

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STUDENT ENROLLMENTS AND COMPLETIONS IN THE ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

FISCAL YEAR 2017

**Illinois Community College Board
401 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1711**

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Please access the following link for the full report:

https://www.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/pdfs/reports/Annual_Enroll_Comp_2017.pdf

Student Enrollments & Completions
Executive Summary Fiscal Year 2017

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Illinois Community College System meets both local and statewide needs for education and workforce development by providing high-quality, accessible, cost-effective educational opportunities, programs, and services. The system provides students with smooth transitions into and across higher education and training for in-demand occupations with economic value. To align education and workforce efforts and implement high impact state-level strategies and initiatives, the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) continues to partner with the Illinois Governor’s Office, Illinois P-20 Council, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), and Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). The need for increased certificate and degree credentials is imperative to meet the demands of Illinois’ economy.

With 66,143 earned collegiate-level degrees and certificates, fiscal year 2017 had the fifth highest annual number of graduates ever recorded for the Illinois Community College System. As illustrated in Figure 1, the annual Illinois Community College System number of program graduates increased substantially at nearly 25 percent from fiscal year 2009 to 2017. During the same timeframe, enrollments decreased by more than 21 percent statewide.

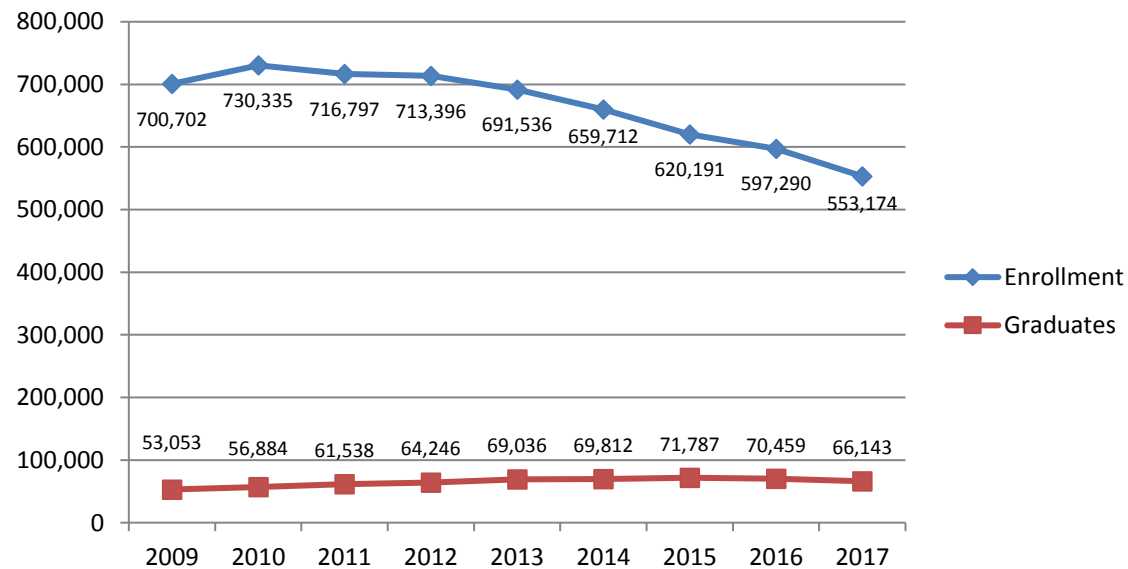


Figure 1. Illinois Community College System Credit Enrollments and Graduates, 2009-2017

Student Enrollments & Completions
Fiscal Year 2017

Under the authority of the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act (105 ILCS 13/1 et seq.) (the “LDS Act”), ICCB is the State Education Authority responsible for collecting and maintaining enrollment, completion, and student characteristic information on community college students. The data within the Annual Enrollment and Completion Report derive from ICCB’s Centralized Data System. Illinois Community Colleges submit Annual Enrollment (A1) microdata for individuals who are officially enrolled at the college in credit coursework at any time during the specified fiscal year. Beginning in fiscal year 2014, the Annual Completions (A2) submission is the microdata source of student completions. This year’s Annual Enrollment and Completion Report is based on fiscal year 2017 enrollments and completions. Comparative information is supplied from four previous fiscal years (2013-2016). Detailed tables comparing fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017 credit headcount, full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollments, and graduates by college are included. FTE enrollments in this report are based on all credit hours attempted. Thirty credit hours equal one FTE.

