

# “Student Engagement” at Palomar College

Overview of the Community  
College Survey of Student  
Engagement

## Student Engagement

*“The amount of time and energy  
students invest in meaningful  
educational practices.”*

Community College Survey of Student  
Engagement, 2004 Institutional Report

## Why Measure Student Engagement?

- ◆ In general...
  - Student engagement is related to student persistence and achievement of educational goals.
  - First-time student persistence – 59%
- ◆ Palomar measured because...
  - Strategic Plan / Annual Implementation Plan
  - Measurement of student engagement included in the Strategic Plan Evaluation Model

## How Did We Measure Student Engagement?

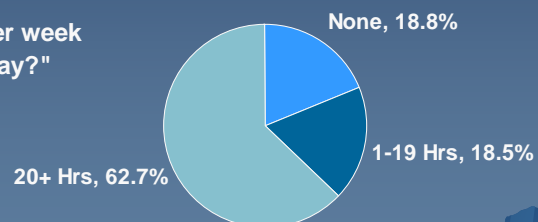
- ◆ Tool: Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)
- ◆ Administered Nationwide
  - 152 Colleges
  - 92,000 students
- ◆ Administered Palomar
  - 69 credit classes
  - 985 students

# PRELIMINARY Findings

## Finding #1: Time Commitment

*Palomar students have significant  
time commitments in addition  
to their education.*

"How many hours per week  
do you work for pay?"



## Finding #2: Student Goals

*Part-time students goals vary.*

*Full-time students have a common goal: Transfer*

Which of the following are your reasons for attending this college?

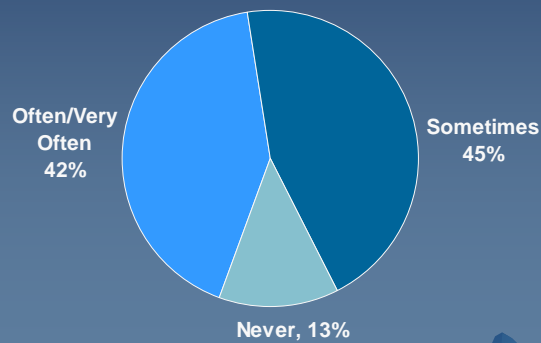
Goal	Part-time	Full-time
Transfer to a 4 year	65%	<b>91%</b>
Obtain an Associates degree	66%	66%
Complete a certificate program	49%	37%
Obtain or update job related skills	66%	54%
Change careers	41%	33%
Self-improvement/personal enjoyment	74%	73%

## Student Engagement Themes

- ◆ Active and Collaborative Learning
- ◆ Student Effort
- ◆ Academic Challenge
- ◆ Student-Faculty Interaction
- ◆ Support for Learners

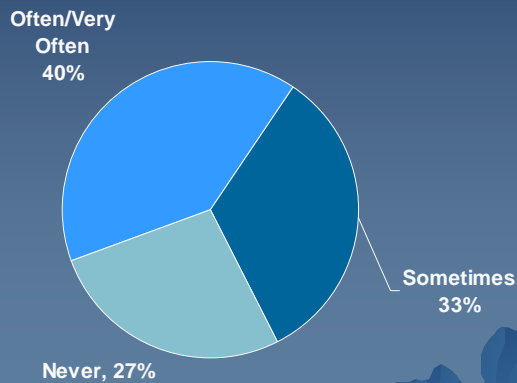
## Engagement Themes Active and Collaborative Learning

*Students Who Collaborated on Projects  
During Class*



## Engagement Themes Student Effort

*Students who Prepared Two or More Drafts of a  
Paper or Assignment*

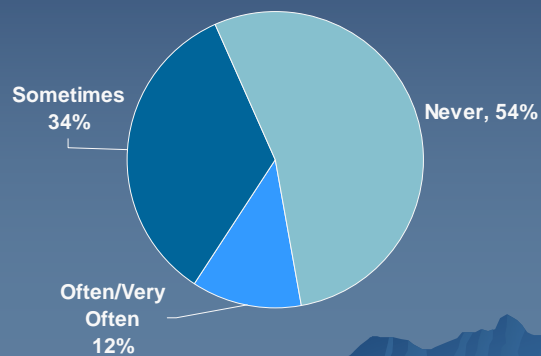


## Engagement Themes Academic Challenge

- ◆ 25% of FT students reported reading four or fewer assigned textbooks, readings, books or book-length packs
- ◆ 28% of FT students reported writing four or fewer papers of any length

