

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

# **ANNUAL STUDENT ENROLLMENTS AND COMPLETIONS IN THE ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM FISCAL YEAR 2012**



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Annual Student Enrollments & Completions  
Executive Summary Fiscal Year 2012

Research & Policy Studies

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Illinois has committed to a goal of 60 percent of all adults – between 25 to 64 years of age – with a college certificate or degree by 2025. Illinois public community colleges and universities have set annual postsecondary credential benchmarks through 2025 to ensure the state meets workforce demand for higher education certificates and degrees. As a founding member of Complete College America (CCA), Illinois has created action plans, collaborated with state agency partners, and evaluated policy to meet the need for increased certificate and degree credentials. At the time of publication, 32 states were members of the CCA Alliance of States. [http://www.completecollege.org/alliance\\_of\\_states/](http://www.completecollege.org/alliance_of_states/) . CCA and the National Governors Association (NGA) are actively partnering to encourage and promote college completion. NGA’s parallel initiative is called Complete to Compete (Reyna, 2010) <http://www.subnet.nga.org/ci/1011/resources.htm>.

As illustrated in Figure 1, the Illinois Community College System is currently exceeding the statewide Complete College America (CCA) Illinois community college goal. At the local level for fiscal year 2012, twice as many colleges were ahead of their local goals (N = 32) than trailing their local goals (N= 16).

Fiscal Year	Graduate Goal	Actual Graduates	Progress
2009	53,053	53,053	--
2010	55,253	56,884	+1,631
2011	57,453	61,538	+4,085
2012	59,653	64,246	+4,593
2013	61,853		
2014	64,053		
2015	66,253		
2016	68,453		
2017	70,653		
2018	72,853		
2019	75,053		
2020	77,253		
2021	79,453		
2022	81,653		
2023	83,853		
2024	86,053		
2025	88,253		

Source: Annual Enrollment and Completion (A1)

**Figure 1. Statewide Graduation Goal For Illinois Public Community Colleges Fiscal Years 2009-2025**

As shown in Figure 1, the elevated graduation expectations ratchet up as the years progress. The Illinois Community College System continues efforts to increase credential attainment through various initiatives while maintaining its mission to be open access and serve students with varied levels of academic preparation and need. Two innovative initiatives to “bridge” students to postsecondary education and accelerate time to degree include the Accelerating Opportunity Initiative and the STEM College and Career Readiness (CCR) Project.

The Accelerating Opportunity Initiative seeks to fundamentally change the way adult basic education is delivered at the state and institutional levels by utilizing acceleration strategies to get adult students on track to earn a postsecondary credential. The initiative promotes the redesign of adult basic education and postsecondary programs to integrate basic skills in adult basic education with practical occupational training in credit-bearing courses. The contextualized courses are offered through a student dual enrollment model that includes paired courses/co-teaching in adult basic education and college credit. The bridge program accelerates student along the career pathway by advancing educational and occupational student skills. A collaboration of philanthropies is funding the initiative including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the Open Society Foundations. Illinois is one of only seven states currently receiving the grant and is working with Jobs for the Future on the project. <http://www.iccb.org/accelerating.opportunity.html>

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The STEM College and Career Readiness (CCR) Project builds upon important work that was initially started through the 2007 Illinois College and Career Readiness Pilot Project Act. The current STEM CCR supports reducing remediation for high school juniors and seniors by diagnosing college readiness, curricular alignment between secondary and postsecondary education and the delivery of targeted interventions in high schools. The project is funded through Illinois' participation in the Race to the Top 3, and managed by the Illinois Community College Board. [http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/PDF/phase3\\_app.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/racetothetop/PDF/phase3_app.pdf)

The promising initiatives both positively impact Illinois' efforts to increase postsecondary certificates and degrees. Figure 2 provides the historical data on the number of graduates from the Illinois Community College System for fiscal years 1986 through 2012. With 64,246 earned collegiate-level degrees and certificates, fiscal year 2012 again set an all time high in the number of graduates from the Illinois Community College System. The number of graduates increased 4.4 percent from fiscal year 2011 (+ 2,708 completers). Compared to fiscal year 2008 the total number of fiscal year 2012 completions increased 25.2 percent. Comparing results from 2012 to 1986 shows that the number of annual graduates doubled during that timeframe (+ 33,696).

The Annual Enrollment and Completion (A1) submission is a major source of the community college data for the CCA metrics. A1 data are reported for individuals who are officially enrolled at the college in credit coursework at any time during the specified fiscal year. This year's Annual Enrollment and Completion Report is based on fiscal year 2012 enrollments and completions. Comparative information is supplied from four previous fiscal years (2008-2011). Detailed tables comparing fiscal year 2011 and fiscal year 2012 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 (including non-reimbursable credit hours). Thirty credit hours equal one FTE. Additionally, noncredit courses provide another approach to the delivery of education, training, and public service by community colleges. Therefore, the Annual Enrollment and Completion Report includes information about noncredit offerings for the current year (2012) and the four previous fiscal years (2008-2011). Since fiscal year 1999, the Illinois Community College System has been submitting a Noncredit Enrollment (N1) annual data containing demographic and course information on the wide range of noncredit instruction they provide. The following pages contain additional information about annual credit and noncredit enrollments and credit completions.

