

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **STUDENT ENROLLMENTS AND COMPLETIONS IN THE ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**

### **FISCAL YEAR 2016**

**Illinois Community College Board  
401 East Capitol Avenue  
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1711**

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**Please access the following link for the full report:**

**[https://www.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/pdfs/reports/Annual\\_Enroll\\_Comp\\_2016.pdf](https://www.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/pdfs/reports/Annual_Enroll_Comp_2016.pdf)**

Student Enrollments & Completions  
Executive Summary Fiscal Year 2016

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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. The system provides students with smooth transitions into and across higher education and training for in-demand occupations with economic value. To align education and workforce efforts and implement high impact state-level strategies and initiatives, the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) continues to partner with the Illinois Governor’s Office, Illinois P-20 Council, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), and Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). The need for increased certificate and degree credentials is imperative to meet the demands of Illinois’ economy.

As part of the Illinois *60 percent by 2025* completion goal, Illinois public community colleges have set annual postsecondary credential benchmarks through 2025 to ensure the state meets workforce demand for higher education certificates and degrees. As illustrated in Figure 1, the Illinois Community College System is currently exceeding the statewide Illinois community college goal.

Fiscal Year	Graduate Goal	Actual Graduates	Progress
2009	53,053	53,053	--
2010	55,253	56,884	+1,631
2011	57,453	61,538	+4,085
2012	59,653	64,246	+4,593
2013	61,853	69,036	+7,183
2014	64,053	69,812	+5,759
2015	66,253	71,787	+5,534
2016	68,453	70,459	+2,006
2017	70,653		
2018	72,853		
2019	75,053		
2020	77,253		
2021	79,453		
2022	81,653		
2023	83,853		
2024	86,053		
2025	88,253		

Source: Annual Enrollment and Completion (A1 & A2)

**Figure 1. Statewide Graduation Goal For Illinois Public Community Colleges Fiscal Years 2009-2025**

For the Illinois Community College System to continue to advance the *60 percent by 2025* completion goal innovative strategies are being utilized to ease transitions for traditional and non-students to and through postsecondary education. For example, colleges are pursuing alternative instructional delivery models such as co-requisite developmental education for underprepared students. Increased articulation is occurring between traditional high school students into postsecondary through the expansion of early college (dual credit and/or advanced placement) models. Also, promising initiatives are occurring statewide to engage non-traditional adult learners to increase and promote higher education opportunities and meet workforce demand.

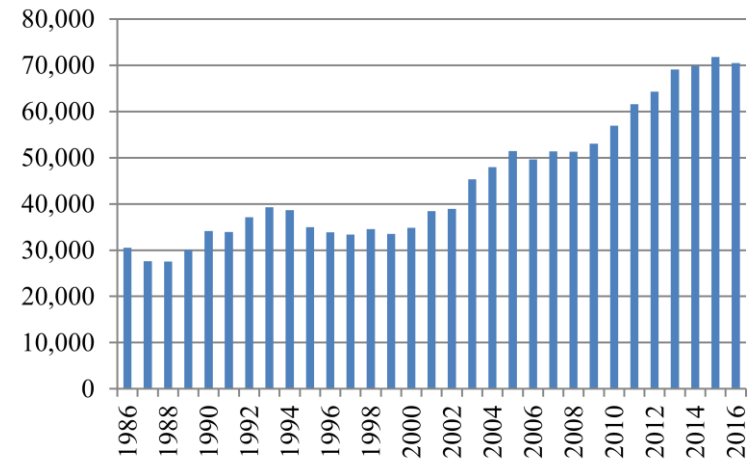
Figure 2 provides the historical data on the number of graduates from the Illinois Community College System for fiscal years 1986 through 2016. With 70,459 earned collegiate-level degrees and certificates, fiscal year 2016 had the second highest annual number of graduates recorded from the Illinois Community College System. The number of graduates decreased 1.8 percent from fiscal year 2015 (- 1,328 completers). Compared to fiscal year 2012 the total number of fiscal year 2016 completions increased 9.7 percent. Comparing results from 2016 to 1986 shows that the number of annual graduates more than doubled (+ 131 percent) during that timeframe (+ 39,909).

A1 data are reported 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 source of completions data. This year’s Annual Enrollment and Completion Report is based on fiscal year 2016 enrollments and completions. Comparative information is

supplied from four previous fiscal years (2012-2015). Detailed tables comparing fiscal year 2015 and fiscal year 2016 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 (including non-reimbursable credit hours). Thirty credit hours equal one FTE.

