learning revolution, that meant that the student had to physically travel from campus to campus.

The current study was undertaken to examine course taking patterns of students – how many classes/FTE do they attend at other campuses? How do students who enroll in distance learning classes spread those classes across campuses?

Students take courses at multiple campuses for a variety of reasons – they may work in one part of the county and live in another part of county; they may want to enroll in a program that is only offered at one campus location. For example, if a student living in Delray Beach wants to enroll in the radiography AS degree program, they may choose to attend either the Lake Worth or Boca Raton campuses for their general education classes, but they must attend the Palm Beach Gardens campus for their program core courses.

Another goal of the study was to examine how distance learning FTE is distributed among the campuses. Students may not associate a distance learning class with a particular campus; in their minds the class is time and space independent, although we know administratively that the class is managed by and assigned to a particular campus.

How the Tables were constructed

For each term, the student's declared home campus was used to assign students and their classes to campuses. From there, each student's credit seats were assigned to the campus at which the class took place. Consider the following example: Jane Smith, a Lake Worth campus home student, is enrolled in five classes during the Fall term. Of those classes, three are at Lake Worth (in-class), one is at the Boca Raton Campus (distance learning) and one is at the Palm Beach Gardens campus (distance learning). So when this student's classes are assigned to campuses, three of her classes are credited to Lake Worth, one class to Boca Raton and one class to Palm Beach Gardens. In addition, the associated FTE (full-time equivalent) was calculated for the enrolled seats.

Results

For this report, the last eight major terms were examined. Table 1 looks at classes in Fall 2004 which were in-classroom (non distance learning). In all cases, students enroll in a majority of their FTE/classes at their home campus. The percentages range from 79.5% in Boca Raton to 64.5% at Belle Glade.

We see here clearly the relationships between students who attend classes both at the Lake Worth and Palm Beach Gardens campuses. A zip code study conducted by the Office of Institutional Research & Effectiveness in 2005 showed that western community students in Wellington and Royal Palm Beach attended both the Lake Worth and Palm Beach Gardens campuses as the driving distance is about equal.

Table 1 - Fall 2004 - Regular Classes (non Distance Learning)

Home Campus	Lake Worth			PB Gardens			Belle Glade			Boca Raton			DISTRICT TOTALS	
	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE
Lake Worth	18,430	1,796.8	79.10%	2,858	270.8	11.90%	703	69.2	3.00%	1,422	134.7	5.90%	23,413	2,272
PB Gardens	2,367	228.8	20.50%	8,701	849.9	76.30%	201	19.7	1.80%	173	16.2	1.50%	11,442	1,115
Belle Glade	533	50.9	25.10%	193	18.1	8.90%	1,337	130.9	64.50%	31	3.1	1.50%	2,094	203
Boca Raton	2,108	207.0	17.80%	327	28.9	2.50%	25	2.5	0.20%	9,393	925.1	79.50%	11,853	1,164

Table 2 of the report only looks at distance learning classes in Fall 2004. In this table, we see that students take classes at a much greater variety of locations, often not at their home campus. At Lake Worth, students enrolled in 47.6% of their distance learning FTE at Lake Worth, while in Boca Raton, 72.9% of the distance learning FTE was at their home campus. This is certainly a function of the fact that a majority of the distance learning classes were being offered by the Boca Raton campus during Fall 2004.

Table 2 - Fall 2004 - Distance Learning Classes

Home Campus	Lake Worth			PB Gardens			Belle Glade			Boca Raton			DISTRICT TOTALS	
	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE
Lake Worth	587	58.3	47.60%	138	14.8	12.10%	52	5.2	4.20%	441	44.3	36.10%	1,218	123
PB Gardens	190	19.2	30.10%	184	19.4	30.30%	40	4.0	6.30%	211	21.4	33.40%	625	64
Belle Glade	71	7.2	33.00%	15	1.7	7.80%	41	4.1	18.80%	88	8.8	40.40%	215	22
Boca Raton	137	13.7	17.00%	43	4.8	5.90%	34	3.4	4.20%	585	59.0	72.90%	799	81

Table 3 presents data for Spring 2005 classroom classes. Similar patterns are seen with students taking the majority of their regular classroom classes at their home campus, ranging from 80.0% at Lake Worth to 65.3% at Belle Glade.

Table 3 - Spring 2005 - Regular Classes (non Distance Learning)

Home Campus	Lake Worth			PB Gardens			Belle Glade			Boca Raton			DISTRICT TOTALS	
	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE
Lake Worth	18,099	1,761.4	80.00%	2,731	255.9	11.60%	629	61.5	2.80%	1,286	123.5	5.60%	22,745	2,202
PB Gardens	2,235	215.9	20.00%	8,547	826.3	76.70%	177	17.5	1.60%	188	18.1	1.70%	11,147	1,078
Belle Glade	440	42.3	23.90%	174	16.4	9.30%	1,186	115.4	65.30%	28	2.7	1.50%	1,828	177
Boca Raton	2,096	205.0	18.50%	296	26.9	2.40%	12	1.2	0.10%	8,895	875.5	79.00%	11,299	1,109

Table 4 looks at distance learning enrollments in Spring 2005. Here again, much more diversity in students taking courses across campuses is observed.

