



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

FISCAL YEAR 2023

Please access the following link for the full report:

https://www2.iccb.org/data/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Annual_Enroll_Comp_2023.pdf

December 2023

**Student Enrollments & Completions
Fiscal Year 2023**

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INTRODUCTION

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 nontraditional 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.

According to the [National Center for Education Statistics](#), postsecondary enrollments have been in decline nationally since 2009. Additionally, the impact of the pandemic on enrollment has been well-documented across the postsecondary landscape and every sector has been impacted. Community colleges, as open access institutions, serve a significant number of at-risk students and were significantly impacted. During Fall 2022, the Illinois community college system started to see enrollment reversing those recent declines. This enrollment increase held and for academic year 2023, Illinois community colleges experienced the second largest annual year-to-year credit enrollment increase (+3.6 percent) in the last two decades. Only academic year 2009 to academic year 2010 increase of 4.3 percent during the Great Recession was higher.

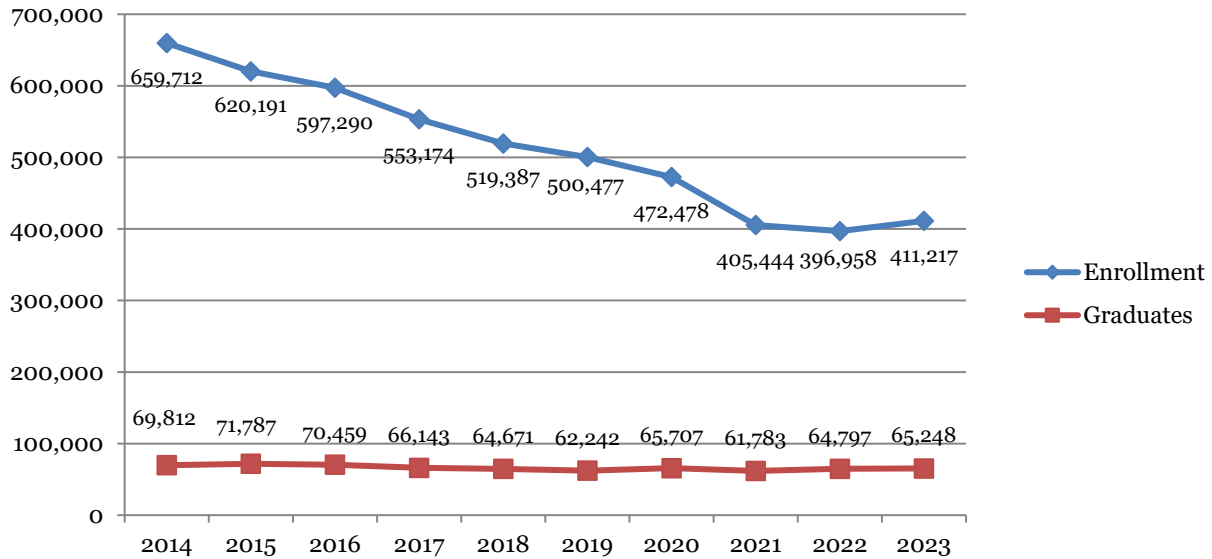
During the pandemic, enrollment across the postsecondary landscape declined. Community colleges across Illinois worked to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and position services to engage students. A variety of newly funded initiatives targeting programs in high-demand fields have assisted in attracting students, such as the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) and Pipeline for the Advancement of the Healthcare Workforce (PATH). Other innovative initiatives like the Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) are expanding high demand training opportunities and increasing enrollment and expanding opportunities for minority students in at-risk communities. Illinois community colleges also continue to utilize high school partnerships and are offering even more dual credit courses and programs that will lead high school students on a pathway to college or a credential directly to the workforce. The availability of in-person instruction to pre-pandemic levels has additionally had a significant positive impact on enrollment in instructional areas dependent on it, such as Career and Technical Education, Vocational Training, and Adult Education. Finally, Illinois remains a national leader for students enrolled in community college transfer to four-year institution programs. Much of this can be attributed to the strong statewide articulation mandate (the Illinois Articulation Initiative) that facilitates transfer of courses between community colleges and Illinois four-year institutions.

