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.

Progress Metric 1, Enrollment in Remedial Education, measures the annual number and percentage of entering first-time undergraduate students who enroll in developmental courses. Progress Metric 2, Success in Remedial Education, measures the annual number and percentage of entering first-time undergraduate students who complete developmental education courses and complete a college-level course in the same subject within two academic years of entry. PM1 and PM2 have breakouts for Math only, English/reading only, and Both Math and English/reading. PM1 and PM2 are also available by enrollment status.

One-half of first-time students entering in Fall 2012 (FY 13) were enrolled in remedial coursework (23,473/47,139 = 49.8%). More than two-thirds of first-time students who enrolled in remedial courses completed the remedial courses (16,563/23,473 = 70.6%). One in five first-time students who enrolled in a remedial course completed a college-level course in the same subject within 2 academic years (7,301/23,473 = 31.1%).

From FY 2012 to FY 2013 the number of first-time entry students increased 0.4% (+192). The number of first-time students enrolling in remedial courses increased 1.3% (+312), while the percentage of students enrolling increased 0.5%. The number of first-time students completing remedial courses increased 1.8% (+316), and the percentage of students completing increased 0.3%. For first-time students enrolled in remedial coursework who completed a college-level course in the same subject within two academic years the number of students increased 32.0%, and the percentage of students increased 7.2%.

Among the participating CCA states the percentage of first-time students enrolling in remediation at two-year colleges was 51.7%. Of those, 22.3% complete remediation and associated college level courses in two years (Game Changer State Data, 2013).

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.

Collaborating with the System to Inform Statewide Community College Issues