Table 4 - Spring 2005 - Distance Learning Classes

Home Campus	Lake Worth			PB Gardens			Belle Glade			Boca Raton			DISTRICT TOTALS	
	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE
Lake Worth	607	60.6	43.70%	131	14.6	10.60%	90	9.0	6.50%	537	54.3	39.20%	1,365	138
PB Gardens	172	17.4	30.60%	127	14.2	25.00%	38	3.8	6.70%	210	21.4	37.70%	547	57
Belle Glade	73	7.4	29.30%	34	3.8	15.20%	51	5.1	20.20%	88	8.9	35.40%	246	25
Boca Raton	181	18.0	17.40%	80	9.0	8.60%	33	3.3	3.20%	725	73.4	70.80%	1,019	104

Table 5 presents data for the Fall 2005 term. In this term, students at Lake Worth took 81.5% of their FTE at their home campus while Belle Glade students took 68.1% of their FTE at their home campus.

Table 5 - Fall 2005 - Regular Classes (non Distance Learning)

Home Campus	Lake Worth			PB Gardens			Belle Glade			Boca Raton			DISTRICT TOTALS	
	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE
Lake Worth	19,032	1,858.4	81.50%	2,531	242.8	10.60%	608	60.2	2.60%	1,254	120.1	5.30%	23,425	2,281
PB Gardens	2,326	231.9	20.10%	9,088	887.0	76.80%	181	18.1	1.60%	197	18.2	1.60%	11,792	1,155
Belle Glade	410	39.4	24.10%	113	10.5	6.40%	1,146	111.1	68.10%	25	2.3	1.40%	1,694	163
Boca Raton	2,072	198.8	16.90%	329	30.9	2.60%	14	1.4	0.10%	9,615	945.0	80.30%	12,030	1,176

For distance learning in Fall 2005, the amount of FTE in distance learning taken at the student's home campus was increasing from prior terms (Table 6). This reflects the fact that more distance learning was being offered at each campus.

Table 6 - Fall 2005 - Distance Learning Classes

Home Campus	Lake Worth			PB Gardens			Belle Glade			Boca Raton			DISTRICT TOTALS	
	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE
Lake Worth	636	62.7	42.10%	180	19.5	13.10%	101	10.1	6.80%	560	56.5	38.00%	1,477	149
PB Gardens	200	20.2	28.70%	213	22.6	32.10%	37	3.7	5.30%	234	23.8	33.90%	684	70
Belle Glade	65	6.3	30.30%	28	3.0	14.30%	41	4.1	19.70%	74	7.4	35.70%	208	21
Boca Raton	159	15.9	15.90%	85	9.7	9.70%	59	5.9	5.90%	679	68.5	68.50%	982	100

For the most recent term studied, Spring 2006, for classroom classes, students still take the majority of their classes at their home campus, ranging from 80.2% at the Boca Raton Campus to 68.7% at the Belle Glade campus. The numbers at each campus have risen slightly, which might be due to many factors such as better class scheduling, or outside influences such as increased gasoline costs.

Table 7 -Spring 2006 - Regular Classes (non Distance Learning)

Home Campus	Lake Worth			PB Gardens			Belle Glade			Boca Raton			DISTRICT TOTALS	
	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE
Lake Worth	17,027	1,659.6	79.50%	2,668	251.4	12.00%	660	63.6	3.00%	1,179	112.2	5.40%	21,534	2,087
PB Gardens	1,974	191.4	18.40%	8,453	820.4	78.70%	177	16.8	1.60%	150	14.5	1.40%	10,754	1,043
Belle Glade	345	34.1	22.40%	130	11.7	7.70%	1,097	104.4	68.70%	18	1.7	1.10%	1,590	152
Boca Raton	1,921	186.0	17.20%	290	26.7	2.50%	28	2.5	0.20%	8,867	869.2	80.20%	11,106	1,084

For distance learning, we do see some shifts towards students taking more distance learning classes sponsored by their home campus. This again reflects that campuses are offering a greater variety of distance learning classes.

Table 8 - Spring 2006 - Distance Learning Classes

Home Campus	Lake Worth			PB Gardens			Belle Glade			Boca Raton			DISTRICT TOTALS	
	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE	% FTE	Seats	FTE
Lake Worth	947	97.5	54.80%	137	15.0	8.40%	97	10.1	5.70%	549	55.4	31.10%	1,730	178
PB Gardens	307	31.7	39.70%	176	19.2	24.00%	45	4.6	5.80%	242	24.3	30.50%	770	80
Belle Glade	66	6.6	30.70%	17	1.9	8.60%	58	5.9	27.30%	71	7.2	33.30%	212	22
Boca Raton	284	29.2	23.40%	66	7.8	6.20%	38	3.9	3.20%	830	83.9	67.20%	1,218	125

Conclusions

- **Students take the majority of their classroom classes at their declared home campus.**
- **There has been a slight shift toward students taking more of their classroom classes at their declared home campus over the last three years.**
- **Students will take distance learning classes where they are offered, but do tend to prefer to take them at their home campus when available.**