

## Illinois Community College Board Frequently Asked Questions

### HOW MANY REMEDIAL STUDENTS ADVANCE TO COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSEWORK?

In fiscal year 2021, 20,834 remedial students advanced to college-level coursework (39.2 percent). An additional one-fifth of the students (N = 10,249) returned the subsequent year and continued to address their basic academic skill deficiencies. Hence, 58.5 percent (N = 31,083) of the students in fiscal year 2021 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 2017-2021**

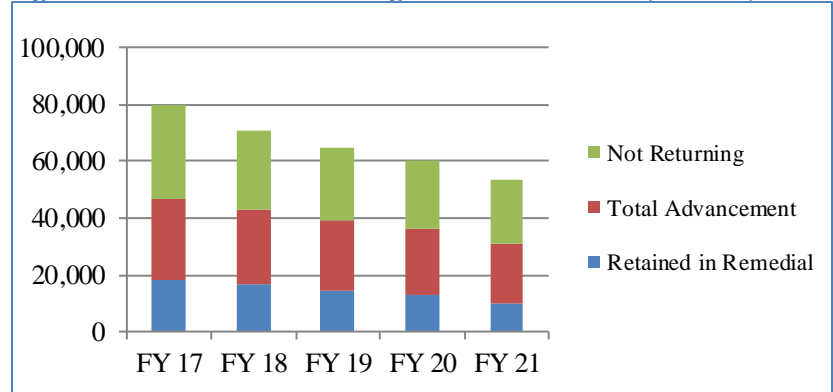
	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
<b>Base</b>	79,344	70,873	64,985	59,916	53,094
<b>Retained in Remedial</b>	18,217 23.0%	16,284 23.0%	14,292 22.0%	12,695 21.2%	10,249 19.3%
<b>Advanced to College-Level</b>	28,096 35.4%	26,414 37.3%	24,773 38.1%	23,257 38.8%	20,834 39.2%
<b>Not Returning</b>	33,031 41.6%	28,175 39.8%	25,920 39.9%	23,964 40.0%	22,011 41.5%
<b>Retained or Advanced</b>	46,313 58.4%	42,698 60.2%	39,065 60.1%	35,952 60.0%	31,083 58.5%

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 decreased 10.4 percent over fiscal year 2020 (-2,423) and decreased 25.8 percent over fiscal year 2017 (-7,262). The number of students retained in remedial coursework also had a short-term decrease (-19.3 percent; -2,446) and a long-term decrease (-43.7 percent; -7,968). The number of students *not* returning decreased short-term (-8.1 percent; -1,953) and long-term (-33.4 percent; -11,020).

**As depicted in Figure 1, over one-third of remedial students advanced from remedial coursework to college-level instruction in fiscal years 2017 through 2021.** About six in ten remedial students were either retained in remedial coursework or advanced to college-level instruction.

Figure 1. Advancement to College-Level Coursework, FY 2017-2021



According to the [National Center for Education Statistics](#), 25.3 percent of first-year students at public two-year institutions took a remedial course during their first year (FY 2016).

For more information, see the annual report, [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](#).