



Student Consumer Information Guide

The information provided in this Consumer Information Guide is intended to meet the federal requirements set forth by the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA). Educational institutions are required to disclose specific consumer information about the school to current and prospective students. The following is a summary of such consumer information with references to additional details and reports. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, material, and data contained within this document, absolute accuracy is not guaranteed. Questions about the compilation of this document or its contents should be directed to the Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness at (561) 803-2055.

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Accreditation

Palm Beach Atlantic University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award the associate's, bachelor's, master's, and the professional doctorate degrees: doctor of pharmacy and doctor of nursing practice. Contact the Commission on Colleges at: 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4500 or visit www.sacscoc.org for questions about the accreditation of Palm Beach Atlantic University. Click [here](#) for the full accreditation statement. Persons wishing to review documents related to the accreditation of Palm Beach Atlantic University should contact the Assistant Provost for Accreditation, Assessment, and Research (561) 803-2050.

Athletics

Palm Beach Atlantic University is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II and a provisional member of the Sunshine State Conference. School colors are navy blue and white. The school mascot is the Sailfish. PBA has seven women's intercollegiate sports (basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball) and five men's intercollegiate sports (baseball, basketball, golf, soccer, tennis). Click [here](#) to visit the official website of PBA athletics.

[Graduation and academic success rates](#) are reported annually to NCAA and are provided to student athletes, parents, high school coaches, and guidance counselors when an athletically-related student aid offer is made. The NCAA provides this information directly to high schools.

[The Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act](#) (EADA) requires co-educational institutions of postsecondary education that participate in a Title IV, federal student financial assistance program, and have an intercollegiate athletic program, to prepare an annual report to the Department of Education on athletic participation, staffing, and revenues and expenses, by men's and women's intercollegiate athletic teams. The Department of Education will use this information in preparing its required report to the Congress on gender equity in intercollegiate athletics.

Campus Safety

In 1990, Congress enacted the *Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act* (Title II of Public Law 101-542), which amended the Higher Education Act of 1965. The 1998 amendments renamed the law the *Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act*. Please visit [PBA's Campus Safety](#) page to view the most recently published Clery report and to learn more on the services provided by PBA's Campus Safety Office.

PBA utilizes an alert messaging system for current students, faculty and staff. The alert messaging system sends text messages to cell numbers in the event of an emergency. Click [here](#) for emergency response and evacuation procedures, particularly in the event of a hurricane.

Cash Management Contracts

Palm Beach Atlantic University has a Tier 1 arrangement with Tuition Management Systems for processing direct payments of Title IV funds on behalf of Palm Beach Atlantic University. Under the Department of Education Title IV cash management regulations, institutions are required to publicly disclose any contract that governs a Tier One or Tier Two Arrangement as well as information about the costs incurred by students who elect to use a financial account offered under one of those arrangements. The contract may be viewed [here](#).

FERPA: Notice of Rights and Confidentiality of Student Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. Annually, Palm Beach Atlantic University informs students of these rights. A student's rights are as follows:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the university receives a request for access. A student should submit to the Provost, Registrar, Dean of the appropriate school, or other appropriate official, written requests that identify the record(s) he/she wishes to inspect. The university official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the university official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading. A student may ask the university to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. He/she should write to the university official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the university decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the university will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his/her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally-identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the university in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the university has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibilities. Upon request, the university discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the university to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, D.C., 20202-4605.

Financial Aid

Here are a multitude of resources pertaining to [student financial aid](#). Information on the web includes:

- Directory of financial aid personnel
- Federal aid
- Forms
- Information for parents
- Office hours
- Scholarships
- State of Florida scholarships and grants
- Student loans
- The process for awarding financial aid
- Veteran's benefits
- Work study jobs

Palm Beach Atlantic University publishes annually its [University Catalog](#) and makes it available to students (prospective or enrolled) and parents seeking information about:

- Types of financial assistance available to help defray educational-related costs (tuition and fees, books and supplies, housing, meals, transportation, personal items, health insurance, international and other special programs of study), including:
 - Program descriptions.
 - Application procedures and forms.
 - Student eligibility requirements.

- Availability of and eligibility requirements for state grant assistance from Florida (students from other states should inquire with the Director of Financial Aid).
- Criteria for selecting award recipients and award amounts.
- The rights and responsibilities of students receiving financial assistance, including specific information regarding:
 - Criteria for continued eligibility under each program.
 - Standards of satisfactory academic progress and criteria for reestablishing eligibility.
 - The method and frequency of financial aid disbursements.
 - Terms of any loan, sample repayment schedule, necessity of repayment, entrance and exit counseling, terms and conditions of employment that are part of a student's aid package.
 - Terms and conditions of student employment under the federal work study program.
- Cost of attending the institution
 - [Tuition and fee information](#), including the University's refund policy, may be obtained on the web.

Because of the nature of federal, state, and institutional guidelines affecting financial aid programs, the information contained in this document is subject to change.

Graduation & Completion Rates

Retention and graduation rates for degree-seeking first-time full-time undergraduate students can be obtained in [PBA's Fact Book](#). Completion and graduation rates for a specific cohort of the general student body can be viewed in the annual publication of [PBA's Common Data Set](#).

International and Special Programs of Study

Students can pursue a variety of opportunities to complement their studies through international education and other special programs. Participation in these opportunities is an educational privilege awarded to the students in good standing in the areas of academics, discipline, Workship, and Chapel.