Also included in the Annual Enrollment and Completion Report is information about noncredit offerings for the current year (2017) and the four previous fiscal years (2013-2016). Noncredit courses provide another delivery method of education, training, and public service by community colleges to the communities they serve. Since fiscal year 1999, the Illinois community colleges have submitted Noncredit Enrollment (N1) annual microdata for students containing demographic and course information on the wide range of noncredit instruction.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2017 ANNUAL REPORT
Student Enrollments

- The Illinois Community College System served **721,132 students** in credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2017. Overall combined enrollments decreased compared to last year (-7.0 percent, N = -54,261).
- **Credit-generating** students accounted for **76.7 percent** of the overall fiscal year 2017 headcount.
- During fiscal year 2017, the 48 public community colleges in Illinois enrolled **553,174** students in instructional credit courses. This is lower than the previous year (597,290). The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment was 207,498, a decrease of 5.3 percent since fiscal year 2016.
- Statewide, **19,499 noncredit course sections** were conducted during fiscal year 2017.
- From fiscal year 2016 to fiscal year 2017, the number of individuals receiving instruction through **noncredit course** offerings decreased (-5.7 percent) to **167,958 students**.
- Statewide, 21,936 of 721,132 total students enrolled in both credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2017 (A1 and N1). While there is some overlap, these data suggest that **credit and noncredit courses are meeting largely different student and community needs**.
- Females comprised 53.4 percent of the fiscal year 2017 student population enrolled in credit-generating programs.
- **Minority (non-white) students accounted for four in ten** (44.1 percent) of the credit students enrolled. African American student representation decreased (11.5 percent) and accounted for 13.6 percent of all credit students. Latino student representation decreased (1.7 percent), accounting for 22.3 percent of all credit students. Asian student representation decreased from the previous year to 4.9 percent, while foreign/ nonresident alien representation increased to 0.8 percent, and Two or More Races increased to 2.2 percent.
- The median age of credit-generating students was **23.4** during fiscal year 2017, a slight decrease from the previous year. The average age also decreased from the previous year to **28.7** years in fiscal year 2017.
- **Baccalaureate/Transfer** remained the largest credit instructional program area **enrolling 48.6 percent** of fiscal year 2017 Illinois Community College System students. Enrollments in Baccalaureate/Transfer programs decreased 3.4 percent compared to the previous year.
- Statewide, Career and Technical Education credit program enrollments accounted for **more than one-quarter** of all credit students (25.3 percent). Enrollments in Career and Technical Education programs decreased 8.0 percent from last year.
- Students enrolled in **Adult Education** courses in community colleges comprised **10.9 percent** of the credit-generating students. Enrollments in Adult Education decreased by 9.8 percent versus fiscal year 2016.
- Of the students in Adult Education, approximately **49.3 percent** were enrolled in **English as a Second Language (ESL)** courses.
- Although 48.6 percent of the fiscal year 2017 credit student population was enrolled in the Baccalaureate/Transfer area, only 36.0 percent of all students indicated intent to transfer.
- **One-half** (48.5 percent) of the fiscal year 2017 credit students enrolled in the colleges indicated that they were not pursuing a degree, but **attending to complete one or several courses**. Participation in college to take courses instead of pursuing a degree or certificate remained similar compared to the previous year.
- **More than two out of three credit students attended on a part-time basis** during both the fall (67.9 percent) and spring (71.7 percent) semesters in fiscal year 2017.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2017 ANNUAL REPORT
(Continued)
Student Enrollments

