



STATE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

GOAL 3: POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

August 2012

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Illinois Board of Higher Education
431 East Adams Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1404
217/782-2551
TTY 888/261-2881
FAX 217/782-8548
www.ibhe.org



Moving Forward:

The *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*, adopted by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) in 2008, presents the challenges and opportunities facing Illinois and charts a course to One Illinois, a place where all residents have access to high-quality educational opportunities that prepare them for the jobs of the present and the future.

Today, four years later, it is time to take measure of where we were, where we are, and where we want to be in 2018. This Accountability Report, the third performance update, focuses on Goal 3, increasing the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society. This update shows:

- Illinois continues to be on-track to reach the Complete College America Goal of 60 percent of adults with a college credential by the year 2025 (a.k.a. 60 x 2025);
- Illinois is increasing the percent of certificates and associate's degrees granted as a proportion of full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollments at associate-degree granting institutions, from 21.8 percent in 2007-08 to 23.2 percent in 2010-11; and
- Illinois is improving student pass rates on national examinations required for licensure in critical fields that require postsecondary training.

Why does this matter? It matters because what gets measured gets attention.

Illinois *must* focus its attention on increasing **educational attainment**, improving college **affordability**, building a **skilled workforce** ready for the modern economy, and strengthening **economic development** for the State and its regions. In other words, Illinois must focus on the *Illinois Public Agenda*.

If we are to reach our One Illinois destination, we need to know whether we are making progress.

Therein lies the value of this Accountability Report, it focuses attention on important measures that show whether we – as a state – are gaining ground in our journey to that One Illinois.

Updates on Goal 4 of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success* will be forthcoming and will be presented in the same format. As the third in a series of reports, this is a work in progress, and we welcome feedback on how to make these accountability measures more meaningful and relevant to policymakers and the citizens of Illinois.

Send your comments to the Illinois Board of Higher Education at PublicAgenda@ibhe.org or to 431 East Adams Street, 2nd Floor, Springfield, IL 62701-1404.

Dr. George W. Reid
Executive Director



Introduction:

This report consists of the performance measures for Goal 3 of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*.

Goal 3: Increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.

Recommendations: This report has three recommendations for Goal 3.

1. Increase the number of people with high-quality postsecondary credentials to ensure the state has an educated workforce and an engaged citizenry.
2. Improve transitions all along the education pipeline.
3. Increase the number of postsecondary degrees in fields of critical skills shortages.

Measures: There are three numbers provided for each performance measure: (1) the *Public Agenda* baseline (where we started); (2) the 2012 number (where we are in year 4); and (3) the 2018 number (where we want to be, the 10-year goal). Some of the measures for Goal 3 do not have data available for the comparisons in 2012 and are noted as such in the table preceding the measures.

Comparisons: Each performance measure with available data is presented on one page with one to three charts to show how Illinois compares to the five best-performing states and neighboring states.

GOAL 3

Increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.



Recommendation I:

Increase the number of people with high-quality postsecondary credentials to ensure Illinois has an educated workforce and an engaged citizenry.

| Performance Measures | Public Agenda Baseline | Year 4 | 2018* Year 10 | Benchmarks | Page |
|---|---|-------------|---------------|--|------|
| Credentials Produced: Number of postsecondary certificates and associate's and baccalaureate degrees produced each year by all institutions in Illinois. | 145,513 | 162,144 | See CCA Goal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Illinois trend over one-year period; ➤ Five best-performing U.S. states; and ➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states | 2 |
| NEW! Complete College America. Number of postsecondary certificates (one-year and longer), associate's degrees, and baccalaureate degrees produced each year by all institutions in Illinois. | 112,246 | 130,906 | 152,246 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The 2018 goal is based on the national goal of 60% of adults ages 25-64 by 2025. | 3 |
| Completions. Percent of certificates and associate's degrees granted as a proportion of Full-Time Equivalencies (FTE) at associate-degree granting institutions. | 21.8% | 23.2% | 43.7% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Five best-performing U.S. states; and ➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states | 4 |
| Completions. Baccalaureate degrees awarded as a proportion of FTEs at baccalaureate-degree granting institutions. | 23.1% | 22.1% | 23.5% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Five best-performing U.S. states; and ➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states | 5 |
| State Licensure Pass Rates. Pass rates of first-time candidates taking a state licensure or certification examination | Certified Public Accountants 40.83% 42.19% 46.68% | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Five best-performing U.S. states; and ➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states | 6 |
| | Registered Nurses 86.4% 88.1% 92.1% | | | | |
| | Licensed Practical Nurses 90.7% 90.8% 93.7% | | | | |
| Adult Education Transitions. Percentage of adults enrolling in postsecondary coursework that complete adult education or remedial coursework and transition to certificate or degree programs. | Data by state on adult education transitions are not available for comparison in 2012. | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Illinois trends over one- five- and ten-year periods; ➤ Five best-performing U.S. states; and ➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states | NA |
| Program Quality. Quality of certificate and degree programs as assessed by employers, graduate schools, alumni, and other stakeholders. | Data by state on quality assessments are not available for comparison in 2012. Illinois institutions use a variety of tools to measure quality but there is no statewide methodology. | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Illinois trends over one- five- and ten-year periods; ➤ Five best-performing U.S. states; and ➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states | NA |

