Transfer rates are calculated using the National Transfer Assembly approach developed by a workgroup in conjunction with the Center for the Study of Community Colleges at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA). Cohorts of entering students in college-level coursework with no prior higher education experience who completed 12 or more credits at the community college are tracked through administrative data matching for four years and the number of successful transfers to four-year colleges and universities are identified. Illinois’ statewide transfer rate tracking uses the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Student Tracker to identify transfers to four-year universities. NSC includes enrollment information for all types of out-of-state colleges and universities, as well as in-state institutions.

For fiscal year 2017, 12,043 Fall 2011 entrants with no prior college experience completed 12 or more semester credits and transferred to senior institutions by Fall 2015. The latest transfer rate was 37.2 percent for fiscal year 2017 for Illinois community colleges. The number of students who transferred decreased 4.0 percent over the previous year and increased 1.1 percent from fiscal year 2013. The transfer rate in fiscal year 2017 decreased (-0.4 percent) from fiscal year 2016 (37.6 percent) and decreased (-0.6 percent) from fiscal year 2013 (37.8 percent).

Nationally among students who first attended a public 2-year institution in 2003-04, 39.9 percent transferred through 2009, including 24.3 percent who transferred to a 4-year institution (http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011152.pdf, Table 1.1-B). The methodology for the national rates is different than that used for the Illinois rates; the timeframe for transfer is longer in the national rate, and the national rate include all students while the Illinois rate includes students who completed 12 or more semester hours. Illinois Community College System Transfer Rates are above the national rate for transfers to 4-year institutions.


To locate a Community College near you, visit http://iccbdbsrv.iccb.org/zipcodes/home.cfm. For a map of district boundaries, visit http://www.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/pdfs/IL_Community_Colleges_Districts.pdf.