



STUDENT ENROLLMENTS AND COMPLETIONS IN THE ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Please access the following link for the full report:

https://www.iccb.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Annual_Enroll_Comp_2025_Final.pdf

December 2025

**Student Enrollments & Completions
Fiscal Year 2025**

ICCB Research & Analytics Division

Nathan R. Wilson, Deputy Director

Jay Brooks, Associate Deputy Director

Cecilia Elhaddad, Senior Director for Data Analytics and Visualization

Claire McDowell, Senior Director for Data Management and Research

Michelle Dufour, Director

Mitchell Gaffney, Data Analyst

Jana Ferguson, Consultant, Data and Research Services

Assistance provided by ICCB Information Technology Division

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois 12/25

INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Community College System serves as a cornerstone of the state's educational and economic landscape, offering accessible, affordable, and high-quality programs that meet the needs of Illinois' diverse learners. As both an entry point to higher education and a pathway to career advancement, the system empowers students with opportunities to earn valuable credentials, transition into in-demand fields, and prepare for transition to universities to continue work toward a four-year degree. By addressing skills gaps, advancing workforce development, and responding to emerging labor market trends, Illinois community colleges play a pivotal role in cultivating a skilled workforce that fuels local and statewide economic growth.

According to the [National Center for Education Statistics](#), postsecondary enrollments declined from 2010 through 2021, a trend intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic. With their open-access mission and the populations they serve, community colleges experienced some of the most significant enrollment impacts. However, Illinois began to see this trajectory shift in Fall 2022. Enrollment growth continued through academic year 2025, marking the third-largest annual increase in credit enrollment (+4.9 percent) in system history. Only the increases from academic year 1981 to 1982 (+11.4 percent) and from academic year 2023 to 2024 (+5.9 percent) were higher.

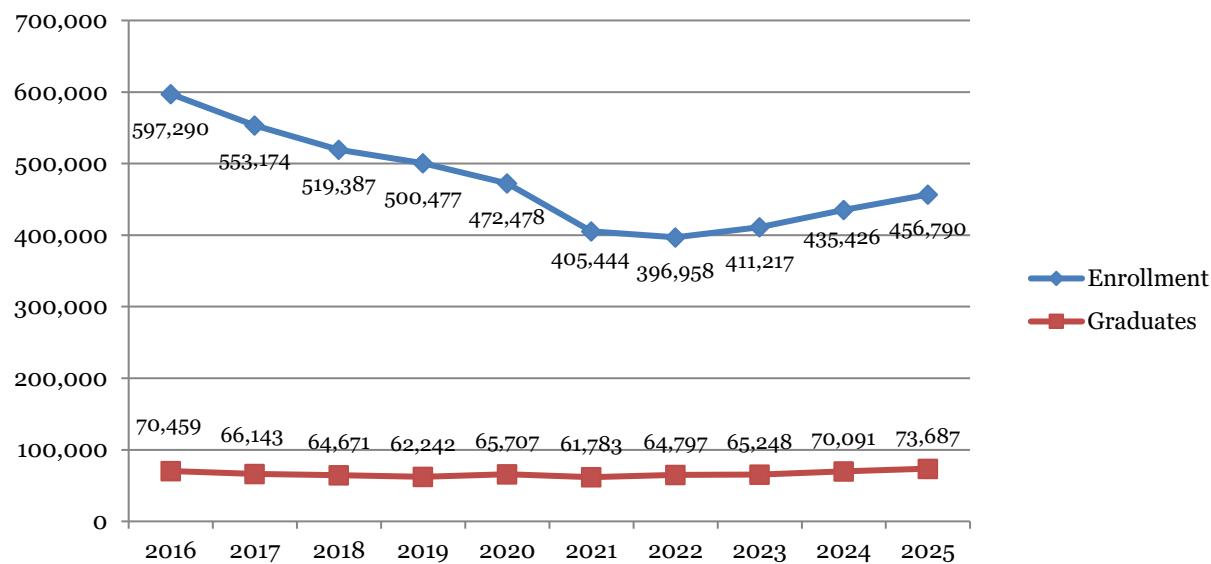
Throughout the pandemic and its aftermath, Illinois community colleges took proactive steps to re-engage students and strengthen access to high-demand career pathways aligned with statewide workforce needs. Colleges expanded training opportunities in critical sectors, improved access for underserved populations, and supported students' return to education and workforce preparation. At the same time, they deepened partnerships with high schools by expanding dual credit offerings that provide clear and accelerated pathways to college and career credentials.

Illinois community colleges also continue to demonstrate strong student transfer outcomes through coordinated transfer frameworks that support the seamless movement of students from two-year to four-year institutions. Collectively, these efforts underscore the system's ongoing commitment to broad access, student success, and long-term economic and workforce development.

With 73,687 earned collegiate-level degrees and certificates, fiscal year 2025 had the highest annual number of graduates ever recorded for the Illinois Community College System. As illustrated in Figure 1, the annual Illinois Community College System number of program graduates increased five percent from fiscal year 2016 to 2025. During the same timeframe, enrollments decreased by twenty-four percent statewide.

