

**Illinois Community College Board**  
**Complete College America**  
**Outcome Metric 4: Time and Credits to Degree**

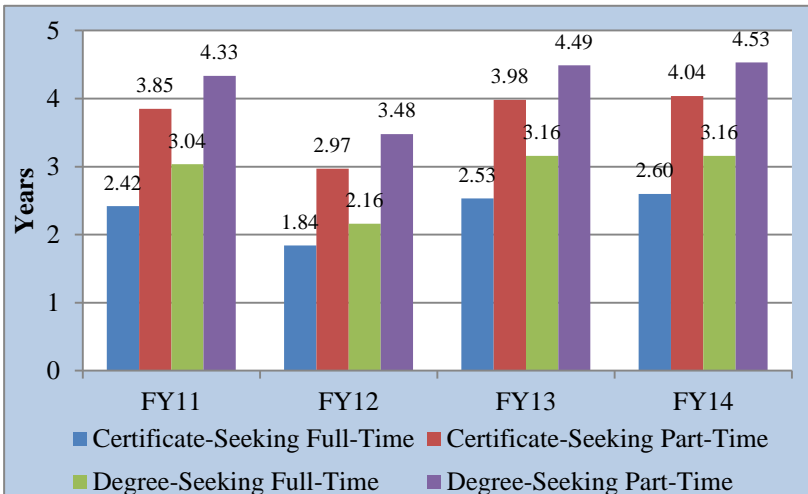
Complete College America (CCA), established in 2009, is a national nonprofit that aims to increase the graduation number and rate of college students. Illinois was in the first group of states to join the initiative and be part of the CCA Alliance of States (<http://www.completecollege.org/>). To advance 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 4, Time and Credits to Degree**, measures the average length of time in years a student takes to complete an associate degree or a certificate of one year or greater and the average number of credits a student has accumulated when an associate degree or a certificate of one year or greater is earned by enrollment status.

For degrees and certificates awarded in FY 2014, among full-time students the average length of **time to degree** was 2.60 years for certificate-seeking students and 3.16 years for associate-seeking students. The average length of time to completion for part-time students was 4.04 years for certificate-seeking students and was 4.53 years for associate-seeking students.

	FY 10*	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14
<b>Certificate-Seeking</b>					
Full-Time	NA	2.42	1.84	2.53	2.60
Part-Time	NA	3.85	2.97	3.98	4.04
<b>Degree-Seeking</b>					
Full-Time	NA	3.04	2.16	3.16	3.16
Part-Time	NA	4.33	3.48	4.49	4.53

\*FY 10 was not required for the CCA data collection  
 SOURCE OF DATA: ICCB Annual Enrollment and Completion (A1)



**Fig. 1. Average Length of Time in Years to Complete a Degree or Certificate at Illinois Community Colleges by Enrollment Status, FY 2011-2014**

From FY 2013-2014 among full-time students the average length of time to completion increased 2.9 percent (+0.07 years) for certificate-seeking students and was unchanged (0.00 years) for associate-seeking students. The average length of time to completion for part-time students increased 1.5 percent (+0.06 years) for certificate-seeking students and increased 1.0 percent (+0.05 years) for associate-seeking students.

Among the participating states, the average median time to certificate (1 yr+) attainment for full-time students was 2.9 years (FY2011). Full-time students from participating states had an average median time to degree of 3.8 years (FY2011). Part-time figures from the participating states are unavailable.

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](#).

