

Illinois Community College Board
Complete College America
Progress Metric 5: Retention Rates – Part-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 half of first-time part-time students in Fall 2010 were retained, transferred, or graduated in Spring 2011 (N = 10,273/16,586 or 61.9 percent). Forty-eight percent (N = 7,923; or 47.8 percent) were retained, transferred, or graduated in Fall 2011. For each consecutive Fall semester through Fall 2013, more than one in four students were retained, transferred, or graduated: Fall 2012 (47.8 percent) and Fall 2013 (41.5 percent).

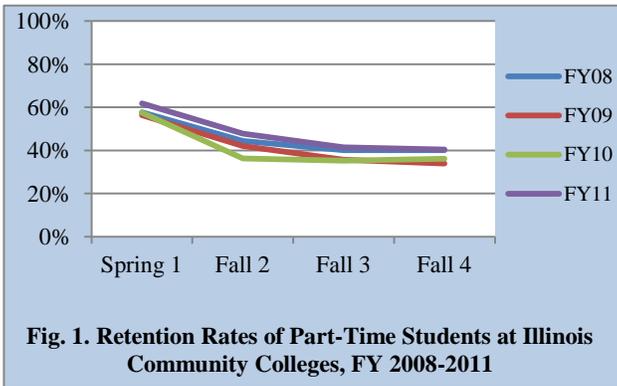


Fig. 1. Retention Rates of Part-Time Students at Illinois Community Colleges, FY 2008-2011

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 part-time students who were retained, transferred, or graduated by the Fall term in the fourth year after entry increased 17.1 percent (+981). The proportion of these students increased 4.2 percent.

Table 1 Retention Rates of Part-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	13,406	14,529	15,830	16,586
Spring 1	Retained	NA	7,243	7,753	9,023	9,492
	Transferred		431	369	24	712
	Graduated		67	57	71	69
	Total %		57.7%	56.3%	57.6%	61.9%
Fall 2	Retained	NA	4,697	5,071	5,550	6,002
	Transferred		1,117	895	29	1,776
	Graduated		141	133	174	145
	Total %		44.4%	42.0%	36.3%	47.8%
Spring 2	Retained	NA	3,987	4,164	Optional/ Not Reported	Optional/ Not Reported
	Transferred		1,392	1,196		
	Graduated		239	241		
	Total %		41.9%	38.6%		
Fall 3	Retained	NA	3,083	3,167	3,426	3,565
	Transferred		1,921	1,634	1,702	2,834
	Graduated		382	390	448	484
	Total %		40.2%	35.7%	35.2%	41.5%
Spring 3	Retained	NA	2,615	2,614	Optional/ Not Reported	Optional/ Not Reported
	Transferred		2,259	1,852		
	Graduated		552	590		
	Total %		40.5%	34.8%		
Fall 4	Retained	NA	1,975	1,947	2,067	2,106
	Transferred		2,708	2,191	2,693	3,612
	Graduated		710	790	964	987
	Total %		40.2%	33.9%	36.2%	40.4%
Spring 4	Retained	NA	1,623	1,566	Optional/ Not Reported	Optional/ Not Reported
	Transferred		2,999	2,399		
	Graduated		903	977		
	Total %		41.2%	34.0%		

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](#).