* The number provided for the goal in 2018 is the midpoint between the best-performing and the fifth best-performing U.S. state for the performance measure and may change in the future as performance changes.

GOAL 3

Increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.



Credentials Produced: Total

Number of all postsecondary certificates, associate's degrees, and baccalaureate degrees produced each year by all institutions in Illinois. This measure includes certificates of less than one year.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------|----------------|-----------------|
| Baseline | 145,513 | Year 4 | 162,144 | Year 10 | See CCA measure |
|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------|----------------|-----------------|

- Number of all undergraduate credentials produced in Illinois increased 11.4 percent from 2008 to 2011. (Figure 3.1)
- Illinois' increase in all credentials from 2008 to 2011 (16,631) is less than the increases of other high population states and Iowa. (Figure 3.2)

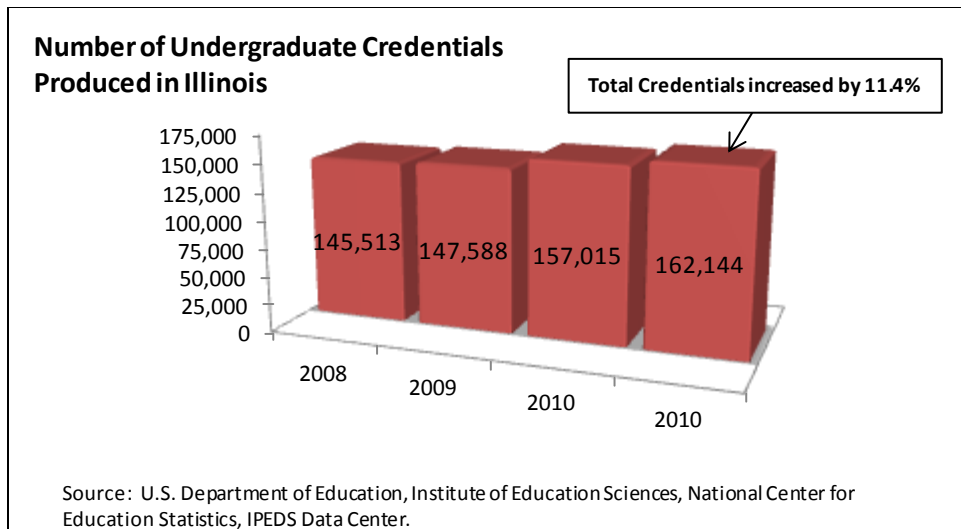


Figure 3.1. Total number of undergraduate certificates and degrees awarded in Illinois continues to increase annually. Awards include certificates below the baccalaureate level, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees.

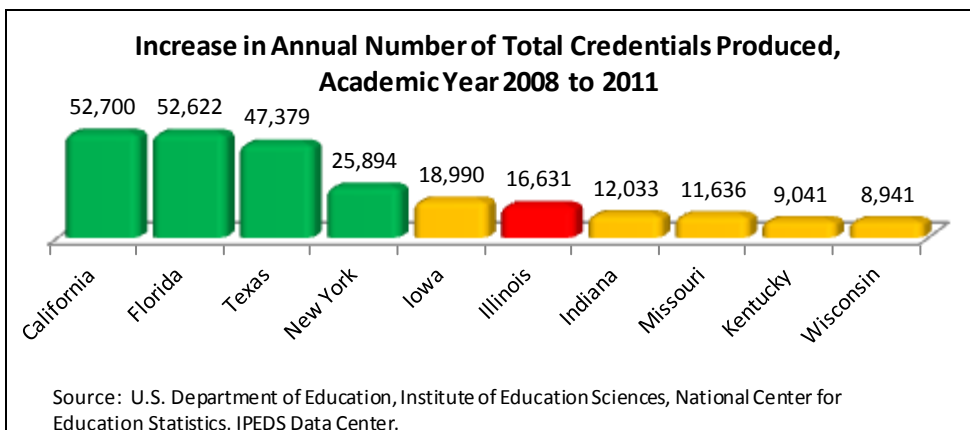


Figure 3.2. Comparison of the increase in the annual total of undergraduate certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees from 2008 to 2011. Illinois compared to four high population states (green) and five surrounding states (yellow).

