

Illinois Community College Board
Complete College America
Outcome Metric 2: Graduation Rates for Certificates

Complete College America (CCA), established in 2009, is a national nonprofit that aims to increase the graduation number and rate of college students. Illinois was in the first group of states to join the initiative and be part of the CCA Alliance of States (<http://www.completecollege.org/>). To advance higher education graduation rates, CCA officials developed a series of metrics identified under three categories: **Progress (PM)**, **Outcomes (OM)**, and **Context (CM)**. Generally, each metric has subsets including full-time/part-time status, race/ethnicity, gender, age groups, remedial status at entry, and Pell recipient status. ICCB generates the entire set of metrics for the state and each community college using agency longitudinal data systems.

Outcome Metric 2, Graduation Rates, measures the number and percentage of entering undergraduate students who graduate from a degree or certificate program within 100%, 150%, and 200% of program time. The Certificate (of at least 1 year or more) numerator is the number of students in the cohort (denominator) who earn an award in 100%, 150%, and 200% of the expected (full-time) program length (each timeframe should be reported separately).

The Fall 2010 first-time/full-time (FT) certificate-seeking cohort includes 2,920 students. Of these students, 4.4 percent (N = 129) earned a certificate in 100% program length, 15.4 percent (N = 449) earned a certificate in 150% program length, and 29.8 percent (N = 869) earned a certificate in 200% program length. The Fall 2010 first-time/part-time (PT) certificate-seeking cohort includes 2,763 students. Of these students, 3.6 percent (N = 99) earned a certificate in 100% program length, 8.3 percent (N = 228) earned a certificate in 150% program length, and 17.1 percent (N = 472) earned a certificate in 200% program length.

Compared with the Fall 2009 cohort, the Fall 2010 first-time certificate of one year or more-seeking student cohort decreased 19.6 percent (-713) for FT students and 18.8 percent (-641) for PT students. The number of FT students completing in 100% of program length decreased 19.9 percent (-32) and the number of PT students decreased 1.0 percent (-1); the number of FT students completing in 150% of program length decreased 7.4 percent (-36) and the number of PT students decreased 7.3 percent (-18); and the number of FT students completing in 200% of program length increased 16.5 percent (+123) and the number of PT students increased 16.5 percent (+67).

	Fall 2006 FY 07	Fall 2008 FY 09	Fall 2009 FY10	Fall 2010 FY11
Full-Time/First-Time Entry Students	2,784	2,003	3,633	2,920
Students (Number and Percent) Earning a Certificate Within:				
100 % of the Expected Program Length	285 10.2%	129 6.4%	161 4.4%	129 4.4%
150% of the Expected Program Length	372 13.4%	330 16.5%	485 13.3%	449 15.4%
200% of the Expected Program Length	439 15.8%	554 27.7%	746 20.5%	869 29.8%
Part-Time/First-Time Entry Students	3,463	2,231	3,404	2,763
Students (Number and Percent) Earning a Certificate Within:				
100 % of the Expected Program Length	214 6.2%	90 4.0%	100 2.9%	99 3.6%
150% of the Expected Program Length	307 8.9%	215 9.6%	246 7.2%	228 8.3%
200% of the Expected Program Length	370 10.7%	346 15.5%	405 11.9%	472 17.1%
SOURCE OF DATA: ICCB Annual Enrollment and Completion (A1)				

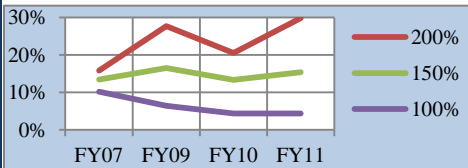


Fig. 1. Full-Time Students' Graduation Rates for Certificates

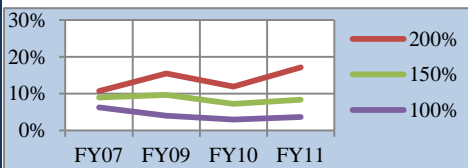


Fig. 2 Part-Time Students' Graduation Rates for Certificates

of FT students completing in 150% of program length decreased 7.4 percent (-36) and the number of PT students decreased 7.3 percent (-18); and the number of FT students completing in 200% of program length increased 16.5 percent (+123) and the number of PT students increased 16.5 percent (+67).

Compared with the Fall 2009 cohort, the ratio of Fall 2010 FT students completing in 100% of program length was unchanged, in 150% of program length increased by 2.0 percent, and in 200% of program length increased by 9.2 percent while the ratio of Fall 2010 PT students completing in 100% of program length increased by 0.6 percent; in 150% of program length increased by 1.0 percent; and in 200% of program length increased by 5.2 percent.

Nationally, among first-time/FT students seeking certificates at public 2-year institutions (cohort year 2008) of CCA participating states, on average 15.9 percent completed their program within 100 percent of catalog time; 19.7 percent completed within 150 percent of catalog time; and 22.4 percent completed within 200 percent of catalog time, while among first-time/PT students 8.2 percent completed their programs within 100 percent of catalog time; 10.5 percent completed within 150 percent of catalog time; and 12.6 percent completed within 200 percent of catalog time (Average median values were calculated from [Game Changer State Data](#), 2013).

Detailed comparative data from participating states are available for select metrics through *Complete College America's Game Changer State Data* [webpage](#). Out of 33 states that are currently part of CCA's alliance, Illinois is one of 28 states that provided data in 2013. For more information on the Illinois Community College System please see the [Research & Policy Studies section](#) of the ICCB [website](#).

