

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

# **ANNUAL STUDENT ENROLLMENTS AND COMPLETIONS IN THE ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM FISCAL YEAR 2013**



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Annual Student Enrollments & Completions  
Executive Summary Fiscal Year 2013

Research & Policy Studies

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Illinois Community College System is expanding educational opportunities for students and continues to meet workforce demand in the 21st century. Governor Quinn, in his State of the State 2014 address, when discussing the Illinois workforce, said:

“But many of these jobs require very specific skills. That’s why preparing our workers for high-skill, in-demand jobs is a top priority. To help us fill those jobs, we’ve mobilized our education system behind our “60 by 2025” goal: 60% of our adult workforce with a degree or career certificate by the year 2025.

We’ve been exceeding our targets every year. Since 2008, our community colleges have grown the number of people graduating with degrees and career certificates by more than 30 percent. We’ve also expanded dual enrollment and early college opportunities for qualified students.” <http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/Documents/State%20of%20the%20State/2014%20SOTS%20ADDRESS.pdf>

Illinois public community colleges 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 partners including the Illinois Governor’s Office, Illinois P-20 Council, Illinois Board of Higher Education, and Illinois Student Assistance Commission and evaluated policy to meet the need for increased certificate and degree credentials. At the time of publication, 33 states and the District of Columbia were members of the CCA Alliance of States. <http://www.completecollege.org/alliance.html>. 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>.

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	69,036	+7,183
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 part of the Illinois *60 percent by 2025* completion goal, ICCB established a 2010-2025 Graduation Goal by Illinois Community College tool that allows the ICCB and Illinois Community College System to track annual progress by community college in meeting the 2025 completion goal. The ICCB Graduation Goal tool is intended to be a guide for colleges to set local targets for 2025. Many colleges already have well-established locally-developed completion targets that consider short- and long-term strategies to help them meet 2025 goals. The 2010-2025 Graduation Goal by Illinois Community College tool is available to the system through the ICCB developed and maintained Complete College America Web Portal.

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

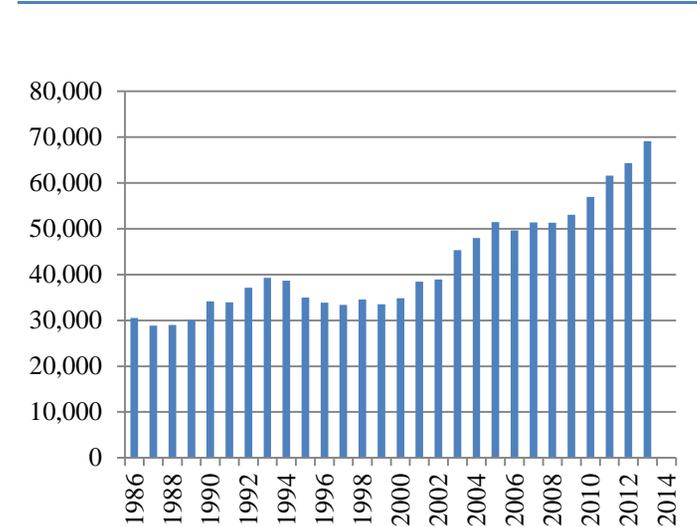
## Annual Student Enrollments & Completions Executive Summary Fiscal Year 2013

fiscal year 2013, exactly half of the colleges were ahead of their local goals (N = 24) and trailing their local goals (N= 24).

For the Illinois Community College System to advance the 2010-2025 Graduation Goal, ICCB released the ICCB Complete College America Web Portal in January, 2013. The web platform houses trend Complete College America metric data for the Illinois Community College System and is intended to promote program improvement and increase the number and rate of college graduates. The system is encouraged to analyze local, peer, and statewide trends over time. CCA Progress, Outcome, and Context metrics are provided by race/ethnicity, gender, age ranges, Pell recipient status, student status (FT/PT and remedial-if applicable) to allow colleges to identify gaps in performance.

