



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STUDENT ENROLLMENTS AND COMPLETIONS IN THE ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

FISCAL YEAR 2019

Please access the following link for the full report:

https://www.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/pdfs/reports/Annual_Enroll_Comp_2019_Final.pdf

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**Student Enrollments & Completions
Fiscal Year 2019**

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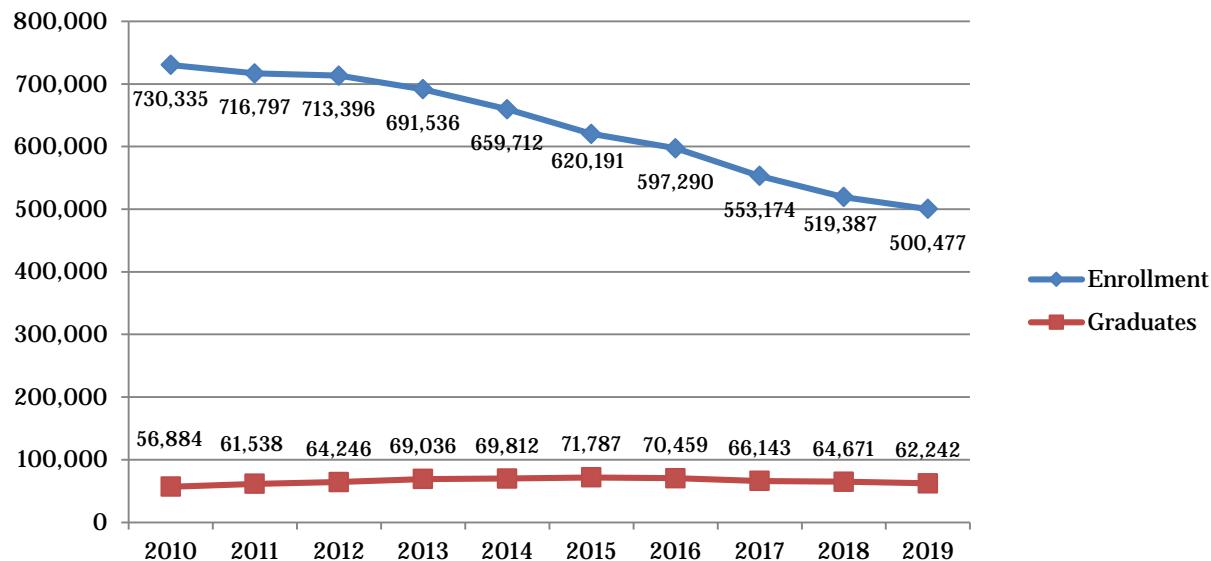
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Illinois Community College System meets both local and statewide needs for education and workforce development by providing high-quality, accessible, cost-effective educational opportunities, programs, and services for a diverse student population. The system provides traditional and non-traditional students with smooth transitions into and across higher education and training for in-demand occupations with economic value. Community colleges create an educated and skilled workforce by increasing credential attainment, building quality career pathways, closing the skills gap, and addressing the future needs of the workforce.

With 62,242 earned collegiate-level degrees and certificates, fiscal year 2019 had the eighth highest annual number of graduates ever recorded for the Illinois Community College System. As illustrated in Figure 1, the annual Illinois Community College System number of program graduates increased nearly ten percent from fiscal year 2010 to 2019. During the same timeframe, enrollments decreased by nearly 32 percent statewide.

Figure 1. Illinois Community College System Credit Enrollments and Graduates, FY 2010-2019



Under the authority of the P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act (105 ILCS 13/1 et seq.) (the “LDS Act”), ICCB is the State Education Authority responsible for collecting and maintaining enrollment, completion, and student characteristic information on community college students. The data within the Annual Enrollment and Completion Report derive from ICCB’s Centralized Data System. Illinois Community Colleges submit

**Student Enrollments & Completions
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Annual Enrollment (A1) microdata for individuals who are officially enrolled at the college in credit coursework at any time during the specified fiscal year. Beginning in fiscal year 2014, the Annual Completions (A2) submission is the microdata source of student completions. This year's Annual Enrollment and Completion Report is based on fiscal year 2019 enrollments and completions. Comparative information is supplied from four previous fiscal years (2015-2018). Detailed tables comparing fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 credit headcount, full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollments, and graduates by college are included. FTE enrollments in this report are based on all credit hours attempted. Thirty credit hours equal one FTE.