GOAL 3

Increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.



NEW! Complete College America

Number of postsecondary certificates (one-year and longer), associate's degrees, and baccalaureate degrees produced each year by all institutions in Illinois. This measure does not include certificates of less than one year.

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---------------|---------|------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| CCA Baseline | 112,246 | Year 4 | 130,906 | 2018 Goal | 156,246 | 2025 Goal | 187,046 |
|---------------------|---------|---------------|---------|------------------|---------|------------------|---------|

- Governor Pat Quinn endorsed the Complete College America goal of 60% of all Illinois adults (ages 25-64) with a college degree or certificate by 2025 (60 x 25 Goal).
- Attaining the Complete College America goal would ensure that the U.S. would again be first in the world in the proportion of young adults with a college degree – the goal the President has set for the country (Complete College America, 2010).
- The goal of 156,246 in 2018 is based on the Illinois goal of 187,046 in 2025.
- Achieving the 60 x 25 Goal will require institutions to produce more than 4,000 additional graduates each year until 2025 (approximately 4.0 percent each year).

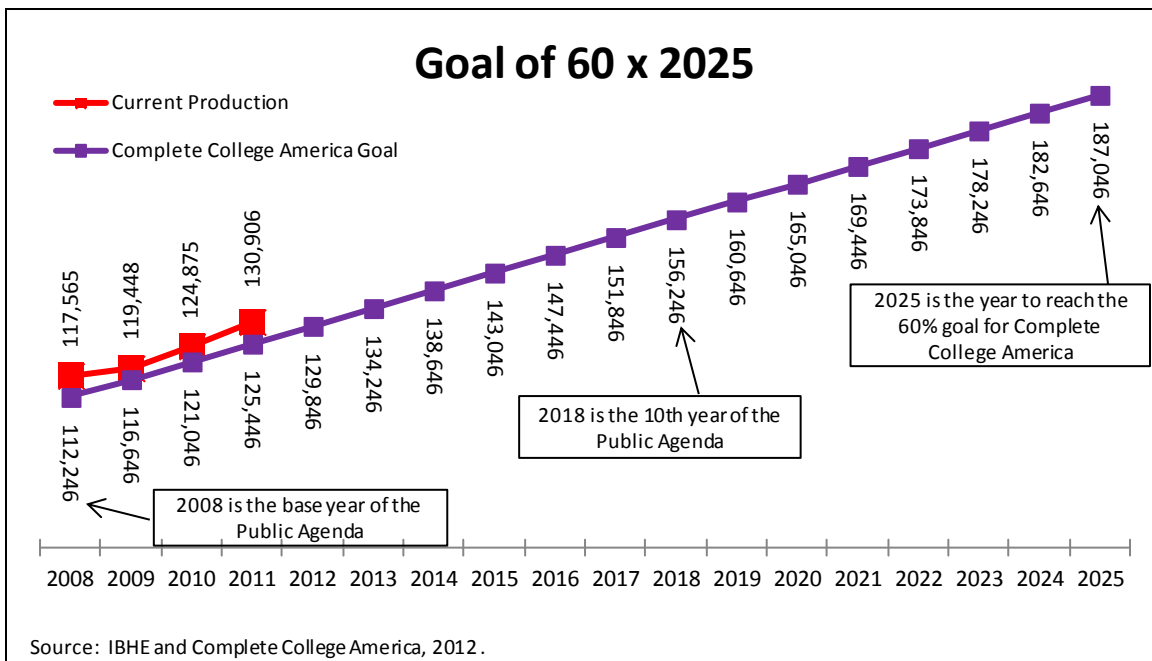


Figure 3.3. Total number of undergraduate certificates (one-year and longer), associate's degrees, and baccalaureate degrees awarded each year in Illinois compared to the annual number necessary to meet the Complete College America Goal in 2025.

GOAL 3

Increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.



Credentials per Enrollment: Less than Bachelor's

Certificates and associate's degrees granted as a proportion of Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment (FTE) at certificate and associate-degree granting institutions. This measure examines efficiency of producing certificates and associate degrees.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|---------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Baseline | 21.8 % | Year 4 | 23.2 % | Year 10 | 43.7 % |
|-----------------|--------|---------------|--------|----------------|--------|

- Illinois ranks better than the national average in completions per enrollment at associate-degree granting institutions. (Figure 3.3)

Goal in 2018: The goal of 43.7 percent is the midpoint of the five best-performing states in Year 4 of the Public Agenda.

