

Illinois Community College Board Frequently Asked Questions

HOW MANY REMEDIAL STUDENTS ADVANCE TO COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSEWORK?

In fiscal year 2025, 15,953 remedial students advanced to college-level coursework (44.6 percent). An additional one-fifth of the students (N = 6,866) returned the subsequent year and continued to address their basic academic skill deficiencies. Hence, 63.7 percent (N = 22,819) of the students in fiscal year 2025 were either retained or advanced to college-level work. Table 1 below contains comparative data for the last five years.

Table 1

Summary Comparison of Advancement to College-Level Coursework for Remedial Students in Illinois Public Community Colleges, Fiscal Years 2021-2025

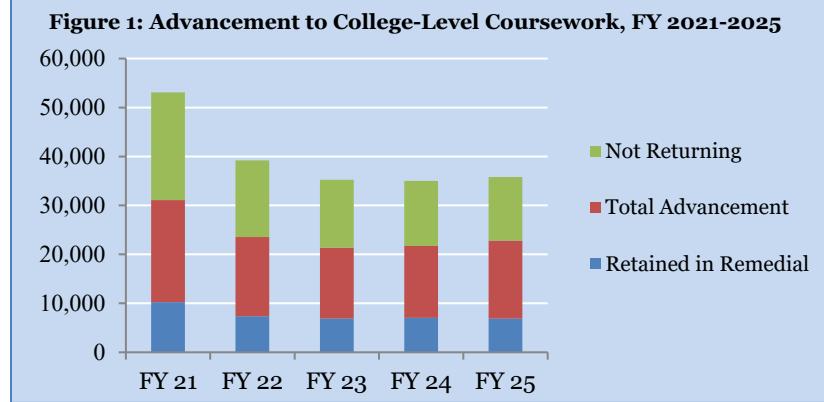
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Base	53,094	39,210	35,236	35,018	35,809
Retained in Remedial	10,249	7,351	6,916	7,041	6,866
	19.3%	18.7%	19.6%	20.1%	19.2%
Advanced to College-Level	20,834	16,207	14,443	14,677	15,953
	39.2%	41.3%	41.0%	41.9%	44.6%
Retained or Advanced	31,083	23,558	21,359	21,718	22,819
	58.5%	60.1%	60.6%	62.0%	63.7%
Not Returning	22,011	15,652	13,877	13,300	12,990
	41.5%	39.9%	39.4%	38.0%	36.3%

Source of Data: ICCB Centralized Data System—Annual Enrollment and Completion (A1)

Looking at the trends over time, the number of remedial students who advanced to college-level coursework increased 8.7 percent over fiscal year 2024 (+1,276) and decreased 23.4 percent over fiscal year 2021 (-4,881). The number of students retained in remedial coursework had both a short-term decrease (-2.5 percent; -175) and a long-term decrease (-33.0 percent; -3,383). The number of students *not* returning also decreased short-term (-2.3 percent; -310) and long-term (-41.0 percent; -9,021).

As depicted in Figure 1, about two-fifths of remedial students advanced from remedial coursework to college-level instruction in fiscal years 2021 through 2025. About six in ten remedial students were either retained in remedial coursework or advanced to college-level instruction.

According to the [National Center for Education Statistics](#), 20.0 percent of first-year students at public two-year institutions took a remedial course during their first year (FY 2020).



For more information, see the report, [Annual Student Enrollments and Completions in the Illinois Community College System](#), or [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](#).

Collaborating with the System to Inform Statewide Community College Issues

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