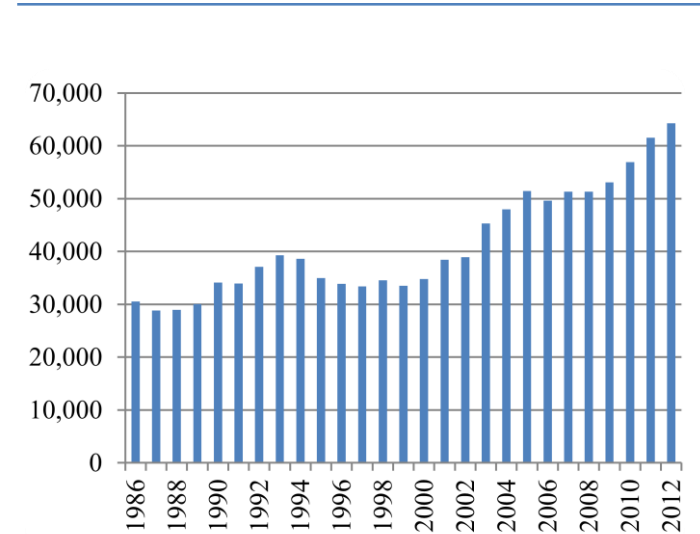


Figure 2. Illinois Community College Graduates 1986 - 2012

**HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2012 ANNUAL REPORT**  
*Student Enrollments*

- The Illinois Community College System served nearly **one million (912,018) students** in credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2012. Overall combined enrollments decreased compared to last year (-4.0 percent, N = -37,801).
- **Credit-generating** students accounted for **78.2 percent** of the overall fiscal year 2012 headcount.
- During fiscal year 2012, the 48 public community colleges in Illinois enrolled **713,396** students in instructional credit courses. This is lower than the previous year (716,797). The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment was 264,029, a decrease of 3.1 percent since fiscal year 2011.
- Statewide, **22,580 noncredit course sections** were conducted during fiscal year 2012.
- From fiscal year 2011 to fiscal year 2012, the number of individuals receiving instruction through **noncredit course** offerings decreased (-14.8 percent) to **198,622 students**.
- Statewide, 26,288 of 912,018 total students enrolled in both credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2012 (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 54.2 percent of the fiscal year 2012 student population enrolled in credit-generating programs.
- **Minority (non-white) students accounted for over one-third** (39.3 percent) of the credit students enrolled. African American student representation increased (4.5 percent) and accounted for 17.2 percent of all credit students. Latino student representation increased slightly (0.1 percent) to 16.5 percent of all credit students. Asian student representation increased from the previous year to 4.5 percent, while foreign/nonresident alien representation decreased to 0.2 percent.
- The median age of credit-generating students was **25.1** during fiscal year 2012, a slight decrease from the previous year. The average age remained **30.3** years.
- **Baccalaureate/Transfer** remained the largest credit instructional program area **enrolling 39.6 percent** of fiscal year 2012 Illinois Community College System students. Enrollments in Baccalaureate/Transfer programs decreased 0.9 percent compared to the previous year.
- Statewide, Career and Technical Education credit program enrollments accounted for **more than one-quarter** of all credit students (27.6 percent). Enrollments in Career and Technical Education programs decreased 1.3 percent from last year.
- Students enrolled in **Adult Education** courses in community colleges comprised **12.3 percent** of the credit-generating students. Enrollments in Adult Education decreased by 6.0 percent versus fiscal year 2011.
- Of the students in Adult Education, approximately **51.1 percent** were enrolled in **English as a Second Language (ESL)** courses.
- Although 39.6 percent of the fiscal year 2012 credit student population was enrolled in the Baccalaureate/Transfer area, only 33.7 percent of all students indicated intent to transfer.
- **Nearly one-half** (46.9 percent) of the fiscal year 2012 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.
- **About two out of three credit students attended on a part-time basis** during both the fall (66.2 percent) and spring (69.9 percent) semesters in fiscal year 2012.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2012 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**(Continued)**  
*Student Enrollments*