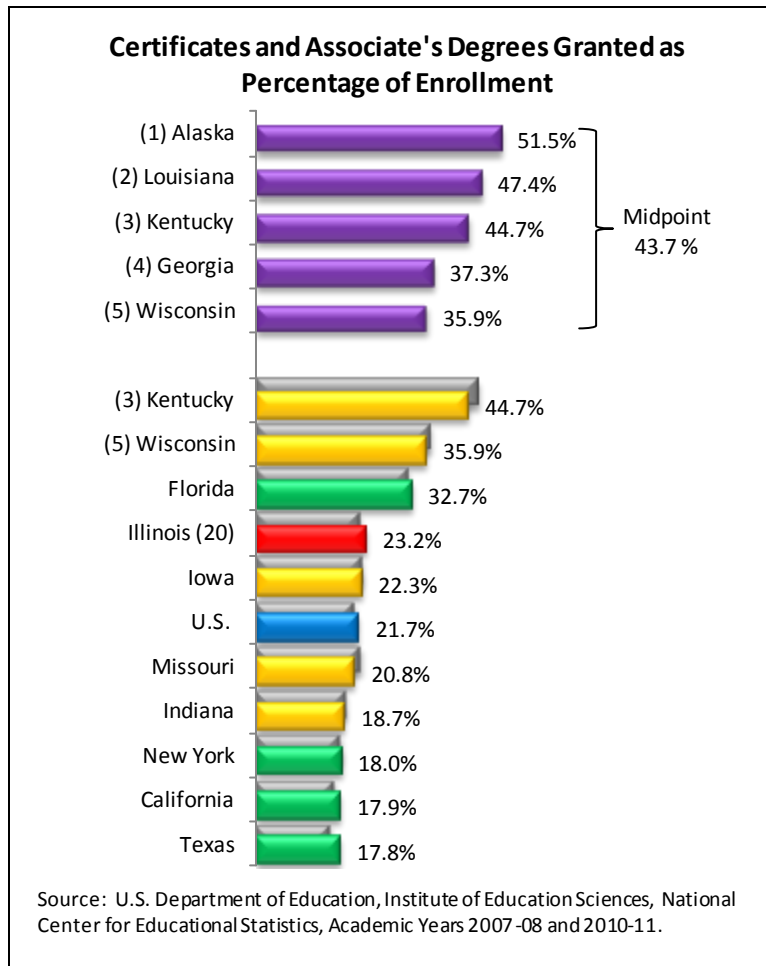


Figure 3.3. Total of undergraduate certificates and associate's degrees awarded as a percent of enrollment (12-month Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students). Baseline is academic year 2008 shown in gray shadow. Data presented for Year 4, academic year 2011, are in color: Illinois (red), the U.S. (blue), four high population states (green), and five states surrounding Illinois (yellow).

GOAL 3

Increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.



Credentials per Enrollment: Bachelor's

Baccalaureate degrees awarded as a proportion of Full-Time Equivalencies (FTE) at baccalaureate-degree granting institutions. This measure examines efficiency of producing degrees.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|---------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Baseline | 23.1 % | Year 4 | 22.1 % | Year 10 | 23.5 % |
|-----------------|--------|---------------|--------|----------------|--------|

- Illinois ranks 3rd among the 50 states in the proportion of bachelor's degrees awarded per annual student enrollment (full time equivalents). (Figure 3.4)

Goal in 2018: The goal of 23.5 percent is the midpoint of the five best-performing states in Year 4 of the Public Agenda.

