

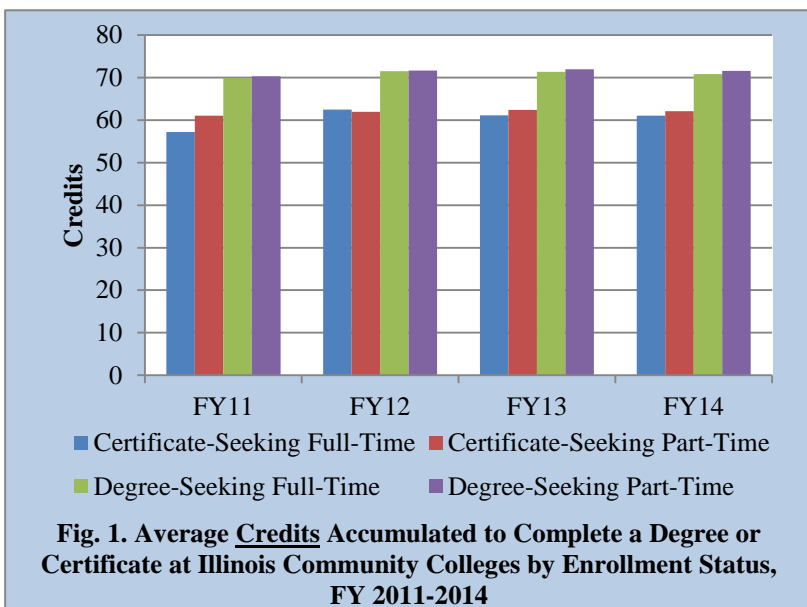
# **Illinois Community College Board** **Complete College America** **Outcome Metric 4: Time and Credits to Degree**

Complete College America (CCA), established in 2009, is a national nonprofit that aims to increase the graduation number and rate of college students. Illinois was in the first group of states to join the initiative and be part of the CCA Alliance of States (<http://www.completecollege.org/>). To advance higher education graduation rates, CCA officials developed a series of metrics identified under three categories: **Progress (PM)**, **Outcomes (OM)**, and **Context (CM)**. Generally, each metric has subsets including full-time/part-time status, race/ethnicity, gender, age groups, remedial status at entry, and Pell recipient status. ICCB generates the entire set of metrics for the state and each community college using agency longitudinal data systems.

**Outcome Metric 4, Time and Credits to Degree**, measures the average length of time in years a student takes to complete an associate degree or a certificate of one year or greater and the average number of credits a student has accumulated when an associate degree or a certificate of one year or greater is earned by enrollment status.

While the average number of **credits to completion** was smaller for certificate-seeking students in FY 2014, it was similar among full-time and part-time students. For certificate-seeking students the average number of credits to completion was 61.07 credits for full-time students and 62.13 credits for part-time students. For associate-seeking students the average number of credits accumulated was 70.87 credits for full-time students and 71.63 credits for part-time students.

<p style="text-align: center;">Table 1  <b>Time and <u>Credits</u> to Degree</b>  <b>Average Number of Credits Accumulated to Complete a Certificate or Degree by Enrollment Status at Illinois Community Colleges</b>  <b>Fiscal Years 2011-2014</b></p>					
	FY 10*	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14
<b>Certificate-Seeking</b>					
Full-Time	NA	57.21	62.48	61.15	61.07
Part-Time	NA	61.07	61.94	62.45	62.13
<b>Degree-Seeking</b>					
Full-Time	NA	69.96	71.52	71.35	70.87
Part-Time	NA	70.32	71.69	71.96	71.63
<p>*FY 10 was not required for the CCA data collection            SOURCE OF DATA: ICCB Annual Enrollment and Completion (A1)</p>					



From FY 2013-2014 for certificate-seeking students the average number of credits to completion decreased 0.1 percent (-0.08 credits) for full-time students and decreased 0.5 percent (-0.32 credits) for part-time students. For associate-seeking students the average number of credits to completion decreased 0.7 percent (-0.48 credits) for full-time students and decreased 0.5 percent (-0.33 credits) for part-time students.

Among the participating states, the average median number of credits to certificate (1 yr+) attainment for full-time students was 64 credits (FY2011). Full-time students from participating states had an average median number of credits to degree of 83.2 credits (FY2011). Part-time figures from the participating states are unavailable.

Detailed comparative data from participating states are available for select metrics through *Complete College America's Game Changer State Data* [webpage](#). Out of 33 states that are currently part of CCA's alliance, Illinois is one of 28 states that provided data in 2013. For more information on the Illinois Community College System please see the [Research & Policy Studies section](#) of the ICCB [website](#).