- Nineteen percent of the credit-generating students are known to already have earned some type of college certificate or degree. This includes **33,623 who earned a bachelor's degree or higher**.
- Illinois community college students were enrolled in **7,920,860 credit hours throughout fiscal year 2012** and earned 77.2 percent of those hours.
- Accumulated credit hours were available for 75.6 percent of the fiscal year 2012 student population. Just over one-third of them (37.2 percent) attained **sophomore**-level status by accumulating 30 or more college-level hours.
- Cumulative grade point average data was reported for 71.7 percent of the fiscal year 2012 students. **Nearly one-half (47.3 percent) held an A-B average**.
- In fiscal year 2012, Illinois community college students earned 65.1 percent of the remedial credits they attempted. This percentage is down from 65.6 percent in fiscal year 2011.
- In fiscal year 2012, more than **one-fifth** (20.5 percent) of 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 2011.
- **Noncredit** course enrollment figures for fiscal year 2012 are from the **Noncredit Course Enrollment Data** submission (N1).
- Fiscal year 2012 unduplicated noncredit headcount decreased 14.8 percent over last year. The duplicated headcount or “seatcount” was 5.3 percent lower than the previous year.
- 22,580 noncredit course sections were conducted during fiscal year 2012.
- **Female** students accounted for **56.8 percent** of 2012 noncredit enrollments for which gender data were reported.
- **Minority students accounted for almost one-third** (32.1 percent) of the individuals enrolled in noncredit courses who supplied racial/ethnic data.
- The median age of **noncredit** students was **37.4** during fiscal year 2012. The average age was **38.2** years.
- Just over **one-half** (52.1 percent) of the noncredit students were **40 years of age or above** among the individuals who supplied this information.
- Fifty-seven percent of the noncredit offerings (duplicated) were in the Personal and Social Development category of activity. **Over one-quarter** of the noncredit coursework was dedicated to developing **workplace skills**: Professional/vocational (21.4 percent) and Business and Industry Contractual training (6.8 percent).
- Across all categories of activity, ten broad course areas (two-digit CIP) had over 5,000 noncredit students enrolled. **These ten areas accounted for more than two-thirds of the students enrolled in noncredit courses** with CIP data (72.2 percent). Approximately four out of ten enrollments in these large CIPs were in work-related courses: Business Management (14.4 percent), Transportation Workers (10.1 percent), Health Professions (8.1 percent), Education (6.6 percent), and Computer Information Systems (4.4 percent).
- Noncredit enrollments by term were 40.9 percent in Spring, 35.8 percent in Fall, and 23.3 percent in Summer in fiscal year 2012.
- **Over one-half of the 2012 noncredit courses were held on main college campuses** (57.0 percent).

**HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2012 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**(Continued)**  
*Student Completions*

- A total of **64,246** collegiate-level **degrees and certificates** were awarded to Illinois community college students in fiscal year 2012.
- The number of community college completions in fiscal year 2012 is the **highest count ever reported for the fourth straight year**. Community colleges sustained an elevated level of completions during fiscal year 2012.
- The number of degrees and certificates awarded **increased 4.4 percent from fiscal year 2011** (+ 2,708 completers). Taking a longer view – compared to fiscal year 2008 – the total number of fiscal year 2012 completions increased 25.2 percent.
- **Career and Technical Education** accounted for the **largest number of graduates** (N = 43,982) in fiscal year 2012. Two-thirds of the earned degrees and certificates were in Career and Technical Education programs during fiscal year 2012 (68.5 percent). Career completions increased 2.2 percent from last year.
- **Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees** accounted for the **second largest** group of completers in fiscal year 2012 (N = 18,065). Nearly three out of every ten graduates earned Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees (28.1 percent). The number of Transfer degrees increased 7.9 percent (+1,315) from last year.
- Approximately 27.8 percent of the Career and Technical Education awards in fiscal year 2012 were AAS degrees.
- **Females** accounted for **56.1 percent** of all 2012 completions.
- **Career and Technical Education Certificates of Less Than One Year** accounted for the **largest number** of male (N = 12,430) and female (N = 12,599) completers of a specific degree or certificate.
- Although small in number, the Associate in Engineering Science (N = 138) had the highest proportion of male graduates (87.0 percent, N = 120).
- **Minority students earned 30.1 percent of the collegiate-level degrees and certificates awarded** in the Illinois Community College System during fiscal year 2012. African American students earned 13.0 percent, Latino students earned 11.3 percent, and Asian students earned 4.9 percent of all degrees and certificates.
- Minorities accounted for 26.2 percent of total Transfer degree recipients.
- Nearly three times as many minority graduates completed Career and Technical Education degrees and certificates (N = 13,721) were awarded compared to Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees (N = 4,724).
- Among the largest minority groups, African American students completed 1,106 more collegiate-level awards than Latino students.
- Fourteen percent of the students who were awarded degrees and certificates during fiscal year 2012 were less than 21 years of age. **The age groups with the largest percentages of graduates were 21 to 24 (31.6 percent), 25 to 30 (19.7 percent), 31 to 39 years of age (16.3 percent), and 40 to 55 years of age (15.5 percent).**
- Almost three-quarters of the Transfer degree completers in 2012 indicated intent to transfer to a four-year institution.
- Approximately 19.6 percent of fiscal year 2012 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 2012, the Illinois Community College System provided education and training to nearly one million (912,018) students in credit and noncredit courses. Three quarters of these students were in credit courses. The 64,246 degrees and certificates awarded in fiscal year 2012 set an all time high for the number of Illinois Community College System graduates. This is an increase of 4.4 percent over last year and is up 25.2 percent from 2008.

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