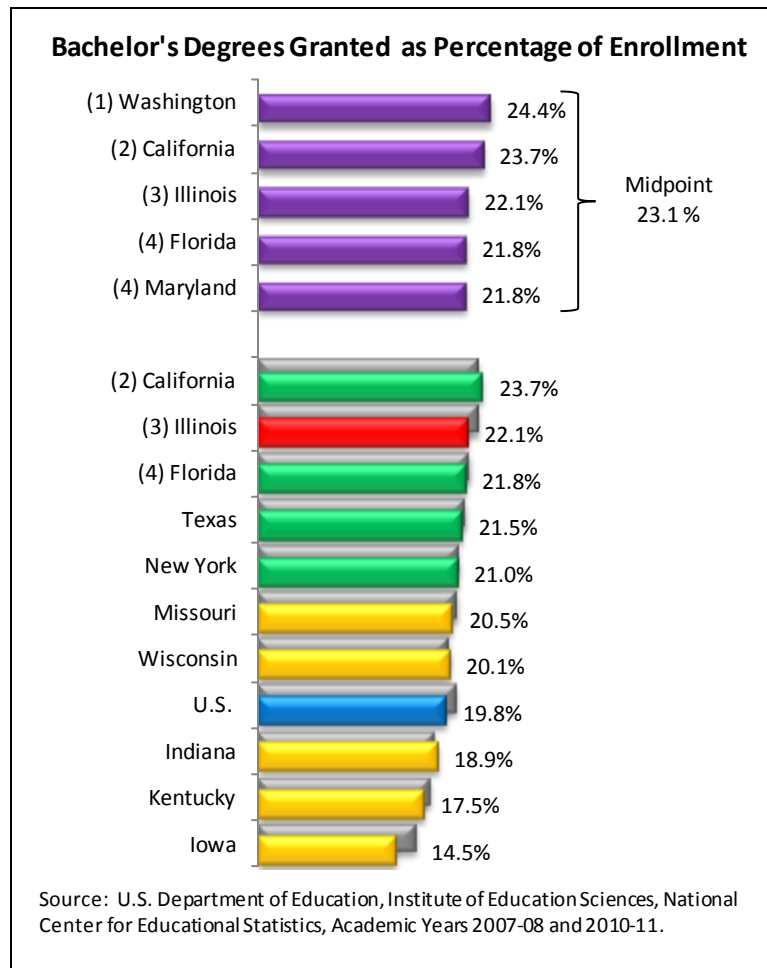


Figure 3.4. Total of bachelor's degrees awarded as a percent of enrollment (12-month full-time equivalent (FTE) students). Baseline is academic year 2008 shown in gray shadow. Data for Year 4 of the Public Agenda are shown in colors: Illinois (red), the U.S. (blue), four high population states (green), and five states surrounding Illinois (yellow).

GOAL 3

Increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.



State Licensure Pass Rates

Pass rates of first-time candidates taking a state licensure or certification examination.

- Illinois regulates more than 50 professions, ranging from auctioneers, barbers, and detectives to medical doctors, nurses, and veterinarians.
- Educational requirements range from less than one year to multiple years of graduate work.
- Data by state for licensure exams are few since each state may determine whether a national exam or state exam is appropriate for the profession.
- Shown below are three examples for licensed professions: accountants, registered nurses, and practical nurses.
- Illinois ranks 12th in CPA exams; 25th in RN exams, and 32nd in PN exams.