With 65,248 earned collegiate-level degrees and certificates, fiscal year 2023 had the seventh highest annual number of graduates ever recorded for the Illinois Community

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College System. As illustrated in Figure 1, the annual Illinois Community College System number of program graduates decreased seven percent from fiscal year 2014 to 2023. During the same timeframe, enrollments decreased by thirty-eight percent statewide.

Figure 1. Illinois Community College System Credit Enrollments and Graduates, FY 2014-2023



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 2023 enrollments and completions. Comparative information is supplied from four previous fiscal years (2019-2022). Detailed tables comparing fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023 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 (2023) and the four previous fiscal years (2019-2022). 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 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Student Enrollments

- The Illinois Community College System served 527,761 students in credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2023. Overall combined enrollments increased compared to last year (4.8 percent, N = 24,182).
- Credit-generating students accounted for 77.9 percent of the overall fiscal year 2023 headcount.
- During fiscal year 2023, the 48 public community colleges in Illinois enrolled 411,217 students in instructional credit courses. This is a 3.6 percent increase over the previous year (396,958). The full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment was 159,204, an increase of 3.0 percent since fiscal year 2022.
- Statewide, 11,281 of 527,761 total students enrolled in both credit and noncredit courses during fiscal year 2023 (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 54.6 percent of the fiscal year 2023 student population enrolled in credit-generating programs.
- Minority (non-white) students accounted for just over half (50.3 percent) of the credit students enrolled. African American student representation increased (3.6 percent) and accounted for 12.6 percent of all credit students. Latino student representation increased (7.4 percent) and accounted for 27.5 percent of all credit students. Asian (5.7 percent), Two or More Races (3.1 percent), and U.S. Nonresident (1.0 percent) student representation increased from the previous year.
- Six in ten Pell recipients were minority (non-white) students in fiscal year 2023 (63.7 percent).
- Thirty-six percent of students in fiscal year 2023 were first-generation students (36.0 percent).
- The median age of credit-generating students was 21.6 during fiscal year 2023, a slight decrease from the previous year. The average age also slightly decreased from the previous year to 26.3 years in fiscal year 2023.
- Transfer remained the largest credit instructional program area enrolling 54.0 percent of fiscal year 2023 Illinois Community College System students. Enrollments in Transfer programs slightly increased 0.04 percent compared to the previous year.

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- Statewide, Career and Technical Education credit program enrollments accounted for one-quarter of all credit students (25.3 percent). Enrollments in Career and Technical Education programs increased 3.9 percent from last year.
- Students enrolled in Adult Education courses in community colleges comprised 11.0 percent of the credit-generating students. Enrollments in Adult Education increased by 26.1 percent versus fiscal year 2022.
- Of the students in Adult Education, 61.9 percent were enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.
- Although 54.0 percent of the fiscal year 2023 credit student population was enrolled in the Transfer area, only 38.6 percent of all students indicated intent to transfer.
- One-half (49.3 percent) of the fiscal year 2023 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 (69.3 percent) and spring (74.1 percent) semesters in fiscal year 2023.
- Twenty-one percent of the credit-generating students are known to already have earned some type of college certificate or degree. This includes 16,539 who earned a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Illinois community college students enrolled in 4,776,131 credit hours throughout fiscal year 2023 and earned 79.5 percent of those hours.
- Accumulated credit hours were available for 81.7 percent of the fiscal year 2023 student population. More than one-third of them (35.4 percent) attained sophomore-level status by accumulating 30 or more college-level hours.
- Cumulative grade point average data was reported for 79.9 percent of the fiscal year 2023 students. One-half (53.6 percent) held an A-B average.
- In fiscal year 2023, one in ten (9.9 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 2022.
- In fiscal year 2023, Illinois community college students earned 64.1 percent of the developmental credits they attempted. This percentage is down slightly from 64.3 percent in fiscal year 2022.

