



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 activity 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.

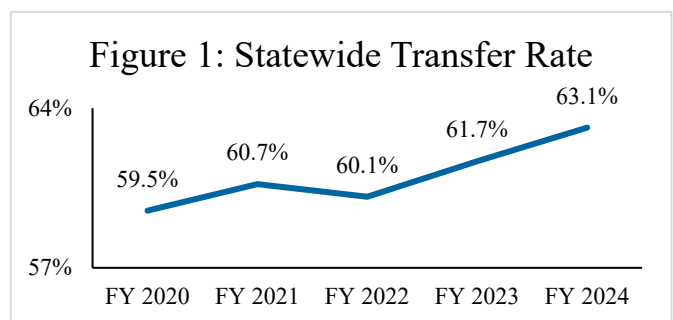
The Transfer Rates in Table 1 measures the success of students earning an Illinois community college associate degree specifically designed to transfer to a four-year institution. The methodology tracks students who complete an associate degree and then transfer within one year post graduation to a four-year 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 2020 through 2024.

Table 1
Transfer Rate for Associate Transfer Degree Completers at Illinois Public Community Colleges
Fiscal Years 2020–2024

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Associate Transfer Degree Completers	19,136	19,009	18,361	17,290	17,211
Transferred–IL Only	8,993	8,968	8,201	8,097	8,208
Transferred–Out-of-State Only	2,289	2,407	2,656	2,433	2,493
Transferred–Both IL and Out-of-State	105	157	181	133	167
Total Transferred	11,387	11,532	11,038	10,663	10,868
Rate–Total Transferred	59.5%	60.7%	60.1%	61.7%	63.1%

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

As seen in Figure 1, the Transfer Rate increased gradually between fiscal years 2020 and 2024. In 2020, 59.5% of associate degree completers enrolled in a four-year institution within one year. In 2024, this rose to 63.1% (N=10,868). Most students that transferred remained in Illinois. For FY 2020, of the 11,387 students that enrolled in a 4-year institution, 79% (N=8,993) were in Illinois. An additional 0.9% (N=105) enrolled in both an Illinois and out-of-state 4-year institutions within a year of graduation. Between FY 2022–2024, slightly fewer students remained in Illinois and slightly more transferred out-of-state. During this timeframe, the percentage of students that transferred to a four-year institution in Illinois decreased to between 74.3–75.5% from 79% in FY 2020. Meanwhile, the percentage of students that transferred to a four-year institution outside of Illinois increased to between 22.8–24.1% from 20.1% in FY 2020.



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](#).