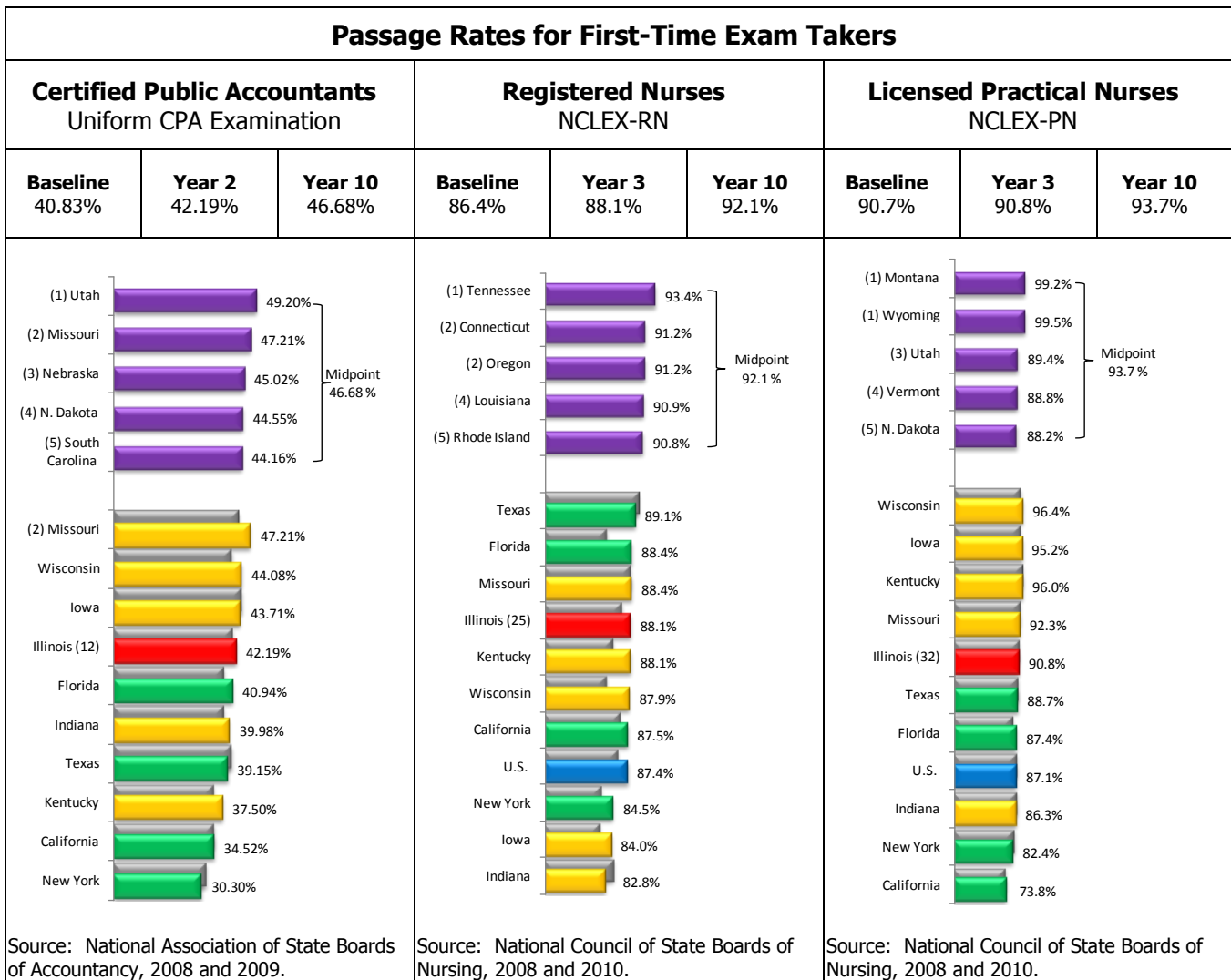


Figure 3.5. Baselines are shown in gray shadow. Data are shown in colors: Illinois, red; the U.S., blue; four high population states, green; and five states surrounding Illinois, yellow.


GOAL 3

Increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.



Recommendation 2:

Improve transitions all along the education pipeline.

| Performance Measures | Public Agenda Baseline | Year 4 | 2018 Year 10 | Benchmarks | Page |
|---|--|--|--------------|---|------|
| Percentage of Illinois institutions participating in the Illinois Articulation Initiative. | 60.0% | 72.4%  | 100.0% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Illinois trends over one-, five-, and ten-year periods; | 8 |
| Ratio of credits earned to credits accepted in transfer. | Data by state on credits earned versus accepted are not available for comparison in 2012. | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Illinois trends over one-, five-, and ten-year periods ; ➤ Five best-performing U.S. states; and ➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states | NA |
| Average time-to-degree and credits-attempted-to-credits-earned for transfer students compared to native students. | Data by state to compare the performance of transfer students to native students are not available for comparison in 2012. | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Illinois trends over one-, five-, and ten-year periods; ➤ Five best-performing U.S. states; and ➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states | NA |
| Average GPA by field of study for transfer students compared to native students. | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Illinois trends over one-, five-, and ten-year periods; ➤ Five best-performing U.S. states; and ➤ Selected competitor/ neighboring U.S. states | NA |

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Illinois Articulation Initiative

Percentage of Illinois institutions participating in the Illinois Articulation Initiative.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|---------------|--------|----------------|-------|
| Baseline | 60.0 % | Year 4 | 72.4 % | Year 10 | 100 % |
|-----------------|--------|---------------|--------|----------------|-------|

- The Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) was created in 1993 to ease the transfer of undergraduate students among public and independent degree-granting institutions.
- A student who completes 30 semester credit hours of college level coursework and transfers to a participating institution will be given the option of completing the General Education Core Curriculum (37 to 41 credits) or the receiving institution's lower-division general education core requirements.
- Seventy-two percent (or 97) of the 134 institutions of higher education accredited by the Higher Learning Commission that offer undergraduate programs are full participants in the IAI (Figure 3.10).
- Community colleges and 11 of the 12 public universities are full participants in the IAI. Governors State University (GSU) is not a full participant since the university provides upper division undergraduate programs for those who transfer to GSU. It is anticipated that GSU's status will change to a full participant since the University was recently authorized to begin offering lower level undergraduate education in the fall of 2014.
- Nine of the 134 institutions are listed as Receiving Only institutions which means the institutions will take a completed General Education Core Curriculum package from any of the 97 full participation institutions.

