

FACTS AND STATS

ABOUT ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- America's oldest public community college was established in Joliet, Illinois, in 1901. Today there are 48 community colleges and 39 college districts in Illinois alone.
- Illinois community colleges serve nearly 1 million students each year.
- Earning an associate degree from an Illinois community college adds \$540,000 in lifetime earnings; taking just one course adds \$264 per credit hour per year.
- The average tuition and fees are only \$3,100 a year at Illinois community colleges.
- Nine out of 10 Illinois community college graduates live, work, pay taxes, and raise their families in Illinois; two-thirds have stayed in the community college district where they received their training.
- The "typical" Illinois community college student is female, white, 31 years old, enrolled part-time, and preparing for transfer to a four-year institution.
- More than two-thirds (68%) of all minorities in Illinois public higher education attend community colleges, and nearly 12,000 students with disabilities and 62,000 students with limited English proficiency are served each year.
- Nearly 89% of the state's recent community college occupational graduates (Class of 2009) are either working or pursuing additional education.
- One year after graduation, Illinois' community college occupational graduates averaged a full-time salary of \$32,323 in 2009.
- Illinois was the first state in the nation to "guarantee" its community college occupational graduates; those graduates who need additional technical training may enroll in the appropriate courses at no cost to themselves or their employers.



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