



Illinois Community College Board Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE TRANSFER RATE FOR ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS?

Illinois is a national leader for students enrolled in community college transfer to four-year institution programs. Much of this can be attributed to the strong statewide articulation mandate (the [Illinois Articulation Initiative](#)) that facilitates transfer of courses between more than 100 Illinois community colleges and four-year institutions.

Students enroll at community colleges for a variety of reasons which could include transfer to a four-year institution, earning a certificate or degree that leads to direct employment in high demand fields, or completing courses to upskill with a current employer. Transfer programs are the largest instructional program area for Illinois community colleges and specifically provide a smooth transition to a senior institution for students planning to complete a bachelor’s degree. All community college districts offer an Associate in Science (A.S.) and Associate in Arts (A.A.). The A.S. is for students planning to major in math, science, or health related areas, and the A.A. is an appropriate degree for students planning to major in the liberal arts.

The Transfer Rate in Table 1 measures the success of students earning an Illinois community college associate degree specifically designed to transfer to a four-year institution. The methodology tracks students who complete an associate degree and then transfer within one year post graduation to a four-year institution. The table provides detail on if students transfer to an Illinois 4-year institution and/or out-of-state 4-year institution. Transfer Rates are calculated for all students completing associate degrees during fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

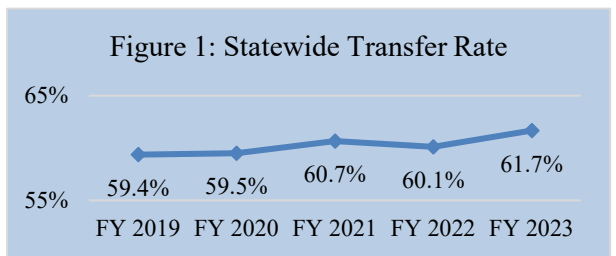
Table 1
Transfer Rate for Associate Transfer Degree Completers at Illinois Public Community Colleges
Fiscal Years 2019-2023

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Associate Transfer Degree Completers	20,021	19,136	19,009	18,361	17,290
Transferred–IL Only	9,448	8,993	8,968	8,201	8,097
Transferred–Out-of-State Only	2,314	2,289	2,407	2,656	2,433
Transferred–Both IL and Out-of-State	124	105	157	181	133
Total Transferred	11,886	11,387	11,532	11,038	10,663
Rate–Total Transferred	59.4%	59.5%	60.7%	60.1%	61.7%

Source of Data: ICCB Centralized Data System—Annual Enrollment and Completion (A1) and National Student Clearinghouse (NSC)

The Transfer Rate remained fairly consistent during fiscal years 2019 through 2022 as seen in Figure 1, with around 60 percent of associate degree completers enrolling in a four-year institution within one year. In the most current year, the Transfer Rate increased to 61.7 percent (N=10,663).

Most students that transferred remained in Illinois. For FY 2019, of the 11,886 students that enrolled in a 4-year institution, 79.5 percent (N=9,448) were in Illinois. An additional one percent (N=124) enrolled in both an Illinois and out-of-state 4-year institutions within a year of graduation. For FY 2022 and FY 2023, slightly fewer students remained in Illinois, and slightly more transferred out-of-state. The percentage of students that transferred to a four-year institution in Illinois decreased to 74.3 percent (N=8,201) in FY 2022 and 75.9 percent (N=8,097) in FY 2023 compared to nearly 80 percent in FY 2019. The percentage of students that transferred to a four-year institution outside of Illinois increased to 24.1 percent (N=2,656) in FY 2022 and 22.8 percent (N=2,433) in FY 2023 from 19.5 percent in FY 2019 (N=2,314).



Source of Data: ICCB Centralized Data System--Annual Enrollment and Completion (A1) and National Student Clearinghouse (NSC)

For more information, please see [Data and Characteristics of the Illinois Public Community College System](#). Visit the ICCB website to [locate a Community College near you](#) or for a [map of district boundaries](#).