

Illinois Community College Board Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE STUDENT ADVANCEMENT RATE FOR ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGES?

Figure 1: First-Time, Full-Time Entering Cohort Students who Graduated, Transferred, or Were Still Enrolled at 150 Percent Program Length at Illinois Community Colleges



Graduation rates provide one useful measure to help inform the public and policymakers about how colleges are performing in their efforts to graduate individuals who begin their studies pursuing a traditional enrollment pattern. The primary postsecondary graduation rate collected through the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) provides the percentage of first-time, full-time students who graduate within 150% of catalog time (e.g., 3 years for an associate degree which could be completed in 2 years of uninterrupted

full-time study—fall and spring semesters). A combined **Student Advancement Rate** figure can be calculated for those who either graduated, transferred to other higher education institutions, or were still enrolled at the end of the observation period. The Student Advancement Rate provides a more comprehensive picture of the range of academic outcomes sought by community college students than the Graduation Rate. Figure 1 contains the number of first-time, full-time entrants and the students from that group who graduated, transferred, or were still enrolled at 150% of catalog time. Community college students can switch to part-time attendance or enroll on an intermittent basis.

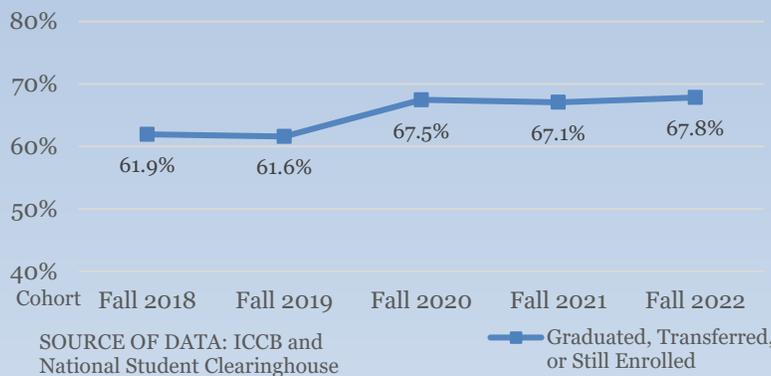
The trend data in Figure 2 show that overall statewide combined **Student Advancement Rates** among first-time, full-time Illinois community college students mostly **declined slightly** from Fall 2018 through Fall 2019, and **rebounded** Fall 2020 through Fall 2022.

Over the past five years the combined **Student Advancement Rate** for Illinois community colleges increased from 61.9 percent for the Fall 2018 cohort to **67.8 percent for the Fall 2022 cohort**.

That means for the Fall 2022 cohort, nearly seven in ten (N=16,855/24,846)

who began their studies as first-time, full-time students at Illinois community colleges in Fall 2022 graduated, transferred to another institution, or were still enrolled by Summer 2025. Compared to the previous year, the number of students who graduated, transferred, or were still enrolled saw a slight increase to 16,855 from 15,758 in Fall 2021. During this same time period, the Student Advancement Rate rose slightly, from 67.1 percent to 67.8 percent.

Figure 2: Percent of First-Time, Full-Time Entering Cohort Students who Graduated, Transferred, or Were Still Enrolled at 150 Percent of Program Length at Illinois Community Colleges



Visit the ICCB website to [locate a Community College near you](#) or for a [map of district boundaries](#).