

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **STUDENT ENROLLMENTS AND COMPLETIONS IN THE ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**

### **FISCAL YEAR 2014**

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

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Please visit the following link for the full report: [http://www.iccb.org/pdf/reports/Annual\\_Enroll\\_Comp\\_2014.pdf](http://www.iccb.org/pdf/reports/Annual_Enroll_Comp_2014.pdf)

Student Enrollments & Completions  
Executive Summary Fiscal Year 2014

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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.

As part of the Illinois *60 percent by 2025* completion goal, 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 illustrated in Figure 1, the Illinois Community College System is currently exceeding the statewide Illinois community college goal.

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	69,812	+5,759
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 & A2)

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

For the Illinois Community College System to continue to advance the *60 percent by 2025* completion goal and increase transparency, ICCB released the [ICCB Graduation Goal and Complete College America Website](#) in April, 2014. The website houses credential attainment progress information and Complete College America (CCA) metric data for the Illinois Community College System and is intended to promote program improvement and monitor the number and rate of college graduates. At the time of publication, 33 states and the District of Columbia were members of the [CCA Alliance of States](#).

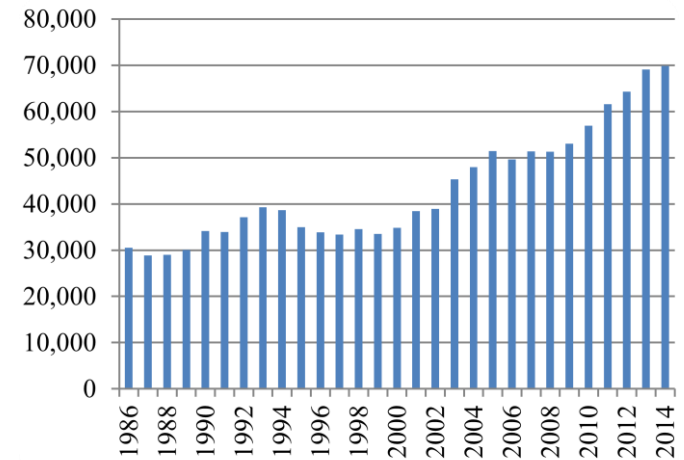
Figure 2 provides the historical data on the number of graduates from the Illinois Community College System for fiscal years 1986 through 2014. With 69,812 earned collegiate-level degrees and certificates, fiscal year 2014 again set an all time high in the number of graduates from the Illinois Community College System. The number of graduates increased 1.1 percent from fiscal year 2013 (+ 776 completers). Compared to fiscal year 2010 the total number of fiscal year 2014 completions increased 22.7 percent. Comparing results from 2014 to 1986 shows that the number of annual graduates more than doubled during that timeframe (+ 39,262).

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. Beginning in fiscal year 2014, the Annual Completions (A2) submission is the source of completions data. This year’s Annual Enrollment and Completion Report is based on fiscal year 2014 enrollments and

completions. Comparative information is supplied from four previous fiscal years (2010-2013). Detailed tables comparing fiscal year 2013 and fiscal year 2014 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.

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 (2014) and the four previous fiscal years (2010-2013). 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 - 2014**



**HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2014 ANNUAL REPORT**  
*Student Enrollments*

- The Illinois Community College System served **853,524 students** in credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2014. Overall combined enrollments decreased compared to last year (-4.5 percent, N = -40,429).
- **Credit-generating** students accounted for **77.3 percent** of the overall fiscal year 2014 headcount.
- During fiscal year 2014, the 48 public community colleges in Illinois enrolled **659,712** students in instructional credit courses. This is lower than the previous year (691,536). The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment was 244,860, a decrease of 4.5 percent since fiscal year 2013.
- Statewide, **21,569 noncredit course sections** were conducted during fiscal year 2014.
- From fiscal year 2013 to fiscal year 2014, the number of individuals receiving instruction through **noncredit course** offerings decreased (4.3 percent) to **193,812 students**.
- Statewide, 24,987 of 853,524 total students enrolled in both credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2014 (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 53.2 percent of the fiscal year 2014 student population enrolled in credit-generating programs.
- **Minority (non-white) students accounted for four in ten** (40.7 percent) of the credit students enrolled. African American student representation decreased (7.1 percent) and accounted for 16.5 percent of all credit students. Latino student representation decreased (0.3 percent), accounting for 18.5 percent of all credit students. Asian student representation decreased from the previous year to 4.7 percent, while foreign/ nonresident alien representation increased to 0.3 percent.
- The median age of credit-generating students was **24.5** during fiscal year 2014, a slight decrease from the previous year. The average age also decreased slightly from the previous year to **29.8** years.
- **Baccalaureate/Transfer** remained the largest credit instructional program area **enrolling 43.5 percent** of fiscal year 2014 Illinois Community College System students. Enrollments in Baccalaureate/Transfer programs increased 2.5 percent compared to the previous year.
- Statewide, Career and Technical Education credit program enrollments accounted for **more than one-quarter** of all credit students (26.2 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 **11.5 percent** of the credit-generating students. Enrollments in Adult Education decreased by 11.1 percent versus fiscal year 2013.
- Of the students in Adult Education, approximately **48.8 percent** were enrolled in **English as a Second Language (ESL)** courses.
- Although 43.5 percent of the fiscal year 2014 credit student population was enrolled in the Baccalaureate/Transfer area, only 34.3 percent of all students indicated intent to transfer.
- **Nearly one-half** (45.8 percent) of the fiscal year 2014 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 (67.1 percent) and spring (70.3 percent) semesters in fiscal year 2014.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2014 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**(Continued)**  
*Student Enrollments*

