

Palo Alto College Sampling Methodology

Palo Alto College performs direct assessment of students who are close to graduation. That is, assessment focuses on the sub-set of Palo Alto College students that meet these three criteria: 1) they have completed 45 or more college credit hours; 2) they were enrolled at Palo Alto College the previous semester, and 3) they are also enrolled at PAC during the current semester.

Two core objectives are assessed each Fall semester. From those courses responsible for the selected core objectives, students eligible for assessment are identified. From this identified population, Institutional Research selects a random sample population of 110 students. The faculty and staff at Palo Alto College believe the sample size is sufficient to justify improvement plans to enhance student learning based on benchmarking with other institutions.