Student Enrollments & Completions
Fiscal Year 2025

Figure 1. Illinois Community College System Credit Enrollments and Graduates, FY 2016-2025



Under the authority of the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act (105 ILCS 13/1 et seq.) (the “LDS Act”), ICCB is the State Education Authority responsible for collecting and maintaining enrollment, completion, and student characteristic information on community college students. The data within the Annual Enrollment and Completion Report derive from ICCB’s Centralized Data System. Illinois Community Colleges submit Annual Enrollment (A1) microdata for individuals who are officially enrolled at the college in credit coursework at any time during the specified fiscal year. Beginning in fiscal year 2014, the Annual Completions (A2) submission is the microdata source of student completions. This year’s Annual Enrollment and Completion Report is based on fiscal year 2025 enrollments and completions. Comparative information is supplied from four previous fiscal years (2021-2024). Detailed tables comparing fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025 credit headcount, full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollments, and graduates by college are included. FTE enrollments in this report are based on all credit hours attempted. Thirty credit hours equal one FTE.

Also included in the Annual Enrollment and Completion Report is information about noncredit offerings for the current year (2025) and the four previous fiscal years (2021-2024). Noncredit courses provide another delivery method of education, training, and public service by community colleges to the communities they serve. Since fiscal year 1999, the Illinois community colleges have submitted Noncredit Enrollment (N1) annual microdata for students containing demographic and course information on the wide range of noncredit instruction.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Student Enrollments

- The Illinois Community College System served 577,184 students in credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2025. Overall combined enrollments increased compared to last year (4.4 percent, N = 24,364).
- Credit-generating students accounted for 79.1 percent of the overall fiscal year 2025 headcount.
- During fiscal year 2025, the 45 public community colleges in Illinois enrolled 456,790 students in instructional credit courses. This is a 4.9 percent increase over the previous year (435,426). The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment was 178,658, an increase of 5.3 percent since fiscal year 2024.
- Statewide, 13,498 of 577,184 total students enrolled in both credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2025 (A1 and N1). While there is some overlap, these data suggest that credit and noncredit courses are meeting largely different student and community needs.
- Females comprised 54.1 percent of the fiscal year 2025 student population enrolled in credit-generating programs.
- Minority (non-white) students accounted for just over half (55.4 percent) of the credit students enrolled. African American student representation increased (9.8 percent) and accounted for 13.6 percent of all credit students. Latino student representation increased (8.2 percent) and accounted for 30.2 percent of all credit students. Asian (5.8 percent), Two or More Races (3.6 percent), and U.S. Nonresident (1.2 percent) student representation increased from the previous year.
- Two in three Pell recipients were minority (non-white) students in fiscal year 2025 (66.8 percent).
- Thirty-seven percent of students in fiscal year 2025 were first-generation students (37.0 percent).
- The median age of credit-generating students was 21.5 during fiscal year 2025, a slight decrease from the previous year. The average age was decreased from the previous year at 26.0 years in fiscal year 2025.
- Transfer remained the largest credit instructional program area enrolling 53.8 percent of fiscal year 2025 Illinois Community College System students. Enrollments in Transfer programs increased 5.8 percent compared to the previous year.

- Statewide, Career and Technical Education credit program enrollments accounted for one-quarter of all credit students (24.9 percent). Enrollments in Career and Technical Education programs increased 3.0 percent from last year.
- Students enrolled in Adult Education courses in community colleges comprised 12.6 percent of the credit-generating students. Enrollments in Adult Education increased by 6.5 percent versus fiscal year 2024.
- Of the students in Adult Education, 59.3 percent were enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.
- Although 53.8 percent of the fiscal year 2025 credit student population was enrolled in the Transfer area, only 36.1 percent of all students indicated intent to transfer.
- One-half (50.4 percent) of the fiscal year 2025 credit students enrolled in the colleges indicated that they were not pursuing a degree, but attending to complete one or several courses. Participation in college to take courses instead of pursuing a degree or certificate remained similar compared to the previous year.
- More than two out of three credit students attended on a part-time basis during both the fall (70.8 percent) and spring (74.5 percent) semesters in fiscal year 2025.
- Twenty percent of the credit-generating students are known to already have earned some type of college certificate or degree. This includes 18,199 who earned a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Illinois community college students enrolled in 5,359,749 credit hours throughout fiscal year 2025 and earned 80.2 percent of those hours.
- Accumulated credit hours were available for 80.9 percent of the fiscal year 2025 student population. More than one-third of them (33.5 percent) attained sophomore-level status by accumulating 30 or more college-level hours.
- Cumulative grade point average data was reported for 79.6 percent of the fiscal year 2025 students. One-half (55.2 percent) held an A-B average.
- In fiscal year 2025, nearly one in ten (9.4 percent) Illinois community college students (not enrolled in ABE/ASE/ESL, Vocational Skills, or General Studies) were enrolled in at least one developmental course—a decrease from fiscal year 2024.
- In fiscal year 2025, Illinois community college students earned 67.5 percent of the developmental credits they attempted. This percentage is up from 64.6 percent in fiscal year 2024.