Also included in the Annual Enrollment and Completion Report is information about noncredit offerings for the current year (2019) and the four previous fiscal years (2015-2018). Noncredit courses provide another delivery method of education, training, and public service by community colleges to the communities they serve. Since fiscal year 1999, the Illinois community colleges have submitted Noncredit Enrollment (N1) annual microdata for students containing demographic and course information on the wide range of noncredit instruction.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Student Enrollments

- The Illinois Community College System served 664,973 students in credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2019. Overall combined enrollments decreased compared to last year (-3.5 percent, N = -24,316).
- Credit-generating students accounted for 75.3 percent of the overall fiscal year 2019 headcount.
- During fiscal year 2019, the 48 public community colleges in Illinois enrolled 500,477 students in instructional credit courses. This is lower than the previous year (519,387). The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment was 192,209, a decrease of 3.5 percent since fiscal year 2018.
- Statewide, 17,758 of 664,973 total students enrolled in both credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2019 (A1 and N1). While there is some overlap, these data suggest that credit and noncredit courses are meeting largely different student and community needs.
- Females comprised 54.0 percent of the fiscal year 2019 student population enrolled in credit-generating programs.
- Minority (non-white) students accounted for four in ten (46.7 percent) of the credit students enrolled. African American student representation decreased (4.4 percent) and accounted for 13.4 percent of all credit students. Latino student representation increased (0.6 percent) and accounted for 24.5 percent of all credit students. Asian (5.1 percent) and Nonresident Alien (0.9 percent) student representation decreased from the previous year, while Two or More Races (2.6 percent) student representation increased.
- The median age of credit-generating students was 22.7 during fiscal year 2019, a slight decrease from the previous year. The average age also decreased from the previous year to 27.9 years in fiscal year 2019.
- Transfer remained the largest credit instructional program area enrolling 51.0 percent of fiscal year 2019 Illinois Community College System students. Enrollments in Transfer programs decreased 3.8 percent compared to the previous year.
- Statewide, Career and Technical Education credit program enrollments accounted for more than one-quarter of all credit students (25.6 percent). Enrollments in Career and Technical Education programs decreased 2.3 percent from last year.

- Students enrolled in Adult Education courses in community colleges comprised 10.3 percent of the credit-generating students. Enrollments in Adult Education decreased by 9.2 percent versus fiscal year 2018.
- Of the students in Adult Education, approximately 57.7 percent were enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.
- Although 51.0 percent of the fiscal year 2019 credit student population was enrolled in the Transfer area, only 36.9 percent of all students indicated intent to transfer.
- One-half (46.9 percent) of the fiscal year 2019 credit students enrolled in the colleges indicated that they were not pursuing a degree, but attending to complete one or several courses. Participation in college to take courses instead of pursuing a degree or certificate remained similar compared to the previous year.
- More than two out of three credit students attended on a part-time basis during both the fall (67.8 percent) and spring (72.1 percent) semesters in fiscal year 2019.
- Twenty-one percent of the credit-generating students are known to already have earned some type of college certificate or degree. This includes 24,624 who earned a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Illinois community college students were enrolled in 5,766,261 credit hours throughout fiscal year 2019 and earned 79.5 percent of those hours.
- Accumulated credit hours were available for 80.1 percent of the fiscal year 2019 student population. Just over one-third of them (38.2 percent) attained sophomore-level status by accumulating 30 or more college-level hours.
- Cumulative grade point average data was reported for 78.1 percent of the fiscal year 2019 students. One-half (49.9 percent) held an A-B average.
- In fiscal year 2019, Illinois community college students earned 67.3 percent of the developmental credits they attempted. This percentage is down from 67.5 percent in fiscal year 2018.
- In fiscal year 2019, one in seven (14.3 percent) Illinois community college students (not enrolled in ABE/ASE/ESL, Vocational Skills, and General Studies) were enrolled in at least one developmental course—a decrease from fiscal year 2018.
- Fiscal year 2019 unduplicated noncredit headcount decreased 3.2 percent over last year to 164,496 students. The duplicated headcount or “seatcount” was 2.1 percent lower than the previous year.
- Statewide, 19,236 noncredit course sections were conducted during fiscal year 2019.