Figure 2 provides the historical data on the number of graduates from the Illinois Community College System for fiscal years 1986 through 2013. With 69,036 earned collegiate-level degrees and certificates, fiscal year 2013 again set an all time high in the number of graduates from the Illinois Community College System. The number of graduates increased 7.5 percent from fiscal year 2012 (+ 4,790 completers). Compared to fiscal year 2009 the total number of fiscal year 2013 completions increased 30.1 percent. Comparing results from 2013 to 1986 shows that the number of annual graduates more than doubled during that timeframe (+ 38,486).

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 2013 enrollments and completions. Comparative information is supplied from four previous fiscal years (2009-2012). Detailed tables comparing fiscal year 2012 and fiscal year 2013 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 (2013) and the four previous fiscal years (2009-2012). 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 - 2013**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2013 ANNUAL REPORT**  
*Student Enrollments*

- The Illinois Community College System served nearly **one million (893,953) students** in credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2013. Overall combined enrollments decreased compared to last year (-2.0 percent, N = -18,065).
- **Credit-generating** students accounted for **77.4 percent** of the overall fiscal year 2013 headcount.
- During fiscal year 2013, the 48 public community colleges in Illinois enrolled **691,536** students in instructional credit courses. This is lower than the previous year (713,396). The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment was 256,439, a decrease of 2.9 percent since fiscal year 2012.
- Statewide, **21,540 noncredit course sections** were conducted during fiscal year 2013.
- From fiscal year 2012 to fiscal year 2013, the number of individuals receiving instruction through **noncredit course** offerings increased (1.9 percent) to **202,417 students**.
- Statewide, 23,598 of 893,953 total students enrolled in both credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2013 (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 53.8 percent of the fiscal year 2013 student population enrolled in credit-generating programs.
- **Minority (non-white) students accounted for four in ten** (40.2 percent) of the credit students enrolled. African American student representation decreased (4.8 percent) and accounted for 16.9 percent of all credit students. Latino student representation increased (3.5 percent) to 17.6 percent of all credit students. Asian student representation decreased from the previous year to 4.6 percent, while foreign/nonresident alien representation decreased to 0.2 percent.
- The median age of credit-generating students was **24.8** during fiscal year 2013, a slight decrease from the previous year. The average age also decreased slightly from the previous year to **30.0** years.
- **Baccalaureate/Transfer** remained the largest credit instructional program area **enrolling 40.5 percent** of fiscal year 2013 Illinois Community College System students. Enrollments in Baccalaureate/Transfer programs decreased 0.7 percent compared to the previous year.
- Statewide, Career and Technical Education credit program enrollments accounted for **more than one-quarter** of all credit students (27.1 percent). Enrollments in Career and Technical Education programs decreased 4.6 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 2.9 percent versus fiscal year 2012.
- Of the students in Adult Education, approximately **48.3 percent** were enrolled in **English as a Second Language (ESL)** courses.
- Although 40.5 percent of the fiscal year 2013 credit student population was enrolled in the Baccalaureate/Transfer area, only 33.7 percent of all students indicated intent to transfer.
- **Nearly one-half** (45.9 percent) of the fiscal year 2013 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 (67.2 percent) and spring (70.2 percent) semesters in fiscal year 2013.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2013 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 **33,685 who earned a bachelor's degree or higher**.
- Illinois community college students were enrolled in **7,693,158 credit hours throughout fiscal year 2013** and earned 77.9 percent of those hours.
- Accumulated credit hours were available for 77.1 percent of the fiscal year 2013 student population. Just over one-third of them (37.0 percent) attained **sophomore**-level status by accumulating 30 or more college-level hours.
- Cumulative grade point average data was reported for 72.2 percent of the fiscal year 2013 students. **Nearly one-half (47.8 percent) held an A-B average**.
- In fiscal year 2013, Illinois community college students earned 66.0 percent of the remedial credits they attempted. This percentage is up from 65.1 percent in fiscal year 2012.
- In fiscal year 2013, **one-fifth** (19.9 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 2012.
- **Noncredit** course enrollment figures for fiscal year 2013 are from the **Noncredit Course Enrollment Data** submission (N1).
- Fiscal year 2013 unduplicated noncredit headcount increased 1.9 percent over last year. The duplicated headcount or “seatcount” was 3.4 percent lower than the previous year.
- 21,540 noncredit course sections were conducted during fiscal year 2013.
- **Female** students accounted for **56.2 percent** of 2013 noncredit enrollments for which gender data were reported.
- **Minority students accounted for almost one-fourth** (24.6 percent) of the individuals enrolled in noncredit courses who supplied racial/ethnic data.
- The median age of **noncredit** students was **34.9** during fiscal year 2013. The average age was **36.8** years.
- Just over **one-half** (50.8 percent) of the noncredit students were **40 years of age or above** among the individuals who supplied this information.
- Fifty-eight 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 (21.7 percent) and Business and Industry Contractual training (4.9 percent).
- Across all categories of activity, eleven broad course areas (two-digit CIP) had over 5,000 noncredit students enrolled. **These eleven areas accounted for more than two-thirds of the students enrolled in noncredit courses** with CIP data (72.5 percent). Approximately four out of ten enrollments in these large CIPs were in work-related courses: Business Management (13.0 percent), Transportation Workers (9.3 percent), Education (8.2 percent), Health Professions (5.8 percent), and Computer Information Systems (4.3 percent).
- Noncredit enrollments by term were 40.5 percent in Spring, 33.0 percent in Fall, and 26.5 percent in Summer in fiscal year 2013.
- **Over one-half of the 2013 noncredit courses were held on main college campuses** (58.6 percent).

**HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2013 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**(Continued)**  
*Student Completions*

- A total of **69,036** collegiate-level **degrees and certificates** were awarded to Illinois community college students in fiscal year 2013.
- The number of community college completions in fiscal year 2013 is the **highest count ever reported for the fifth straight year**. Community colleges sustained an elevated level of completions during fiscal year 2013.
- The number of degrees and certificates awarded **increased 7.5 percent from fiscal year 2012** (+ 4,790 completers). Taking a longer view – compared to fiscal year 2009 – the total number of fiscal year 2013 completions increased 30.1 percent.
- **Career and Technical Education** accounted for the **largest number of graduates** (N = 47,276) in fiscal year 2013. Two-thirds of the earned degrees and certificates were in Career and Technical Education programs during fiscal year 2013 (68.5 percent). Career completions increased 7.5 percent from last year.
- **Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees** accounted for the **second largest** group of completers in fiscal year 2013 (N = 18,971). Nearly three out of every ten graduates earned Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees (27.5 percent). The number of Transfer degrees increased 5.0 percent (+906) from last year.
- Approximately 25.2 percent of the Career and Technical Education awards in fiscal year 2013 were AAS degrees.
- **Females** accounted for **55.5 percent** of all 2013 completions.
- **Career and Technical Education Certificates of Less Than One Year** accounted for the **largest number** of male (N = 14,004) and female (N = 14,237) completers of a specific degree or certificate.
- Although small in number, the Associate in Engineering Science (N = 183) had the highest proportion of male graduates (86.3 percent, N = 158).
- **Minority students earned 31.1 percent of the collegiate-level degrees and certificates awarded** in the Illinois Community College System during fiscal year 2013. African American students earned 13.3 percent, Latino students earned 12.0 percent, and Asian students earned 4.9 percent of all degrees and certificates.
- Minorities accounted for 27.4 percent of total Transfer degree recipients.
- Nearly three times as many minority graduates completed Career and Technical Education degrees and certificates (N = 14,994) compared to Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees (N = 5,199).
- Among the largest minority groups, African American students completed 896 more collegiate-level awards than Latino students.
- Fourteen percent of the students who were awarded degrees and certificates during fiscal year 2013 were less than 21 years of age. **The age groups with the largest percentages of graduates were 21 to 24 (32.6 percent), 25 to 30 (20.1 percent), 31 to 39 years of age (15.8 percent), and 40 to 55 years of age (14.5 percent).**
- Seven out of ten Transfer degree completers in 2013 indicated intent to transfer to a four-year institution.
- Approximately 19.8 percent of fiscal year 2013 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 2013, the Illinois Community College System provided education and training to nearly one million (893,953) students in credit and noncredit courses. Three quarters of these students were in credit courses. The 69,036 degrees and certificates awarded in fiscal year 2013 set an all time high for the number of Illinois Community College System graduates. This is an increase of 7.5 percent over last year and is up 30.1 percent from 2009.

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