Noncredit courses provide another approach to the delivery of education, training, and public service by community colleges. Therefore, the Annual Enrollment and Completion Report includes information about noncredit offerings for the current year (2016) and the four previous fiscal years (2012-2015). Since fiscal year 1999, the Illinois Community College System has been submitting a Noncredit Enrollment (N1) annual data containing demographic and course information on the wide range of noncredit instruction the college provide. The following pages contain additional information about annual credit and noncredit enrollments and credit completions.

**Figure 2. Illinois Community College Graduates 1986 - 2016**



**HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2016 ANNUAL REPORT**  
*Student Enrollments*

- The Illinois Community College System served **775,393 students** in credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2016. Overall combined enrollments decreased compared to last year (-3.4 percent, N = -27,173).
- **Credit-generating** students accounted for **77.0 percent** of the overall fiscal year 2016 headcount.
- During fiscal year 2016, the 48 public community colleges in Illinois enrolled **597,290** students in instructional credit courses. This is lower than the previous year (620,191). The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment was 219,015, a decrease of 5.2 percent since fiscal year 2015.
- Statewide, **19,853 noncredit course sections** were conducted during fiscal year 2016.
- From fiscal year 2015 to fiscal year 2016, the number of individuals receiving instruction through **noncredit course** offerings decreased (-2.3 percent) to **178,103 students**.
- Statewide, 25,997 of 775,393 total students enrolled in both credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2016 (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 52.9 percent of the fiscal year 2016 student population enrolled in credit-generating programs.
- **Minority (non-white) students accounted for four in ten** (43.1 percent) of the credit students enrolled. African American student representation decreased (12.3 percent) and accounted for 14.4 percent of all credit students. Latino student representation increased (4.0 percent), accounting for 21.2 percent of all credit students. Asian student representation decreased from the previous year to 4.6 percent, while foreign/ nonresident alien representation increased to 0.5 percent. Two or More Races represented 1.9 percent.
- The median age of credit-generating students was **24.0** during fiscal year 2016, a slight decrease from the previous year. The average age remained the same as the previous year, **29.3** years.
- **Baccalaureate/Transfer** remained the largest credit instructional program area **enrolling 46.6 percent** of fiscal year 2016 Illinois Community College System students. Enrollments in Baccalaureate/Transfer programs decreased 2.1 percent compared to the previous year.
- Statewide, Career and Technical Education credit program enrollments accounted for **more than one-quarter** of all credit students (25.4 percent). Enrollments in Career and Technical Education programs decreased 6.9 percent from last year.
- Students enrolled in **Adult Education** courses in community colleges comprised **11.2 percent** of the credit-generating students. Enrollments in Adult Education decreased by 5.2 percent versus fiscal year 2015.
- Of the students in Adult Education, approximately **45.8 percent** were enrolled in **English as a Second Language (ESL)** courses.
- Although 46.6 percent of the fiscal year 2016 credit student population was enrolled in the Baccalaureate/Transfer area, only 33.1 percent of all students indicated intent to transfer.
- **One-half** (50.2 percent) of the fiscal year 2016 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 (68.0 percent) and spring (71.7 percent) semesters in fiscal year 2016.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2016 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**(Continued)**  
*Student Enrollments*

