

Illinois Community College Board Complete College America Progress Metric 5: Retention Rates – Full-Time Students

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 5, Retention Rates, measures the number and percentage of entering degree or certificate-seeking under-graduate students enrolling consecutively from fall-to-spring and from fall-to-fall at the same higher education institution. PM5 is available by enrollment status.

More than four out of five first-time full-time students in Fall 2010 were retained, transferred, or graduated in Spring 2011 (N = 27,008/32,337, or 83.5 percent). Two-thirds (68.1 percent) were retained, transferred, or graduated in Fall 2011. For each consecutive Fall semester through Fall 2013, the percentage of students who were retained, transferred, or graduated was near sixty percent: Fall 2012 (59.7 percent) and Fall 2013 (58.6 percent).

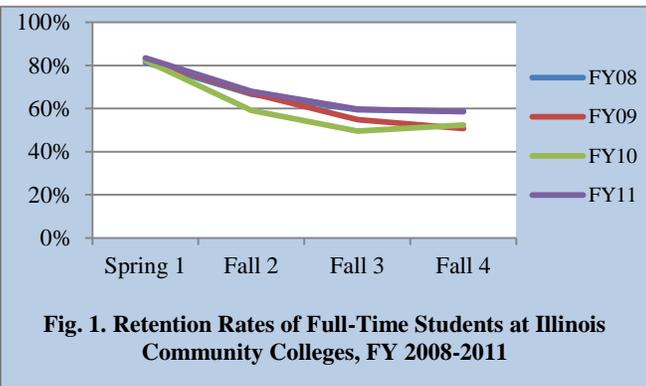


Fig. 1. Retention Rates of Full-Time Students at Illinois Community Colleges, FY 2008-2011

Reporting of the retention rates in the second Spring semester and subsequent Spring semesters became optional in the 2015 CCA collection (Fall 2009/FY 2010 cohort). ICCB did not report these optional rates.

When comparing the FY10 and FY11 cohorts, the number of full-time students who were retained, transferred, or graduated by the Fall term in the fourth year after entry increased 9.8 percent (+1,688). The proportion of these students increased 6.2 percent.

| Table 1 Retention Rates of Full-Time Students First-Time Degree or Certificate Seeking Students Enrolling in Fall and Enrolling in the Next Consecutive Semester or Transferred or Graduated at Illinois Community Colleges Fiscal Years 2008-2011 | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Fall 2006 FY 07* | Fall 2007 FY 08 | Fall 2008 FY 09 | Fall 2009 FY 10 | Fall 2010 FY 11 |
| First-time Entry Students | | NA | 27,768 | 27,986 | 32,951 | 32,337 |
| Spring 1 | Retained | | 21,952 | 22,518 | 26,875 | 25,860 |
| | Transferred | NA | 489 | 480 | 16 | 841 |
| | Graduated | | 181 | 219 | 269 | 307 |
| | Total % | | 81.5% | 83.0% | 82.4% | 83.5% |
| Fall 2 | Retained | | 15,832 | 16,562 | 18,887 | 18,007 |
| | Transferred | NA | 2,241 | 1,756 | 18 | 3,346 |
| | Graduated | | 440 | 465 | 596 | 656 |
| | Total % | | 66.7% | 67.1% | 59.2% | 68.1% |
| Spring 2 | Retained | | 12,753 | 13,404 | Optional/ Not Reported | Optional/ Not Reported |
| | Transferred | NA | 2,859 | 2,327 | | |
| | Graduated | | 1,943 | 1,950 | | |
| | Total % | | 63.2% | 63.2% | | |
| Fall 3 | Retained | | 8,167 | 8,403 | 9,203 | 8,491 |
| | Transferred | NA | 5,135 | 3,615 | 3,200 | 6,724 |
| | Graduated | | 3,225 | 3,355 | 3,936 | 4,076 |
| | Total % | | 59.5% | 54.9% | 49.6% | 59.7% |
| Spring 3 | Retained | | 6,134 | 6,088 | Optional/ Not Reported | Optional/ Not Reported |
| | Transferred | NA | 5,936 | 4,124 | | |
| | Graduated | | 4,304 | 4,507 | | |
| | Total % | | 59.0% | 52.6% | | |
| Fall 4 | Retained | | 4,075 | 3,998 | 4,315 | 4,109 |
| | Transferred | NA | 7,241 | 4,909 | 6,640 | 8,369 |
| | Graduated | | 4,973 | 5,313 | 6,296 | 6,461 |
| | Total % | | 58.7% | 50.8% | 52.4% | 58.6% |
| Spring 4 | Retained | | 3,147 | 2,901 | Optional/ Not Reported | Optional/ Not Reported |
| | Transferred | NA | 7,827 | 5,273 | | |
| | Graduated | | 5,479 | 5,943 | | |
| | Total % | | 59.3% | 50.4% | | |

FY is the fiscal year of the entering cohort
Transferred and Graduated are Cumulative Counts
*FY 07 was not required for the CCA data collection
SOURCE OF DATA: ICCB Fall Enrollment (E1), Annual Enrollment & Completion (A1), and National Student Clearinghouse

Comparative information with other participating states has not been made available for this metric by CCA. 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](#).

