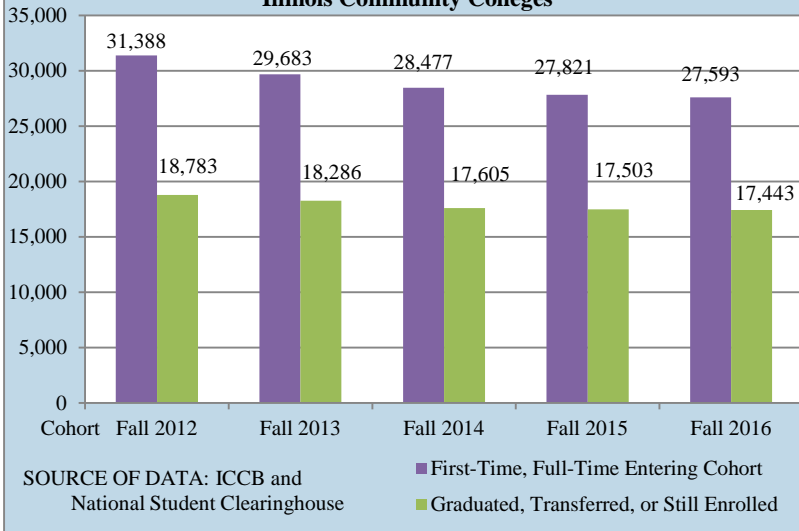


Illinois Community College Board Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE STUDENT ADVANCEMENT RATE FOR ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGES?

Figure 1: First-Time, Full-Time Entering Cohort Students who Graduated, Transferred, or Were Still Enrolled at 150 Percent of Program Length at Illinois Community Colleges



Graduation rates provide one useful measure to help inform the public and policymakers about how colleges are performing in their efforts to graduate individuals who begin their studies pursuing a traditional full-time enrollment pattern. The primary postsecondary graduation rate collected through the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) provides the percentage of first-time, full-time students who graduate within 150% of catalog time (e.g., 3 years for an associate degree which could be completed in 2 years of uninterrupted full-time study—fall and spring semesters). A combined **Student Advancement Rate** figure can be calculated for those who either graduated, transferred to other higher education institutions, or were still

enrolled at the end of the observation period. The Student Advancement Rate provides a more comprehensive picture of the range of academic outcomes sought by community college students than the Graduation Rate. Figure 1 contains the number of first-time, full-time entrants and the students from that group who graduated, transferred, or were still enrolled at 150% of catalog time. Community college students can switch to part-time attendance or enroll on an intermittent basis.

The trend data in Figure 2 show that overall statewide combined **Student Advancement Rates** among first-time, full-time Illinois community college students have **steadily increased** from the Fall 2012 cohort to the Fall 2016 cohort.

Over the past five years the combined **Student Advancement Rate** for Illinois community colleges increased from 59.8 percent in fiscal year 2015 (Fall 2012 cohort) to 63.2 percent in fiscal year 2019 (Fall 2016 cohort). That means for fiscal year 2019, six in ten (N = 17,443/27,593) who began their studies as first-time, full-time students at Illinois community colleges in Fall 2016 graduated, transferred to another institution, or were still enrolled by Summer 2019. Compared to the previous year, in fiscal year 2019 the number of students who graduated, transferred, or were still enrolled saw a slight decrease to reach 17,443 from 17,503 in fiscal year 2018.

During this same time period, the Student Advancement Rate increased 0.3 percentage points.

Results for individual community colleges are available on the ICCB [Student Success Metrics](#) web page.

[Click to locate a Community College near you.](#) [Click for a map of district boundaries.](#)

Figure 2: Percent of First-Time, Full-Time Entering Cohort Students who Graduated, Transferred, or Were Still Enrolled at 150 Percent of Program Length at Illinois Community Colleges

