

Illinois Community College Board Frequently Asked Questions

HOW MANY STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGES?

Historically, the fiscal year 2021 completion counts are at the tenth highest level ever recorded. In fiscal year 2021, 61,783 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 decreased 6.0 percent from the previous year. Compared to last year among the 48 colleges, 25 experienced increases in the number of degree and certificate awarded, while 22 exhibited decreases. One college reported little or no change. Compared to fiscal year 2017, the total number of fiscal year 2021 completions decreased 6.6 percent.

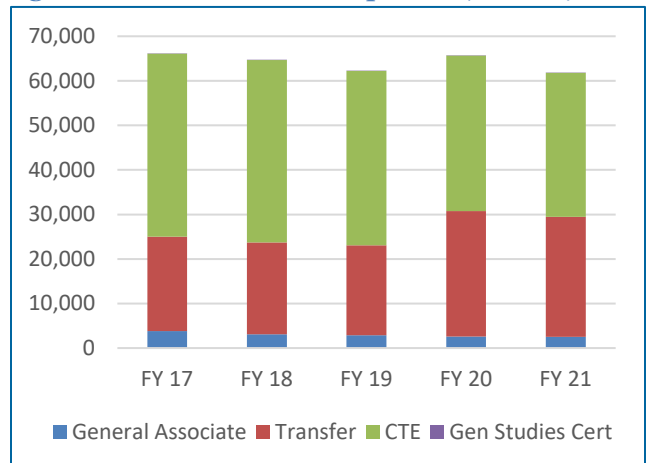
Table 1
Summary Comparison of Annual Completions in Illinois Public Community Colleges, Fiscal Years 2017-2021

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Trans/Gen Assoc/ Gen Studies	25,010	23,758	23,099	30,796	29,470
% Change	2.3%	-5.0%	-2.8%	33.3%	-4.3%
CTE	41,133	40,913	39,143	34,911	32,313
% Change	-10.6%	-0.5%	-4.3%	-10.8%	-7.4%
TOTALS	66,143	64,671	62,242	65,707	61,783
% Change	-6.1%	-2.2%	-3.8%	5.6%	-6.0%

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

As depicted in Figure 1, just over half of the 61,783 completers during fiscal year 2021 received Career and Technical Education (CTE) degrees or certificates (52.3 percent). Transfer degrees and certificates were the second most frequently awarded and accounted for 43.7 percent of all the collegiate-level completions. Looking at the trends over time, overall CTE completions decreased 7.4 percent compared to last year and decreased 21.4 percent compared to five years earlier. A closer examination of the categories of formal awards issued within CTE in fiscal year 2021 shows that more than one-half (55.0 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 2021 decreased 4.3 percent compared to the last fiscal year but increased (27.3 percent) from fiscal year 2017. Among Transfer degrees granted, the Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree was the most frequently awarded (51.4 percent).

Figure 1. Overall Annual Completions, FY 2017-2021



For more information on enrollments, see the report, [Annual Student Enrollments and Completions in the Illinois Community College System](#), fiscal year 2021, 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](#).

