

## Illinois Community College Board Complete College America Progress Metric 4: Credit Accumulation

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.

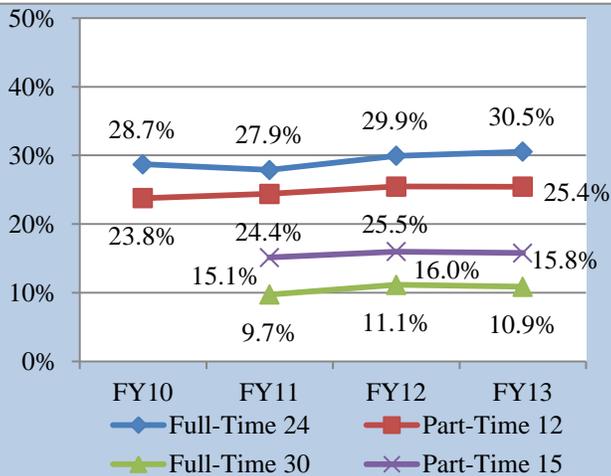
**Progress Metric 4, Credit Accumulation**, measures the number and percentage of first-time degree- or certificate-seeking undergraduate students completing 24 and 30 credit hours (for full-time students) or 12 and 15 credit hours (for part-time students) within their first academic year of enrollment.

In FY13, **one in three full-time first-time degree- or certificate-seeking students accumulated 24 credit hours** (N = 9,639), while 10.9 percent accumulated 30 credit hours (N = 3,430). **One-fourth of part-time first-time degree- or certificate-seeking students accumulated 12 credit hours** (N = 3,930), while 15.8 percent accumulated 15 credit hours (N = 2,438). Remedial credit hours are excluded in the FY10 through FY13 data.

As illustrated in Figure 1, full-time students are more frequently reaching the credit hour threshold than part-time students for 24/12 hours, but part-time students are more frequently meeting the higher 15 hour threshold than full-time students are meeting the 30 hour threshold.

	Fall 08 FY 09*	Fall 09 FY 10	Fall 10 FY 11	Fall 11 FY 12	Fall 12 FY 13
<b>Full-Time</b>					
First-Time Students	NA	32,942	32,625	31,401	31,557
Complete 24 Credit Hours	NA	9,458 28.7%	9,097 27.9%	9,404 29.9%	9,639 30.5%
Complete 30 Credit Hours	NA	NA**	3,172 9.7%	3,495 11.1%	3,430 10.9%
<b>Part-Time</b>					
First-Time Students	NA	15,906	16,351	15,374	15,452
Complete 12 Credit Hours	NA	3,782 23.8%	3,990 24.4%	3,917 25.5%	3,930 25.4%
Complete 15 Credit Hours	NA	NA**	2,473 15.1%	2,458 16.0%	2,438 15.8%

\*FY 09 was not required for the CCA data collection  
\*\*30 & 15 hours not collected.  
Remedial credit hours are not included.  
SOURCE OF DATA: ICCB Annual Enrollment and Completion (A1)



**Fig. 1. Credit Accumulation at Illinois Community Colleges by Enrollment Status, FY 2010-2013**

The number of full-time first-time degree- or certificate-seeking students who accumulated 24 credit hours increased 2.5 percent (+235 students) since FY12, and the percentage of these students increased 0.6 percent from FY12. The number of students who accumulated 30 credit hours decreased 1.9 percent (-65 students), and the percentage of these students decreased 0.3 percent from FY2012. The number of part-time first-time degree- or certificate-seeking students who accumulated 12 credit hours increased 0.3 percent (+13 students) since FY12, and the percentage of these students was unchanged from FY12. The number of students who accumulated 15 credit hours decreased 0.8 percent (-20 students), and the percentage of these students decreased 0.2 percent from FY2012.

Among the participating CCA states' two-year institutions, the average median proportion of first-time full-time students completing 24 credit hours and first-time part-time students completing 12 credit hours within their first academic year was 31.0 percent (FY 10).

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](#).