- Twenty-two percent of the credit-generating students are known to already have earned some type of college certificate or degree. This includes **32,674 who earned a bachelor's degree or higher.**
- Illinois community college students were enrolled in **6,570,437 credit hours throughout fiscal year 2016** and earned 79.1 percent of those hours.
- Accumulated credit hours were available for 78.5 percent of the fiscal year 2016 student population. Just over one-third of them (37.6 percent) attained **sophomore**-level status by accumulating 30 or more college-level hours.
- Cumulative grade point average data was reported for 73.3 percent of the fiscal year 2016 students. **Nearly one-half (48.2 percent) held an A-B average.**
- In fiscal year 2016, Illinois community college students earned 66.9 percent of the developmental credits they attempted. This percentage is UP from 65.0 percent in fiscal year 2015.
- In fiscal year 2016, **one in six** (16.9 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 2015.
- **Noncredit** course enrollment figures for fiscal year 2016 are from the **Noncredit Course Enrollment Data** submission (N1).
- Fiscal year 2016 unduplicated noncredit headcount decreased 2.3 percent over last year. The duplicated headcount or “seatcount” was 0.6 percent lower than the previous year.
- 19,853 noncredit course sections were conducted during fiscal year 2016.
- **Female** students accounted for **55.4 percent** of 2016 noncredit enrollments for which gender data were reported.
- **Minority students accounted for more than one-third** (34.4 percent) of the individuals enrolled in noncredit courses who supplied racial/ethnic data.
- The median age of **noncredit** students was **31.7** during fiscal year 2016. The average age was **35.6** years.
- Just under **one-half** (46.5 percent) of the noncredit students were **40 years of age or above** among the individuals who supplied this information.
- Sixty-one percent of the noncredit offerings (duplicated) were in the Personal and Social Development category of activity. **Nearly one-quarter** of the noncredit coursework was dedicated to developing **workplace skills**: Professional/vocational (18.2 percent) and Business and Industry Contractual training (6.1 percent).
- Across all categories of activity, eleven broad course areas (two-digit CIP) had over 5,000 noncredit students enrolled. **These eleven areas accounted for nearly three-fourths of the students enrolled in noncredit courses** with CIP data (71.8 percent). Approximately four out of ten enrollments in these large CIPs were in work-related courses: Business Management (10.0 percent), Education (9.4 percent), Transportation and Materials Moving (8.5 percent), Health Professions and Related Programs (7.5 percent), Security and Protective Services (3.5 percent), and Computer Information Systems (2.6 percent).
- Noncredit enrollments by term were 41.7 percent in Spring, 32.8 percent in Fall, and 25.5 percent in Summer in fiscal year 2016.
- **Over one-half of the 2016 noncredit courses were held on main college campuses** (60.3 percent).

**HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2016 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**(Continued)**  
*Student Completions*

- A total of **70,459** collegiate-level **degrees and certificates** were awarded to Illinois community college students in fiscal year 2016.
- The number of community college completions in fiscal year 2016 is the **second highest count ever reported**. Community colleges sustained an elevated level of completions during fiscal year 2016.
- The number of degrees and certificates awarded **decreased 1.8 percent from fiscal year 2015** (- 1,328 completers). Taking a longer view – compared to fiscal year 2012 – the total number of fiscal year 2016 completions increased 9.7 percent.
- **Career and Technical Education** accounted for the **largest number of graduates** (N = 46,001) in fiscal year 2016. Two-thirds of the earned degrees and certificates were in Career and Technical Education programs during fiscal year 2016 (65.3 percent). Career completions decreased 4.2 percent from last year.
- **Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees** accounted for the **second largest** group of completers in fiscal year 2016 (N = 21,175). Three out of every ten graduates earned Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees (30.1 percent). The number of Transfer degrees increased 4.7 percent (+950) from last year.
- Approximately 23.9 percent of the Career and Technical Education awards in fiscal year 2016 were AAS degrees.
- **Females** accounted for **53.3 percent** of all 2016 completions.
- **Career and Technical Education Certificates of Less Than One Year** accounted for the **largest number** of male (N = 14,855) and female (N = 12,827) completers of a specific degree or certificate.
- Although small in number, the Associate in Engineering Science (N = 252) had the highest proportion of male graduates (86.5 percent, N = 218).
- **Minority students earned 35.7 percent of the collegiate-level degrees and certificates awarded** in the Illinois Community College System during fiscal year 2016. Latino students earned 15.9 percent, African American students earned 13.1 percent, and Asian students earned 4.0 percent of all degrees and certificates.
- Minorities accounted for 35.9 percent of total Transfer degree recipients.
- Twice as many minority graduates completed Career and Technical Education degrees and certificates (N = 15,945) compared to Baccalaureate/Transfer degrees (N = 7,605).
- Among the largest minority groups, Latino students completed 1,991 more collegiate-level awards than African American students.
- Eighteen percent of the students who were awarded degrees and certificates during fiscal year 2016 were less than 21 years of age. **The age groups with the largest percentages of graduates were 21 to 24 (32.8 percent), 25 to 30 (19.6 percent), 31 to 39 years of age (15.0 percent), and 40 to 55 years of age (12.3 percent).**
- Seven out of ten Transfer degree completers in 2016 indicated intent to transfer to a four-year institution.
- Approximately 16.8 percent of fiscal year 2016 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 and completions are up. During fiscal year 2016, the Illinois Community College System provided education and training to 775,393 students in credit and noncredit courses. More than three quarters of these students were in credit courses. The 70,459 degrees and certificates awarded in fiscal year 2016 were the second highest number ever reported for Illinois Community College System graduates. This is a decrease of 1.8 percent over last year and is up 9.7 percent from 2012.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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