

Illinois Community College Board Frequently Asked Questions

HOW MANY REMEDIAL STUDENTS ADVANCE TO COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSEWORK?

In fiscal year 2020, 23,257 remedial students advanced to college-level coursework (38.8 percent). An additional one-fifth of the students (N = 12,695) returned the subsequent year and continued to address their basic academic skill deficiencies. Hence, 64.7 percent (N = 35,952) of the students in fiscal year 2020 were either retained and/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 2016-2020

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Base	91,811	79,344	70,873	64,985	59,916
Retained in Remedial	21,530 23.5%	18,217 23.0%	16,284 23.0%	14,292 22.0%	12,695 21.2%
Advanced to College-Level	31,451 34.3%	28,096 35.4%	26,414 37.3%	24,773 38.1%	23,257 38.8%
Not Returning	38,830 42.3%	33,031 41.6%	28,175 39.8%	25,920 39.9%	23,964 40.0%
Retained or Advanced	52,981 57.7%	46,313 58.4%	42,698 60.2%	39,065 60.1%	35,952 60.0%

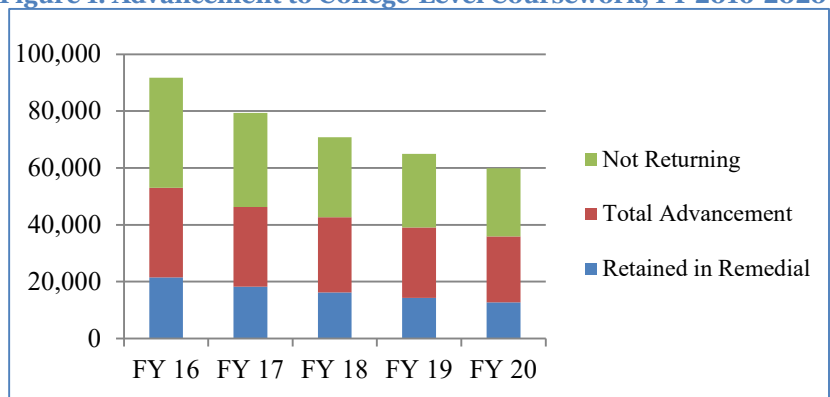
Source of Data: ICCB Centralized Data System—Annual Enrollment and Completion (A1)

Looking at the trends over time, the number of remedial students who advanced to college-level coursework decreased 6.1 percent over fiscal year 2019 (-1,516) and decreased 26.1 percent over fiscal year 2016 (-8,194). The number of students retained in remedial coursework also had a short-term decrease (-11.2 percent; -1,597) and a long-term decrease (-41.0 percent; -8,835). The number of students *not* returning decreased short-term (-7.5 percent; -1,956) and long-term (-38.3 percent; -14,866).

As depicted in Figure 1, over one-third of remedial students advanced from remedial coursework to college-level instruction in fiscal years 2016 through 2020. Six in ten remedial students were either retained in remedial coursework or advanced to college-level instruction.

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).

Figure 1. Advancement to College-Level Coursework, FY 2016-2020



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](#).