



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

## **FISCAL YEAR 2020**

Please access the following link for the full report:

[https://www.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/pdfs/reports/Annual\\_Enroll\\_Comp\\_2020\\_Final.pdf](https://www.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/pdfs/reports/Annual_Enroll_Comp_2020_Final.pdf)

***February 2021***

**Student Enrollments & Completions  
Fiscal Year 2020**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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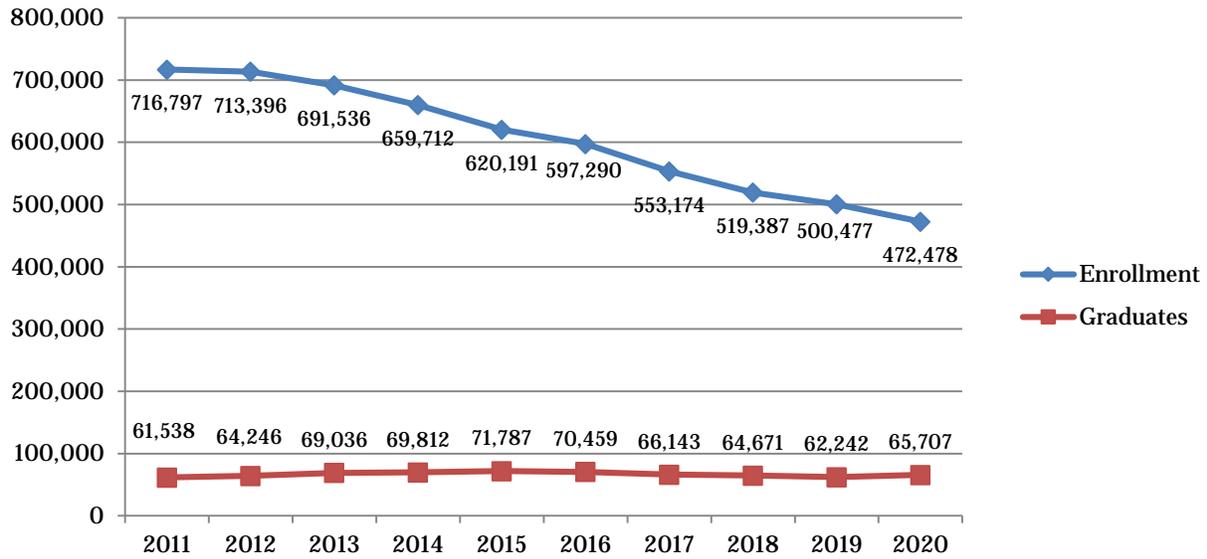
The Illinois Community College System meets both local and statewide needs for education and workforce development by providing high-quality, accessible, cost-effective educational opportunities, programs, and services for a diverse student population. The system provides traditional and non-traditional 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. During the past year, faced with unprecedented challenges, all 48 Illinois Community Colleges implemented campus measures to ensure a safe instructional environment during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and employed substantial adjustments to instruction by moving many courses to remote or online modalities.

Beyond flexible course offerings, community colleges also extended fiscal resources to students through Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and philanthropic funding to mitigate financial constraints to the extent possible. Still, with community colleges being open access institutions and serving a significant number of at-risk students, the pandemic has exacerbated issues for that population ranging from fiscal to technological. Illinois Community College System enrollment in the prior year is reflective of the current pandemic challenges and consistent with national community college enrollment declines.

With 65,707 earned collegiate-level degrees and certificates, fiscal year 2020 had the sixth 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 seven percent from fiscal year 2011 to 2020. During the same timeframe, enrollments decreased by thirty-four percent statewide.

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**Figure 1. Illinois Community College System Credit Enrollments and Graduates, FY 2011-2020**



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 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 2020 enrollments and completions. Comparative information is supplied from four previous fiscal years (2016-2019). Detailed tables comparing fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year 2020 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 (2020) and the four previous fiscal years (2016-2019). 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.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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### Student Enrollments

- The Illinois Community College System served 612,286 students in credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2020. Overall combined enrollments decreased compared to last year (-7.9 percent, N = -52,687).
- Credit-generating students accounted for 77.2 percent of the overall fiscal year 2020 headcount.
- During fiscal year 2020, the 48 public community colleges in Illinois enrolled 472,478 students in instructional credit courses. This is lower than the previous year (500,477). The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment was 184,435, a decrease of 4.0 percent since fiscal year 2019.
- Statewide, 15,365 of 612,286 total students enrolled in both credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2020 (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 54.3 percent of the fiscal year 2020 student population enrolled in credit-generating programs.
- Minority (non-white) students accounted for four in ten (47.4 percent) of the credit students enrolled. African American student representation decreased (8.5 percent) and accounted for 12.9 percent of all credit students. Latino student representation decreased (1.5 percent) and accounted for 25.5 percent of all credit students. Asian (5.2 percent) and Nonresident Alien (0.8 percent) student representation decreased from the previous year, while Two or More Races (2.7 percent) student representation increased.
- The median age of credit-generating students was 22.3 during fiscal year 2020, a slight decrease from the previous year. The average age also decreased from the previous year to 27.4 years in fiscal year 2020.
- Transfer remained the largest credit instructional program area enrolling 52.7 percent of fiscal year 2020 Illinois Community College System students. Enrollments in Transfer programs decreased 2.4 percent compared to the previous year.
- Statewide, Career and Technical Education credit program enrollments accounted for one-quarter of all credit students (25.2 percent). Enrollments in Career and Technical Education programs decreased 6.9 percent from last year.

