

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STUDENT ENROLLMENTS AND COMPLETIONS IN THE ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

FISCAL YEAR 2015

**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:

http://www.iccb.org/pdf/reports/Annual_Enroll_Comp_2015.pdf

Student Enrollments & Completions
Executive Summary Fiscal Year 2015

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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	71,787	+5,534
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 advancing the *60 percent by 2025* completion goal innovative strategies are being utilized to ease transitions for traditional and non-students to and through postsecondary education. For example, colleges are pursuing alternative instructional delivery models such as co-requisite developmental education for underprepared students. Increased articulation is occurring between traditional high school students into postsecondary through the expansion of early college (dual credit and/or advanced placement) models. Also, promising initiatives are occurring statewide to engage non-traditional adult learners to increase and promote higher education opportunities and meet workforce demand.

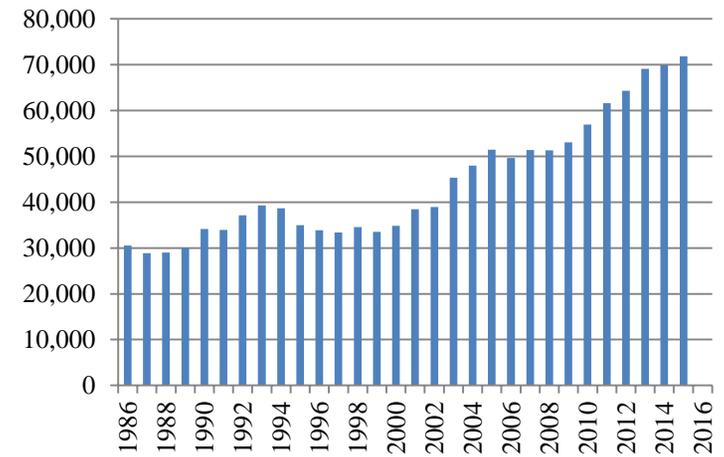
Figure 2 provides the historical data on the number of graduates from the Illinois Community College System for fiscal years 1986 through 2015. With 71,787 earned collegiate-level degrees and certificates, fiscal year 2015 again set an all-time high in the number of graduates from the Illinois Community College System. The number of graduates increased 2.8 percent from fiscal year 2014 (+ 1,975 completers). Compared to fiscal year 2011 the total number of fiscal year 2015 completions increased 16.7 percent. Comparing results from 2015 to 1986 shows that the number of annual graduates more than doubled (+ 135 percent) during that timeframe (+ 41,237).

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 2015 enrollments and completions. Comparative information is supplied from four previous fiscal years (2011-2014). Detailed tables comparing fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2015 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 (2015) and the four previous fiscal years (2011-2014). 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 - 2015



HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
Student Enrollments

- The Illinois Community College System served **802,566 students** in credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2015. Overall combined enrollments decreased compared to last year (-6.0 percent, N = -50,958).
- **Credit-generating** students accounted for **77.3 percent** of the overall fiscal year 2015 headcount.
- During fiscal year 2015, the 48 public community colleges in Illinois enrolled **620,191** students in instructional credit courses. This is lower than the previous year (659,712). The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment was 230,964, a decrease of 5.7 percent since fiscal year 2014.
- Statewide, **21,028 noncredit course sections** were conducted during fiscal year 2015.
- From fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2015, the number of individuals receiving instruction through **noncredit course** offerings decreased (-5.9 percent) to **182,375 students**.
- Statewide, 25,225 of 802,566 total students enrolled in both credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2015 (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 52.9 percent of the fiscal year 2015 student population enrolled in credit-generating programs.
- **Minority (non-white) students accounted for four in ten** (41.4 percent) of the credit students enrolled. African American student representation decreased (10.3 percent) and accounted for 15.8 percent of all credit students. Latino student representation decreased (0.4 percent), accounting for 19.6 percent of all credit students. Asian student representation decreased from the previous year to 4.8 percent, while foreign/ nonresident alien representation increased to 0.4 percent.
- The median age of credit-generating students was **24.1** during fiscal year 2015, a slight decrease from the previous year. The average age also decreased slightly from the previous year to **29.3** years.
- **Baccalaureate/Transfer** remained the largest credit instructional program area **enrolling 45.8 percent** of fiscal year 2015 Illinois Community College System students. Enrollments in Baccalaureate/Transfer programs decreased 1.0 percent compared to the previous year.
- Statewide, Career and Technical Education credit program enrollments accounted for **more than one-quarter** of all credit students (26.3 percent). Enrollments in Career and Technical Education programs decreased 5.5 percent from last year.
- Students enrolled in **Adult Education** courses in community colleges comprised **11.4 percent** of the credit-generating students. Enrollments in Adult Education decreased by 6.9 percent versus fiscal year 2014.
- Of the students in Adult Education, approximately **46.5 percent** were enrolled in **English as a Second Language (ESL)** courses.
- Although 45.8 percent of the fiscal year 2015 credit student population was enrolled in the Baccalaureate/Transfer area, only 35.0 percent of all students indicated intent to transfer.
- **Nearly one-half** (47.1 percent) of the fiscal year 2015 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 (67.4 percent) and spring (70.9 percent) semesters in fiscal year 2015.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2015 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 **33,469 who earned a bachelor's degree or higher.**
- Illinois community college students were enrolled in **6,928,928 credit hours throughout fiscal year 2015** and earned 78.2 percent of those hours.
- Accumulated credit hours were available for 77.4 percent of the fiscal year 2015 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 73.8 percent of the fiscal year 2015 students. **Nearly one-half (47.8 percent) held an A-B average.**
- In fiscal year 2015, Illinois community college students earned 65.0 percent of the developmental credits they attempted. This percentage is down from 66.7 percent in fiscal year 2014.
- In fiscal year 2015, **one-fifth** (18.3 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 2014.
- **Noncredit** course enrollment figures for fiscal year 2015 are from the **Noncredit Course Enrollment Data** submission (N1).
- Fiscal year 2015 unduplicated noncredit headcount decreased 5.9 percent over last year. The duplicated headcount or “seatcount” was 6.5 percent lower than the previous year.
- 21,028 noncredit course sections were conducted during fiscal year 2015.
- **Female** students accounted for **55.8 percent** of 2015 noncredit enrollments for which gender data were reported.
- **Minority students accounted for almost one-fourth** (22.9 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 2015. The average age was **39.2** years.
- Just under **one-half** (48.9 percent) of the noncredit students were **40 years of age or above** among the individuals who supplied this information.
- Fifty-nine 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 (19.2 percent) and Business and Industry Contractual training (6.9 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 nearly three-fourths 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 (12.2 percent), Education (9.3 percent), Transportation and Materials Moving (8.3 percent), Health Professions and Related Programs (7.5 percent), and Computer Information Systems (3.2 percent).
- Noncredit enrollments by term were 41.2 percent in Spring, 32.5 percent in Fall, and 26.3 percent in Summer in fiscal year 2015.
- **Over one-half of the 2015 noncredit courses were held on main college campuses** (59.7 percent).

HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
(Continued)
Student Completions

- A total of **71,787** collegiate-level **degrees and certificates** were awarded to Illinois community college students in fiscal year 2015.
- The number of community college completions in fiscal year 2015 is the **highest count ever reported for the seventh straight year**. Community colleges sustained an elevated level of completions during fiscal year 2015.
- The number of degrees and certificates awarded **increased 2.8 percent from fiscal year 2014** (+ 1,975 completers). Taking a longer view – compared to fiscal year 2011 – the total number of fiscal year 2015 completions increased 16.7 percent.
- **Career and Technical Education** accounted for the **largest number of graduates** (N = 48,018) in fiscal year 2015. Two-thirds of the earned degrees and certificates were in Career and Technical Education programs during fiscal year 2015 (66.9 percent). Career completions increased 3.1 percent from last year.
- **Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees** accounted for the **second largest** group of completers in fiscal year 2015 (N = 20,225). Nearly three out of every ten graduates earned Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees (28.2 percent). The number of Transfer degrees increased 3.6 percent (+701) from last year.
- Approximately 23.6 percent of the Career and Technical Education awards in fiscal year 2015 were AAS degrees.
- **Females** accounted for **53.9 percent** of all 2015 completions.
- **Career and Technical Education Certificates of Less Than One Year** accounted for the **largest number** of male (N = 15,486) and female (N = 13,762) completers of a specific degree or certificate.
- Although small in number, the Associate in Engineering Science (N = 226) had the highest proportion of male graduates (89.8 percent, N = 203).
- **Minority students earned 34.2 percent of the collegiate-level degrees and certificates awarded** in the Illinois Community College System during fiscal year 2015. African American students earned 14.3 percent, Latino students earned 14.0 percent, and Asian students earned 4.6 percent of all degrees and certificates.
- Minorities accounted for 32.1 percent of total Transfer degree recipients.
- Nearly three times as many minority graduates completed Career and Technical Education degrees and certificates (N = 16,415) compared to Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees (N = 6,484).
- Among the largest minority groups, African American students completed 247 more collegiate-level awards than Latino students.
- Sixteen percent of the students who were awarded degrees and certificates during fiscal year 2015 were less than 21 years of age. **The age groups with the largest percentages of graduates were 21 to 24 (33.4 percent), 25 to 30 (19.9 percent), 31 to 39 years of age (15.6 percent), and 40 to 55 years of age (12.7 percent).**
- Seven out of ten Transfer degree completers in 2015 indicated intent to transfer to a four-year institution.
- Approximately 18.3 percent of fiscal year 2015 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 2015, the Illinois Community College System provided education and training to 802,566 students in credit and noncredit courses. More than three quarters of these students were in credit courses. The 71,787 degrees and certificates awarded in fiscal year 2015 set an all-time high for the number of Illinois Community College System graduates. This is an increase of 2.8 percent over last year and is up 16.7 percent from 2011.

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