- Twenty percent of the credit-generating students are known to already have earned some type of college certificate or degree. This includes **33,493 who earned a bachelor's degree or higher**.
- Illinois community college students were enrolled in **7,345,810 credit hours throughout fiscal year 2014** and earned 78.4 percent of those hours.
- Accumulated credit hours were available for 76.4 percent of the fiscal year 2014 student population. Just over one-third of them (37.7 percent) attained **sophomore**-level status by accumulating 30 or more college-level hours.
- Cumulative grade point average data was reported for 73.0 percent of the fiscal year 2014 students. **Nearly one-half (47.6 percent) held an A-B average**.
- In fiscal year 2014, Illinois community college students earned 66.7 percent of the remedial credits they attempted. This percentage is up from 66.0 percent in fiscal year 2013.
- In fiscal year 2014, **one-fifth** (19.7 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 slight decrease from fiscal year 2013.
- **Noncredit** course enrollment figures for fiscal year 2014 are from the **Noncredit Course Enrollment Data** submission (N1).
- Fiscal year 2014 unduplicated noncredit headcount decreased 4.3 percent over last year. The duplicated headcount or “seatcount” was 4.3 percent lower than the previous year.
- 21,569 noncredit course sections were conducted during fiscal year 2014.
- **Female** students accounted for **55.4 percent** of 2014 noncredit enrollments for which gender data were reported.
- **Minority students accounted for almost one-fourth** (23.2 percent) of the individuals enrolled in noncredit courses who supplied racial/ethnic data.
- The median age of **noncredit** students was **37.8** during fiscal year 2014. The average age was **39.0** years.
- Just under **one-half** (49.7 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 (21.2 percent) and Business and Industry Contractual training (6.5 percent).
- Across all categories of activity, twelve broad course areas (two-digit CIP) had over 5,000 noncredit students enrolled. **These twelve areas accounted for more than three-fourths of the students enrolled in noncredit courses** with CIP data (75.2 percent). Approximately four out of ten enrollments in these large CIPs were in work-related courses: Business Management (14.0 percent), Education (9.5 percent), Transportation Workers (8.7 percent), Health Professions (6.2 percent), Computer Information Systems (3.1 percent), and Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Related Protective Services (2.5 percent).
- Noncredit enrollments by term were 41.0 percent in Spring, 33.7 percent in Fall, and 25.2 percent in Summer in fiscal year 2014.
- **Over one-half of the 2014 noncredit courses were held on main college campuses** (59.6 percent).

**HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2014 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**(Continued)**  
*Student Completions*

- A total of **69,812** collegiate-level **degrees and certificates** were awarded to Illinois community college students in fiscal year 2014.
- The number of community college completions in fiscal year 2014 is the **highest count ever reported for the sixth straight year**. Community colleges sustained an elevated level of completions during fiscal year 2014.
- The number of degrees and certificates awarded **increased 1.1 percent from fiscal year 2013** (+ 776 completers). Taking a longer view – compared to fiscal year 2010 – the total number of fiscal year 2014 completions increased 22.7 percent.
- **Career and Technical Education** accounted for the **largest number of graduates** (N = 46,573) in fiscal year 2014. Two-thirds of the earned degrees and certificates were in Career and Technical Education programs during fiscal year 2014 (66.7 percent). Career completions decreased 1.5 percent from last year.
- **Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees** accounted for the **second largest** group of completers in fiscal year 2014 (N = 19,524). Nearly three out of every ten graduates earned Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees (28.0 percent). The number of Transfer degrees increased 2.9 percent (+553) from last year.
- Approximately 24.8 percent of the Career and Technical Education awards in fiscal year 2014 were AAS degrees.
- **Females** accounted for **54.0 percent** of all 2014 completions.
- **Career and Technical Education Certificates of Less Than One Year** accounted for the **largest number** of male (N = 14,975) and female (N = 13,167) completers of a specific degree or certificate.
- Although small in number, the Associate in Engineering Science (N = 217) had the highest proportion of male graduates (88.9 percent, N = 193).
- **Minority students earned 32.7 percent of the collegiate-level degrees and certificates awarded** in the Illinois Community College System during fiscal year 2014. African American students earned 14.1 percent, Latino students earned 12.6 percent, and Asian students earned 5.0 percent of all degrees and certificates.
- Minorities accounted for 28.8 percent of total Transfer degree recipients.
- Nearly three times as many minority graduates completed Career and Technical Education degrees and certificates (N = 15,504) compared to Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees (N = 5,627).
- Among the largest minority groups, African American students completed 1,029 more collegiate-level awards than Latino students.
- Fifteen percent of the students who were awarded degrees and certificates during fiscal year 2014 were less than 21 years of age. **The age groups with the largest percentages of graduates were 21 to 24 (33.1 percent), 25 to 30 (20.2 percent), 31 to 39 years of age (15.5 percent), and 40 to 55 years of age (13.4 percent).**
- Seven out of ten Transfer degree completers in 2014 indicated intent to transfer to a four-year institution.
- Approximately 18.4 percent of fiscal year 2014 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 2014, the Illinois Community College System provided education and training to 853,524 students in credit and noncredit courses. More than three quarters of these students were in credit courses. The 69,812 degrees and certificates awarded in fiscal year 2014 set an all-time high for the number of Illinois Community College System graduates. This is an increase of 1.1 percent over last year and is up 22.7 percent from 2010.

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