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- Students enrolled in Adult Education courses in community colleges comprised 9.9 percent of the credit-generating students. Enrollments in Adult Education decreased by 9.3 percent versus fiscal year 2019.
- Of the students in Adult Education, approximately 57.0 percent were enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.
- Although 52.7 percent of the fiscal year 2020 credit student population was enrolled in the Transfer area, only 38.4 percent of all students indicated intent to transfer.
- One-half (47.0 percent) of the fiscal year 2020 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 (67.7 percent) and spring (72.0 percent) semesters in fiscal year 2020.
- Twenty-two percent of the credit-generating students are known to already have earned some type of college certificate or degree. This includes 22,140 who earned a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Illinois community college students enrolled in 5,533,042 credit hours throughout fiscal year 2020 and earned 79.0 percent of those hours.
- Accumulated credit hours were available for 81.2 percent of the fiscal year 2020 student population. Just over one-third of them (37.7 percent) attained sophomore-level status by accumulating 30 or more college-level hours.
- Cumulative grade point average data was reported for 79.4 percent of the fiscal year 2020 students. One-half (52.6 percent) held an A-B average.
- In fiscal year 2020, one in eight (13.2 percent) Illinois community college students (not enrolled in ABE/ASE/ESL, Vocational Skills, or General Studies) were enrolled in at least one developmental course—a decrease from fiscal year 2019.
- In fiscal year 2020, Illinois community college students earned 68.5 percent of the developmental credits they attempted. This percentage is up slightly from 67.3 percent in fiscal year 2019.
- Fiscal year 2020 unduplicated noncredit headcount decreased 15.0 percent over last year to 139,808 students. The duplicated headcount or “seatcount” was 16.9 percent lower than the previous year.
- Statewide, 16,976 noncredit course sections were conducted during fiscal year 2020.

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- Female students accounted for 55.5 percent of 2020 noncredit enrollments for which gender data were reported.
- Minority students accounted for one-fourth (26.1 percent) of the individuals enrolled in noncredit courses who supplied racial/ethnic data.
- The median age of noncredit students was 37.9 during fiscal year 2020. The average age was 40.7 years.
- Just under one-half (46.9 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 (14.3 percent) and Business and Industry Contractual training (6.5 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 (68.0 percent). Approximately four out of ten enrollments in these large CIPs were in work-related courses: Business Management (10.5 percent), Education (8.8 percent), Transportation (7.9 percent), Health Professions (5.8 percent), and Security and Protective Services (4.4 percent).
- Noncredit enrollments by term were 29.9 percent in Spring, 39.2 percent in Fall, and 30.9 percent in Summer in fiscal year 2020.
- Nearly two-thirds of the 2020 noncredit courses were held on main college campuses (62.3 percent). This includes six percent that were impacted by COVID-19.

## **Student Completions**

- A total of 65,707 collegiate-level degrees and certificates were awarded to Illinois community college students in fiscal year 2020.
- The number of community college completions in fiscal year 2020 is the sixth highest count ever reported.
- The number of degrees and certificates awarded increased 5.6 percent from fiscal year 2019 (+3,465 completers). Taking a longer view—compared to fiscal year 2016—the total number of fiscal year 2020 completions decreased 6.7 percent.

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- Career and Technical Education accounted for the largest number of graduates (N = 34,911) in fiscal year 2020. Just over half of the earned degrees and certificates were in Career and Technical Education programs during fiscal year 2020 (53.1 percent). Career completions decreased 10.8 percent from last year.
- Transfer completions accounted for the second largest group of completers in fiscal year 2020 (N = 28,168). Four out of ten graduates earned Transfer completions (42.9 percent). The number of Transfer completions increased 39.3 percent (+7,950) from last year. Most of this increase is due to the General Education Core Curriculum Credential, which were one-third of the Transfer completions awarded.
- Twenty-six percent of the Career and Technical Education awards in fiscal year 2020 were AAS degrees.
- Females accounted for 54.4 percent of all 2020 completions.
- Career and Technical Education Certificates of Less Than One Year accounted for the largest number of male (N = 10,918) and female (N = 9,283) completers of a specific degree or certificate.
- Although small in number, the Associate in Engineering Science (N = 312) had the highest proportion of male graduates (86.2 percent, N = 269).
- Minority students earned 41.0 percent of the collegiate-level degrees and certificates awarded in the Illinois Community College System during fiscal year 2020. Latino students earned 22.2 percent, African American students earned 11.2 percent, and Asian students earned 4.2 percent of all degrees and certificates.
- Minorities accounted for 44.3 percent of total Transfer degree and certificate recipients.
- Similar numbers of minority graduates completed Career and Technical Education degrees and certificates (N = 13,197) and Transfer degrees and certificates (N = 12,485).
- Among the largest minority groups, Latino (N = 14,564) students completed twice as many collegiate-level awards than African American students (N = 7,331).
- Twenty-three percent of the students who were awarded degrees and certificates during fiscal year 2020 were less than 21 years of age. The other age groups with the largest percentages of graduates were 21 to 24 (35.6 percent), 25 to 30 (18.5 percent), 31 to 39 years of age (12.6 percent), and 40 to 55 years of age (9.0 percent).
- Nearly seven out of ten Transfer degree and certificate completers in 2020 indicated intent to transfer to a four-year institution.

- Approximately 16.9 percent of fiscal year 2020 Associate in Applied Science degree graduates indicated goals to complete some courses or finish a certificate

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## CLOSING COMMENTS

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Demand for the programs and services delivered by Illinois community colleges remain strong. During fiscal year 2020, the Illinois Community College System provided education and training to 612,286 students in credit and noncredit courses. More than three quarters of these students were in credit courses. The 65,707 degrees and certificates awarded in fiscal year 2020 were the sixth highest number ever reported for Illinois Community College System graduates. This is an increase of 5.6 percent over last year and a decrease of 6.7 percent from 2016.

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