- High school students enrolled in dual credit courses (N = 101,634) comprised 22.2 percent of all credit enrollment at Illinois community colleges in fiscal year 2025. This represents an 11.7 percent increase from the previous year and the largest enrollment ever reported for dual credit students.
- Fiscal year 2025 unduplicated noncredit headcount increased 2.6 percent over last year to 120,394 students. The duplicated headcount or “seatcount” was 3.7 percent higher than the previous year.
- Statewide, 15,648 noncredit course sections were conducted during fiscal year 2025.
- Female students accounted for 46.9 percent of 2025 noncredit enrollments.
- Minority students accounted for one-third (33.1 percent) of the individuals enrolled in noncredit courses who supplied racial/ethnic data.
- The median age of noncredit students was 38.4 during fiscal year 2025. The average age was 41.1 years.
- Nearly one-half (47.7 percent) of the noncredit students were 40 years of age or above among the individuals who supplied this information.
- Nearly three-fifths of the noncredit offerings (duplicated) were in the Personal and Social Development category of activity (57.9 percent). Over one-fourth of the noncredit coursework were dedicated to developing workplace skills: Professional/Vocational (16.0 percent) and Business and Industry Contractual training (9.8 percent).
- Across all categories of activity, nine broad course enrollments (two-digit CIP) had over 5,000 noncredit students enrolled. These nine areas accounted for nearly two-thirds of the students enrolled in noncredit courses with CIP data (65.9 percent). About one out of two enrollments in these large CIPs were in work-related courses: Business Management (15.5 percent), Transportation (8.9 percent), Health Professions (7.9 percent), Education (6.3 percent), Legal Professions and Studies (5.8 percent), and Security and Protective Services (4.5 percent).
- Noncredit enrollments by term were 40.7 percent in Spring, 32.4 percent in Fall, and 26.9 percent in Summer in fiscal year 2025.
- Over one-half of the 2025 noncredit courses were held on main college campuses (53.8 percent).

Student Completions

- A total of 73,687 collegiate-level degrees and certificates were awarded to Illinois community college students in fiscal year 2025.
- The number of community college completions in fiscal year 2025 is the highest count ever reported.
- The number of degrees and certificates awarded increased 5.1 percent from fiscal year 2024 (+3,596 completers). Taking a longer view—compared to fiscal year 2021—the total number of fiscal year 2025 completions increased 19.3 percent.
- Career and Technical Education accounted for the largest number of graduates (N = 44,906) in fiscal year 2025. More than half of the earned degrees and certificates were in Career and Technical Education programs during fiscal year 2025 (60.9 percent). Career completions increased 9.4 percent from last year.
- Transfer completions accounted for the second largest group of completers in fiscal year 2025 (N = 26,287). One out of three graduates earned Transfer completions (35.7 percent). The number of Transfer completions decreased 2.4 percent (-653) from last year. Nearly one in three Transfer graduates earned the General Education Core Curriculum Credential.
- Twenty-one percent of the Career and Technical Education awards in fiscal year 2025 were AAS degrees.
- Females accounted for 53.7 percent of all 2025 completions.
- Career and Technical Education Certificates of Nine to less than Thirty Semester Hours accounted for the largest number of male completers (N = 10,574), and Career and Technical Education Certificates of less than Nine Semester Hours accounted for the largest number of female completers (N = 7,798) of a specific degree or certificate.
- Although small in number, the Associate in Engineering Science (N = 500) had the highest proportion of male graduates (81.0 percent, N = 405).
- Minority students earned 46.5 percent of the collegiate-level degrees and certificates awarded in the Illinois Community College System during fiscal year 2025. Latino students earned 25.5 percent, African American students earned 11.5 percent, and Asian students earned 4.4 percent of all degrees and certificates.
- Minorities accounted for 45.8 percent of total Transfer degree and certificate recipients.

- More minority graduates completed Career and Technical Education degrees and certificates (N = 20,845) than Transfer degrees and certificates (N = 12,028).
- Among the largest minority groups, Latino (N = 18,825) students completed more than twice as many collegiate-level awards than African American students (N = 8,499).
- Thirty percent of the students who were awarded degrees and certificates during fiscal year 2025 were less than 21 years of age. The other age groups with the largest percentages of graduates were 21 to 24 (33.9 percent), 25 to 30 (15.0 percent), 31 to 39 years of age (11.5 percent), and 40 to 55 years of age (8.0 percent).
- Seven out of ten Transfer degree and certificate completers in 2025 indicated intent to transfer to a four-year institution.
- Approximately 17.7 percent of fiscal year 2025 Associate in Applied Science degree graduates indicated goals to complete some courses or finish a certificate.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Demand for the programs and services delivered by Illinois community colleges remain strong. During fiscal year 2025, the Illinois Community College System provided education and training to 577,184 students in credit and noncredit courses. More than three-fourths of these students were in credit courses. The 73,687 degrees and certificates awarded in fiscal year 2025 were the highest number ever reported for Illinois Community College System graduates. This is an increase of 5.1 percent over last year and 19.3 percent from 2021.