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- High school students enrolled in dual credit courses (N = 82,602) comprised 20.1 percent of all credit enrollment at Illinois community colleges in fiscal year 2023. . This represents a 9.6% increase from the previous year and the largest enrollment ever reported for dual credit students.
- Fiscal year 2023 unduplicated noncredit headcount increased 9.3 percent over last year to 116,544 students. The duplicated headcount or “seatcount” was 16.4 percent higher than the previous year.
- Statewide, 14,757 noncredit course sections were conducted during fiscal year 2023.
- Female students accounted for 46.5 percent of 2023 noncredit enrollments.
- Minority students accounted for nearly one-third (30.2 percent) of the individuals enrolled in noncredit courses who supplied racial/ethnic data.
- The median age of noncredit students was 36.8 during fiscal year 2023. The average age was 40.0 years.
- Nearly one-half (45.3 percent) of the noncredit students were 40 years of age or above among the individuals who supplied this information.
- Nearly three-fifths of the noncredit offerings (duplicated) were in the Personal and Social Development category of activity. Over one-fourth of the noncredit coursework were dedicated to developing workplace skills: Professional/Vocational (17.2 percent) and Business and Industry Contractual training (10.6 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 over two-thirds of the students enrolled in noncredit courses with CIP data (69.6 percent). Nearly one out of two enrollments in these large CIPs were in work-related courses: Business Management (13.6 percent), Health Professions (11.6 percent), Transportation (8.2 percent), Education (7.6 percent), and Security and Protective Services (5.5 percent).
- Noncredit enrollments by term were 40.6 percent in Spring, 34.7 percent in Fall, and 24.7 percent in Summer in fiscal year 2023.
- Over one-half of the 2023 noncredit courses were held on main college campuses (52.4 percent).

Student Completions

- A total of 65,248 collegiate-level degrees and certificates were awarded to Illinois community college students in fiscal year 2023.

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- The number of community college completions in fiscal year 2023 is the seventh highest count ever reported.
- The number of degrees and certificates awarded increased 0.7 percent from fiscal year 2022 (+451 completers). Taking a longer view—compared to fiscal year 2019—the total number of fiscal year 2023 completions increased 4.8 percent.
- Career and Technical Education accounted for the largest number of graduates (N = 37,478) in fiscal year 2023. Just over half of the earned degrees and certificates were in Career and Technical Education programs during fiscal year 2023 (57.4 percent). Career completions increased 4.2 percent from last year.
- Transfer completions accounted for the second largest group of completers in fiscal year 2023 (N = 25,482). Four out of ten graduates earned Transfer completions (39.1 percent). The number of Transfer completions decreased 2.4 percent (-624) from last year. Three out of ten Transfer graduates earned the General Education Core Curriculum Credential.
- Twenty-three percent of the Career and Technical Education awards in fiscal year 2023 were AAS degrees.
- Females accounted for 54.9 percent of all 2023 completions.
- Career and Technical Education Certificates of Nine to less than Thirty Semester Hours accounted for the largest number of male completers (N = 8,696), and Associate in Arts accounted for the largest number of female completers (N = 7,702) of a specific degree or certificate.
- Although small in number, the Associate in Engineering Science (N = 372) had the highest proportion of male graduates (84.1 percent, N = 313).
- Minority students earned 42.4 percent of the collegiate-level degrees and certificates awarded in the Illinois Community College System during fiscal year 2023. Latino students earned 22.7 percent, African American students earned 10.8 percent, and Asian students earned 4.7 percent of all degrees and certificates.
- Minorities accounted for 42.8 percent of total Transfer degree and certificate recipients.
- More minority graduates completed Career and Technical Education degrees and certificates (N = 15,609) than Transfer degrees and certificates (N = 10,913).
- Among the largest minority groups, Latino (N = 14,830) students completed more than twice as many collegiate-level awards than African American students (N = 7,044).

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- Twenty-eight percent of the students who were awarded degrees and certificates during fiscal year 2023 were less than 21 years of age. The other age groups with the largest percentages of graduates were 21 to 24 (33.5 percent), 25 to 30 (16.2 percent), 31 to 39 years of age (12.1 percent), and 40 to 55 years of age (8.4 percent).
- Seven out of ten Transfer degree and certificate completers in 2023 indicated intent to transfer to a four-year institution.
- Approximately 17.6 percent of fiscal year 2023 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 2023, the Illinois Community College System provided education and training to 527,761 students in credit and noncredit courses. More than three-fourths of these students were in credit courses. The 65,248 degrees and certificates awarded in fiscal year 2023 were the seventh highest number ever reported for Illinois Community College System graduates. This is an increase of 0.7 percent over last year and 4.8 percent from 2019.

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