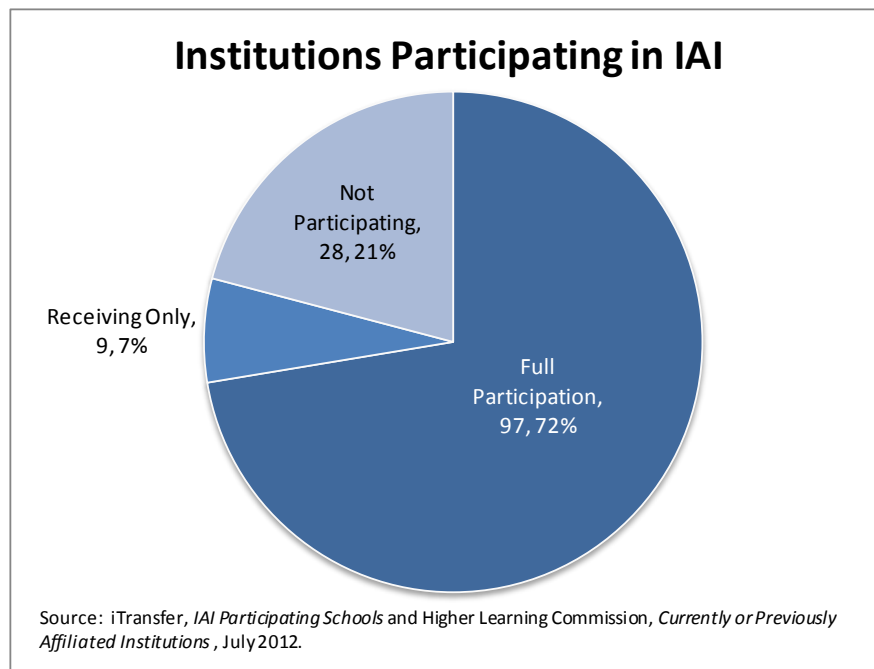


Figure 3.10. Universe of degree-granting institutions in Illinois that fully participate, participate as a receiving institution only, or do not participate in the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI).






GOAL 3

Increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.



Recommendation 3:

Increase the number of postsecondary degrees in fields of critical skills shortages.

| Performance Measures | Public Agenda Baseline | Year 4 | 2018 Year 10 | Benchmarks | Page |
|--|---|--|--------------|------------------------------------|------|
| Absolute number of certificates and degrees awarded in critical fields benchmarked against demand in those fields. | 40.0% | 46.7%  | 100.0% | ➤ Illinois demand | 10 |
| Pass rates on licensure examinations in critical fields. | Registered Nurses | | | ➤ Five best-performing U.S. states | 11 |
| | 86.4% | 88.1%  | 92.1% | | |
| | Certified Public Accountants | | | | |
| | 40.83% | 42.19%  | 46.68% | | |
| Radiological Technologists/Techs | | | | | |
| 84.8% | 84.3%  | 89.7% | | | |
| Licensed Practical Nurses | | | | | |
| 90.7% | 90.8%  | 93.7% | | | |

GOAL 3

Increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.



Supply & Demand by Occupation

Absolute number of certificates and degrees awarded in critical fields benchmarked against demand in those fields. A critical field is an occupational title with a high number of projected job openings; 30 occupational titles are shown in Figure 3.11 with the top 10 titles for each undergraduate credential (baccalaureate degree, associate degree, and undergraduate certificate). The measurement is the percentage of occupational titles where the supply meets or exceeds demand.

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|---------------|-------|----------------|--------|
| Baseline | 40.0% | Year 4 | 46.7% | Year 10 | 100.0% |
|-----------------|-------|---------------|-------|----------------|--------|

Comparison of Annual Completions to Annual Job Openings for Illinois Occupations in Critical Fields by Credential

| Occupational Titles | Supply | Demand | Supply vs. Demand | Long-Term Projections | | |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | Completions (Average) | Job Openings (Average) | | 2008 Employment | Projected 2018 Employment | Employment Change |
| Baccalaureate Degree | | | | | | |
| * Registered Nurses (baccalaureate & associate) | 5,821 | 4,238 | 1,583 | 110,739 | 133,772 | 23,033 |
| Accountants and Auditors | 3,839 | 1,975 | 1,864 | 55,285 | 65,683 | 10,398 |
| Elementary School Teachers | 2,819 | 3,305 | (486) | 84,620 | 98,434 | 13,814 |
| Market Research Analysts | 1,652 | 803 | 849 | 15,667 | 19,482 | 3,815 |
| Securities, Commodities & Financial Services Sales | 1,593 | 810 | 783 | 19,785 | 21,815 | 2,030 |
| * Computer Systems Analysts | 209 | 615 | (406) | 18,490 | 20,651 | 2,161 |
| * Computer Software Engineers (Systems & Applications) | 171 | 1,212 | (1,041) | 35,504 | 44,633 | 9,129 |
| Middle School Teachers | 105 | 1,262 | (1,157) | 32,690 | 37,875 | 5,185 |
| Secondary School Teachers | 82 | 2,236 | (2,154) | 58,280 | 63,708 | 5,428 |
| Insurance Sales Agents | 40 | 609 | (569) | 16,448 | 18,719 | 2,271 |
| Associate Degree | | | | | | |
| Medical Records & Health Info Technicians | 564 | 273 | 291 | 7,359 | 8,586 | 1,227 |
| Radiologic Technologists/Technicians | 463 | 201 | 262 | 7,544 | 8,468 | 924 |
| Paralegals & Legal Assistants | 302 | 327 | (25) | 8,990 | 11,237 | 2,247 |
| * Respiratory Therapists | 271 | 180 | 91 | 4,306 | 5,321 | 1,015 |
| Dental Hygienists | 255 | 368 | (113) | 7,357 | 9,539 | 2,182 |
| * Physical Therapist Assistants | 217 | 124 | 93 | 7,406 | 9,572 | 2,166 |
| Veterinary Technologists/Technicians | 202 | 106 | 96 | 1,941 | 2,506 | 565 |
| Medical & Clinical Lab Technicians | 69 | 208 | (139) | 7,598 | 8,241 | 643 |
| Computer Support Specialists | 12 | 715 | (703) | 20,865 | 22,239 | 1,374 |
| Environmental Science & Protection Technicians | 9 | 132 | (123) | 2,337 | 2,658 | 321 |
| Certificate | | | | | | |
| * Hairdressers / Stylists / Cosmetologists | 3,604 | 655 | 2,949 | 23,452 | 26,561 | 3,109 |
| * Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics | 1,734 | 1,089 | 645 | 34,214 | 38,572 | 4,358 |
| Licensed Practical Nurse | 1,656 | 1,273 | 383 | 24,693 | 29,696 | 5,003 |
| Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics | 729 | 444 | 285 | 10,803 | 13,046 | 2,243 |
| Medical Secretaries | 466 | 527 | (61) | 14,757 | 18,034 | 3,277 |
| Bus / Truck Mechanics & Diesel Engine Specialists | 355 | 290 | 65 | 9,211 | 10,003 | 792 |
| Early Childhood Teacher (Day Care Center) | 152 | 849 | (697) | 14,656 | 20,202 | 5,546 |
| Library Technicians | 53 | 398 | (345) | 7,496 | 8,117 | 621 |
| Fitness Trainers / Aerobics Instructors | 46 | 659 | (613) | 13,608 | 17,748 | 4,140 |
| Legal Secretaries | 16 | 495 | (479) | 14,676 | 17,650 | 2,974 |