- Twenty-one percent of the credit-generating students are known to already have earned some type of college certificate or degree. This includes **29,357 who earned a bachelor's degree or higher.**
- Illinois community college students were enrolled in **6,224,949 credit hours throughout fiscal year 2017** and earned 79.3 percent of those hours.
- Accumulated credit hours were available for 79.0 percent of the fiscal year 2017 student population. Just over one-third of them (38.2 percent) attained **sophomore**-level status by accumulating 30 or more college-level hours.
- Cumulative grade point average data was reported for 77.0 percent of the fiscal year 2017 students. **One-half (50.5 percent) held an A-B average.**
- In fiscal year 2017, Illinois community college students earned 67.1 percent of the developmental credits they attempted. This percentage is up from 66.9 percent in fiscal year 2016.
- In fiscal year 2017, **nearly one in six** (15.9 percent) Illinois community college students (not enrolled in ABE/ASE/ESL, Vocational Skills, and General Studies) were enrolled in at least one developmental course – a decrease from fiscal year 2016.
- **Noncredit** course enrollment figures for fiscal year 2017 are from the **Noncredit Course Enrollment Data** submission (N1).
- Fiscal year 2017 unduplicated noncredit headcount decreased 5.7 percent over last year. The duplicated headcount or “seatcount” was 3.6 percent lower than the previous year.
- 19,499 noncredit course sections were conducted during fiscal year 2017.
- **Female** students accounted for **54.8 percent** of 2017 noncredit enrollments for which gender data were reported.
- **Minority students accounted for about one-third** (33.7 percent) of the individuals enrolled in noncredit courses who supplied racial/ethnic data.
- The median age of **noncredit** students was **38.1** during fiscal year 2017. The average age was **40.6** years.
- Just under **one-half** (47.3 percent) of the noncredit students were **40 years of age or above** among the individuals who supplied this information.
- Sixty-one percent of the noncredit offerings (duplicated) were in the Personal and Social Development category of activity. **Nearly one-quarter** of the noncredit coursework was dedicated to developing **workplace skills**: Professional/vocational (17.4 percent) and Business and Industry Contractual training (6.8 percent).
- Across all categories of activity, nine broad course enrollments (two-digit CIP) had over 5,000 noncredit students enrolled. **These nine areas accounted for nearly three-fourths of the students enrolled in noncredit courses** with CIP data (70.7 percent). Approximately four out of ten enrollments in these large CIPs were in work-related courses: Business Management (10.8 percent), Education (9.3 percent), Transportation and Materials Moving (8.5 percent), Health Professions and Related Programs (7.3 percent), Security and Protective Services (4.1 percent), and Computer Information Systems (3.1 percent).
- Noncredit enrollments by term were 41.6 percent in Spring, 32.1 percent in Fall, and 26.3 percent in Summer in fiscal year 2017.
- **Over one-half of the 2017 noncredit courses were held on main college campuses** (60.4 percent).

HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2017 ANNUAL REPORT
(Continued)
Student Completions

- A total of **66,143** collegiate-level **degrees and certificates** were awarded to Illinois community college students in fiscal year 2017.
- The number of community college completions in fiscal year 2017 is the **fifth highest count ever reported**.
- The number of degrees and certificates awarded **decreased 6.1 percent from fiscal year 2016** (-4,316 completers). Taking a longer view – compared to fiscal year 2013 – the total number of fiscal year 2017 completions decreased 4.2 percent.
- **Career and Technical Education** accounted for the **largest number of graduates** (N = 41,133) in fiscal year 2017. Nearly two-thirds of the earned degrees and certificates were in Career and Technical Education programs during fiscal year 2017 (62.2 percent). Career completions decreased 10.6 percent from last year.
- **Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees** accounted for the **second largest** group of completers in fiscal year 2017 (N = 21,192). Three out of every ten graduates earned Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees (32.0 percent). The number of Transfer degrees increased 0.1 percent (+17) from last year.
- Twenty-six percent of the Career and Technical Education awards in fiscal year 2017 were AAS degrees.
- **Females** accounted for **53.8 percent** of all 2017 completions.
- **Career and Technical Education Certificates of Less Than One Year** accounted for the **largest number** of male (N = 12,680) and female (N = 11,150) completers of a specific degree or certificate.
- Although small in number, the Associate in Engineering Science (N = 335) had the highest proportion of male graduates (85.1 percent, N = 285).
- **Minority students earned 36.0 percent of the collegiate-level degrees and certificates awarded** in the Illinois Community College System during fiscal year 2017. Latino students earned 17.4 percent, African American students earned 11.7 percent, and Asian students earned 3.8 percent of all degrees and certificates.
- Minorities accounted for 38.8 percent of total Transfer degree recipients.
- Nearly twice as many minority graduates completed Career and Technical Education degrees and certificates (N = 13,983) compared to Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees (N = 8,212).
- Among the largest minority groups, Latino students completed 3,778 more collegiate-level awards than African American students.
- Nineteen percent of the students who were awarded degrees and certificates during fiscal year 2017 were less than 21 years of age. **The age groups with the largest percentages of graduates were 21 to 24 (34.6 percent), 25 to 30 (19.6 percent), 31 to 39 years of age (14.0 percent), and 40 to 55 years of age (11.0 percent).**
- Seven out of ten Transfer degree completers in 2017 indicated intent to transfer to a four-year institution.
- Approximately 17.6 percent of fiscal year 2017 Associate in Applied Science degree graduates indicated goals to complete some courses or finish a certificate.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Demand for the programs and services delivered by Illinois community colleges remain strong and completions are up. During fiscal year 2017, the Illinois Community College System provided education and training to 721,132 students in credit and noncredit courses. More than three quarters of these students were in credit courses. The 66,143 degrees and certificates awarded in fiscal year 2017 were the fifth highest number ever reported for Illinois Community College System graduates. This is a decrease of 6.1 percent over last year and a decrease of 4.2 percent from 2013.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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