- Female students accounted for 54.8 percent of 2019 noncredit enrollments for which gender data were reported.
- Minority students accounted for one-fourth (25.3 percent) of the individuals enrolled in noncredit courses who supplied racial/ethnic data.
- The median age of noncredit students was 37.4 during fiscal year 2019. The average age was 40.3 years.
- Just under one-half (46.3 percent) of the noncredit students was 40 years of age or above among the individuals who supplied this information.
- Sixty-three percent of the noncredit offerings (duplicated) were in the Personal and Social Development category of activity. More than one-fifth of the noncredit coursework was dedicated to developing workplace skills: Professional/Vocational (15.2 percent) and Business and Industry Contractual training (6.4 percent).
- Across all categories of activity, eight broad course enrollments (two-digit CIP) had over 5,000 noncredit students enrolled. These eight areas accounted for more than two-thirds of the students enrolled in noncredit courses with CIP data (68.7 percent). Approximately four out of ten enrollments in these large CIPs were in work-related courses: Business Management (10.3 percent), Education (8.1 percent), Transportation (7.0 percent), Health Professions (6.2 percent), and Security and Protective Services (4.8 percent).
- Noncredit enrollments by term were 39.8 percent in Spring, 33.9 percent in Fall, and 26.3 percent in Summer in fiscal year 2019.
- Over one-half of the 2019 noncredit courses were held on main college campuses (60.3 percent).

Student Completions

- A total of 62,242 collegiate-level degrees and certificates were awarded to Illinois community college students in fiscal year 2019.
- Despite decreasing from last year, the number of community college completions in fiscal year 2019 is the eighth highest count ever reported.
- The number of degrees and certificates awarded decreased 3.8 percent from fiscal year 2018 (-2,429 completers). Taking a longer view—compared to fiscal year 2014—the total number of fiscal year 2019 completions decreased 13.3 percent.

- Career and Technical Education accounted for the largest number of graduates (N = 39,143) in fiscal year 2019. Nearly two-thirds of the earned degrees and certificates were in Career and Technical Education programs during fiscal year 2019 (62.9 percent). Career completions decreased 4.3 percent from last year.
- Transfer degrees accounted for the second largest group of completers in fiscal year 2019 (N = 20,218). Three out of every ten graduates earned Transfer degrees (32.5 percent). The number of Transfer degrees decreased 2.1 percent (-430) from last year. Two percent of the Transfer degrees awarded were the General Education Core Curriculum Credential.
- Twenty-six percent of the Career and Technical Education awards in fiscal year 2019 were AAS degrees.
- Females accounted for 53.4 percent of all 2019 completions.
- Career and Technical Education Certificates of Less Than One Year accounted for the largest number of male (N = 12,022) and female (N = 10,685) completers of a specific degree or certificate.
- Although small in number, the Associate in Engineering Science (N = 303) had the highest proportion of male graduates (86.1 percent, N = 261).
- Minority students earned 38.4 percent of the collegiate-level degrees and certificates awarded in the Illinois Community College System during fiscal year 2019. Latino students earned 19.6 percent, African American students earned 11.2 percent, and Asian students earned 4.2 percent of all degrees and certificates.
- Minorities accounted for 41.0 percent of total Transfer degree recipients.
- Nearly twice as many minority graduates completed Career and Technical Education degrees and certificates (N = 14,289) compared to Transfer degrees (N = 8,280).
- Among the largest minority groups, Latino students completed 5,230 more collegiate-level awards than African American students.
- Twenty-two percent of the students who were awarded degrees and certificates during fiscal year 2019 were less than 21 years of age. The other age groups with the largest percentages of graduates were 21 to 24 (34.4 percent), 25 to 30 (18.7 percent), 31 to 39 years of age (13.1 percent), and 40 to 55 years of age (10.0 percent).
- Seven out of ten Transfer degree completers in 2019 indicated intent to transfer to a four-year institution.
- Approximately 14.9 percent of fiscal year 2019 Associate in Applied Science degree graduates indicated goals to complete some courses or finish a certificate.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Demand for the programs and services delivered by Illinois community colleges remain strong. During fiscal year 2019, the Illinois Community College System provided education and training to 664,973 students in credit and noncredit courses. More than three quarters of these students were in credit courses. The 62,242 degrees and certificates awarded in fiscal year 2019 were the eighth highest number ever reported for Illinois Community College System graduates. This is a decrease of 3.8 percent over last year and a decrease of 13.3 percent from 2015.

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