* Denotes occupations that combine a high growth rate with a large number of annual openings and pay well for the level of training or education.

Sources: Illinois Department of Employment Security, 2008-2018 long-term projections and U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Educational Statistics completions in academic years 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Figure 3.11. Comparison of annual completions by students in Illinois identified by U.S. Department of Education's Classifications of Program (CIP) to the annual average job openings in Illinois identified by U.S. Department of Labor's State Occupational Classification (SOC). Occupations shown are those with the most openings each year that require a postsecondary credential. This comparison is statewide and does not reflect regional differences within the state.

GOAL 3

Increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.



Licensure Examinations

Pass rates in critical fields.

- One-half of the occupations in the 30 critical fields require licensure (Figure 3.12).
- Each occupation has a regulatory state agency but state licensure exams are often administered under contract with a third-party provider.
- Data by state are not available for every national licensure exam required in critical fields.
- In national examinations, Illinois ranks 25th in RN exams, 12th in CPA exams, 41st in radiography, and 32nd in LPN exams (Figure 3.12).

Licensure Examinations Required in Critical Fields, Illinois Pass Rates in National Examinations

| Occupational Titles | Licensure Examination | | Illinois Pass Rate | | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------|--------|
| | Illinois Requires Exam | National Examination | Baseline | Current | Ranking | Goal |
| Baccalaureate Degree | | | | | | |
| Registered Nurses (baccalaureate & associate) | X | X | 86.4% | 88.1% | 25th | 92.1% |
| Accountants and Auditors | X | X | 40.83% | 42.19% | 12th | 46.68% |
| Elementary School Teachers | X | | | | | |
| Securities, Commodities & Financial Services Sales | X | | | | | |
| Middle School Teachers | X | | | | | |
| Secondary School Teachers | X | | | | | |
| Insurance Sales Agents | X | | | | | |
| Associate Degree | | | | | | |
| Radiologic Technologists/ Technicians | X | X | 84.8% | 84.3% | 41st | 89.7% |
| Respiratory Therapists | X | X | | Data by state not available | | |
| Dental Hygienists | X | X | | Data by state not available | | |
| Physical Therapist Assistants | X | | | | | |
| Veterinary Technologists/ Technicians | X | X | | Data by state not available | | |
| Certificate | | | | | | |
| Hairdressers / Stylists / Cosmetologists | X | | | | | |
| Licensed Practical Nurse | X | X | 90.7% | 90.8% | 32nd | 93.7% |
| Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics | X | | | | | |

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, National Council of State Boards of Nursing, National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, and American Registry of Radiologic Technologists.

Figure 3.12. Illinois licensure requirements vary by occupation. State and national examination requirements and pass rates are shown for 15 occupations considered critical in Illinois. The numbers provided for the goals are the midpoint between the best-performing and fifth best-performing U.S. states and may change in the future as performance changes.