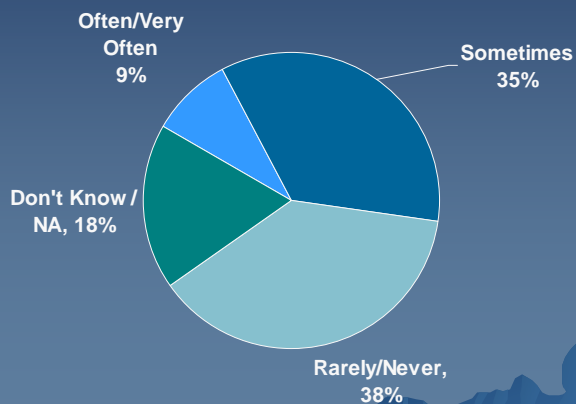
## Engagement Themes Student-Faculty Interaction

*Students Who Discussed Ideas or Readings  
with Instructors Outside of Class*



## Engagement Themes Support for Learner

*Students who have used Academic Advising / Counseling*



## Finding #3: Experienced and Full-time Students

*Palomar students who have completed 30+ units are more engaged than Palomar students who have completed less than 30 units. Further, they show similar levels of engagement as students who have completed 30+ units at other colleges.*

*Note, full-time status drives some of this difference.*

Theme	0-29 units	30+ units
Active and Collaborative Learning	43.3	54.3
Student Effort	40.6	51.2
Academic Challenge	41.5	53.7
Student Faculty Interaction	41.8	53.6
Support for Learners	45.2	50.4

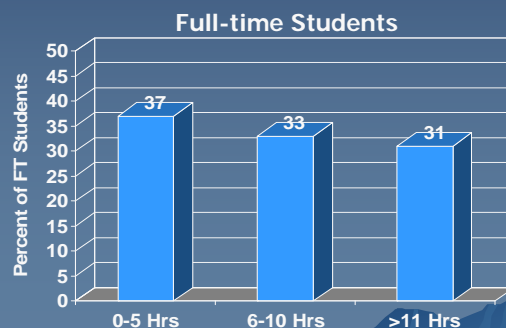
## Finding #4: First Year (0-29 units) and Part-time Students

*In general, the level of engagement of Palomar students who have completed 0-29 units and are part-time is lower than other student groups.*

## Finding #5: Student Effort

*When comparing across themes, Palomar students showed lower levels of engagement for those items measuring Student Effort.*

Number of Hours Spent Preparing for Class During the Week





## Finding #6: Student Satisfaction

*In general, students rate their overall experience with Palomar positively.*

- Almost all (97%) students surveyed would recommend Palomar to a family member or friend.
- Most students (88%) indicated that their entire educational experience at Palomar has been either "Good" or "Excellent."

## Disseminating the Results

- ◆ Reviewed results with the following groups:
  - Instructional Planning Council
  - Student Services Planning Council
  - Counselors
- ◆ Planning to review results with the following groups:
  - Faculty Senate
  - Strategic Planning – Strategic Plan 2008
- ◆ Reviewing and making comparisons with caution!

## Summary

- ◆ Baseline for Strategic Plan Evaluation
- ◆ Confirmed our expectations
  - Our students are working students
  - Significant number of our students spend five hours or less preparing for class
  - First-time students / part-time students less engaged than our more experienced / full-time students
- ◆ Student Effort theme is an area to examine

## Summary

- ◆ Annual Implementation Plan
  - Provide more detailed information for those working on Persistence/Completion/Transfer goal
  - Identify areas that we may be able to influence and impact student persistence
- ◆ First-year experience (NCHEA project)
- ◆ Mentor Project – John Woods

## Summary

- ◆ Palomar's *role*
- ◆ *Palomar's challenge*
- ◆ What this means...