

Illinois Community College Board Frequently Asked Questions

HOW MANY STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGES?

Historically, the fiscal year 2020 completion counts are at the sixth highest level ever recorded. In fiscal year 2020, 65,707 degrees and certificates were earned by Illinois community college students. Table 1 below contains comparative completion data for the last five years. The number of degrees and certificates awarded increased 5.6 percent from the previous year. Compared to last year among the 48 colleges, 27 experienced increases in the number of degree and certificate awarded, while 21 exhibited decreases. No colleges reported little or no change. Compared to fiscal year 2016, the total number of fiscal year 2020 completions decreased 6.7 percent.

Table 1
Summary Comparison of Annual Completions in Illinois Public Community Colleges, Fiscal Years 2016-2020

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Trans/Gen Assoc/ Gen Studies	24,458	25,010	23,758	23,099	30,796
<i>% Change</i>	<i>2.9%</i>	<i>2.3%</i>	<i>-5.0%</i>	<i>-2.8%</i>	<i>33.3%</i>
CTE	46,001	41,133	40,913	39,143	34,911
<i>% Change</i>	<i>-4.2%</i>	<i>-10.6%</i>	<i>-0.5%</i>	<i>-4.3%</i>	<i>-10.8%</i>
TOTALS	70,459	66,143	64,671	62,242	65,707
<i>% Change</i>	<i>-1.8%</i>	<i>-6.1%</i>	<i>-2.2%</i>	<i>-3.8%</i>	<i>5.6%</i>

Source of Data: ICCB Centralized Data System—Annual Enrollment and Completion (A1 & A2)

As depicted in Figure 1, just over half of the 65,707 completers during fiscal year 2020 received Career and Technical Education (CTE) degrees or certificates (53.1 percent). Transfer degrees and certificates were the second most frequently awarded and accounted for 42.9 percent of all the collegiate-level completions. Looking at the trends over time, overall CTE completions decreased 10.8 percent compared to last year and decreased 24.1 percent compared to five years earlier. A closer examination of the categories of formal awards issued within CTE in fiscal year 2020 shows that more than one-half (57.9 percent) of the completions was CTE Career Certificates of Less than One Year. The total number of Transfer degrees and certificates awarded in fiscal year 2020 increased 39.3 percent compared to the last fiscal year and increased (33.0 percent) from fiscal year 2016. Among Transfer degrees granted, the Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree was the most frequently awarded (48.2 percent).

Figure 1. Overall Annual Completions, FY 2016-2020

For more information on enrollments, see the report, [Annual Student Enrollments and Completions in the Illinois Community College System](#), fiscal year 2020, 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](#).