David and Leighan Rinker Center for Experiential Learning (CEL)

Dr. E. Randolph Richards, Director and Dean for the School of Ministry

PBA students are encouraged to study abroad during their junior or senior year for a semester or a summer through the [David and Leighan Rinker Center for Experiential Learning](#). With planning, many PBA students can study abroad without delaying their graduation. Students receive regular college credit and can utilize most or all of their financial aid. Details about credit hours and financial aid vary by program. To participate in a study abroad program, a student must:

1. Have attained a minimum GPA (varies by program).
2. Have demonstrated high standards of personal maturity, responsibility, conduct, and motivation (any student involved in major or minor disciplinary action may forfeit participation in the program).
3. Have completed two semesters as a full-time student at PBA prior to enrollment in the program.
4. Successfully complete CCS 4043 Experiential Learning Abroad while studying abroad.
5. Be in good standing with the university.

The 20-plus current Study Abroad programs include:

- BCA Study Abroad
- Best Semester Programs
- PBA London Semester
- University of Edinburgh
- PBA Italy Semester: Florence
- PBA Italy Semester: Three Cities

Interested students should contact the [Rinker Center](#) for further information. The Center is located in Okeechobee Hall.

PBA offers other program-specific travel opportunities, e.g. Galapagos Island Trip (for biology majors) and Greece (for psychology majors). Interested students should contact the school for more information.

Institutional Drug & Alcohol Abuse Policy and Information

Policy on alcohol and drugs is published annually in the student handbook "[The Navigator](#)". Included is information on actions the school will take against a student who violates PBA's Community Values System.

Notification of Disclosure of Directory Information

At its discretion, the institution may provide Directory Information in accordance with the provisions of the Act to include: student name, address, telephone number, electronic mail address, photograph, grade level, enrollment status, date and place of birth, major/minor fields of study, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and weight and height of members of athletic teams.

A student may withhold Directory Information by notifying the Office of the Registrar in writing within one week after the published beginning date for a given semester. Request for non-disclosure will be honored by the institution for only one academic year; therefore, authorization to withhold Directory Information must be filed annually. Palm Beach Atlantic University assumes that failure on the part of any student to specifically request the withholding of categories of Directory Information indicates individual approval for disclosure. Please consider very carefully the consequences of any decision to withhold any category of Directory Information. Should the student decide to inform the institution not to release any or all of this information, any future requests for such information from non-institutional persons or organizations will be refused, except as provided for in the Act. The institution will honor any student's request to withhold this information but cannot assume responsibility to contact students for subsequent permission to release such information. Regardless of the effect upon the student, the institution assumes no liability for honoring the student's instructions that such information be withheld.

You may, at your discretion, grant the University permission to release information about your student records to a third party by submitting a completed [Student Information Release Authorization Form](#). This form may be obtained in the Office of the Registrar at (561) 803-2072. The link is available for current students on PBA's intranet, myPBA.

Title IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681) is an all-encompassing federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. If only one of an educational institution's programs or activities receives federal funding, all of the programs within the institution must comply with Title IX and its implementing regulations. Consistent with this obligation, Palm Beach Atlantic University prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in academics, employment, and all of its programs and activities.

The United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces Title IX. Information regarding OCR may be found at www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html. The penalty for failure to comply with Title IX, in the most extreme circumstances, may include the termination of all or part of an institution's federal funding. This includes grants, subsidies, and other program funds from the federal government. In addition to the loss of federal funds, universities may be sued by those seeking redress for violations of Title IX. It is essential that institutions receiving federal financial assistance operate in a nondiscriminatory manner. Questions regarding Title IX, as well as concerns and complaints of non-compliance can be directed to the University's Title IX Coordinator Mona Hicks at (561) 803-2171.

Vaccinations

PBA follows the State of Florida mandatory immunization requirements and utilizes the American College Health Association guidelines for immunization of college students in developing the University immunization policies. All required and recommended immunizations can be provided by the [Health and Wellness Center](#)

with advance notice. Health & Wellness also has information regarding vaccinations, student health insurance, personal counseling, and other services.

Veterans Services

The University seeks to comply with Executive Order 13607 of April 27, 2012 (Establishing Principles of Excellence for Educational Institutions Serving Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, and Other Family Members) by ensuring that eligible students have the information they need to make informed decisions concerning their federal military and veterans educational benefits.

PBA is participating in the Yellow Ribbon program. The Yellow Ribbon program is designed to help meet the gap in tuition/fee charges for eligible VA students whose costs exceed the \$21,970.46 provided by the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Students with questions should contact the School Certifying Official in the Office of the Registrar at (561) 803-2072. Click [here](#) to learn more on University services for Veterans.

Voter Registration

Palm Beach Atlantic University makes voter registration forms available to students. Forms are provided at check-in or may be obtained from Sailfish Services. Detailed Florida voter information is located at the [Florida Secretary of State, Division of Elections website](#). Nonresident students may find voter registration information about their home state through the [U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#). PBA will be among many organizations celebrating the annual Constitution Day on September 17, which commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution. The Office of Student Development spearheads this event. Information on voter registration will be available.

Additional Information

The Palm Beach Atlantic University [Fact Book](#) is a collection of current and historical information designed to make frequently requested data readily accessible to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and any others with an interest in the university. Completion and graduation rates for a specific cohort of the general student body can be viewed in the annual publication of [PBA's Common Data Set](#).

Learn more about PBA:

- [About our graduates](#)
- [Academic programs and degree offerings](#)
- [Admission requirements](#)
- [Campus living](#)
- [Disability resources](#)
- [Faculty directory](#)
- [Health & Wellness information](#)
- [Residence life](#)
- [Student accountability](#)
- [Student body diversity](#)
- [Transfer credit policies](#)
- [Tuition and fees](#)