
FISCAL YEAR 2020 SPRING ENROLLMENT



February 2020

Headcount and Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Decline But At The Slowest Rate Since Spring 2010

Community colleges report opening spring term enrollment figures to the Illinois Community College Board using a brief web based survey. These figures reflect student enrollments as of the end of registration for the Spring 2020 semester—usually the 10th day of the term.

Overall, compared to the same term one year ago, statewide Spring 2020 headcount enrollments and full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollments both decreased. The Spring 2020 semester headcount was 279,771 compared to 283,146 last year (a headcount decrease of 3,375 or -1.2 percent). The latest FTE count was 152,349 compared with 154,740 a year ago (an FTE decrease of 2,391 or -1.5 percent). FTE figures reflect the total number of credit hours being taken by students divided by 15—the number of semester hours traditionally considered a full-time class load.

Table 1 contains comparative statewide spring tenth-day enrollments for the last five years. Figure 1 illustrates a comparison of headcount and FTE trends from 2016-2020.

Table 1
SUMMARY OF OPENING SPRING ENROLLMENTS IN
ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES FROM 2016 TO 2020

	Spring 2016	Spring 2017	Spring 2018	Spring 2019	Spring 2020
Headcount	318,524	302,741	289,611	283,146*	279,771
Percent Change	-3.5%	-5.0%	-4.3%	-2.2%	-1.2%
FTE	175,859	167,294	160,396	154,740*	152,349
Percent Change	-4.4%	-4.9%	-4.1%	-3.5%	-1.5%

* Adjusted Total

It should be noted that despite the continued enrollment decreases statewide, most Illinois community colleges continue to produce an elevated number of graduates annually. With 62,242 earned collegiate-level degrees and certificates, fiscal year 2019 had the eighth highest annual number of statewide graduates recorded from the Illinois Community College System. For detailed student graduate data by community college see the [ICCB Data Book](#) (Section III).

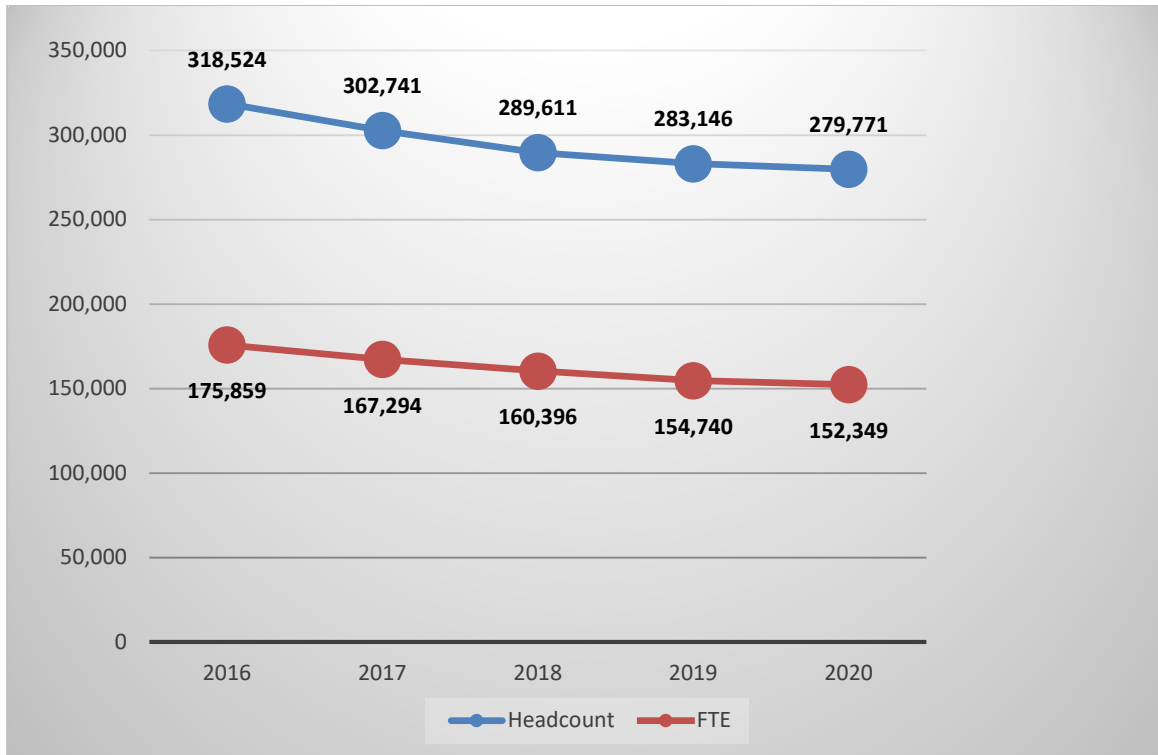


Figure 1. Opening Spring Enrollment Trends in Illinois Public Community Colleges from 2016 to 2020

Table 2 provides a comparison of fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2020 spring headcount enrollments for each community college. Among the 48 community colleges, since last year headcount increases were reported at 18 colleges (1.0 percent or higher). Twenty-four colleges saw decreases (1.0 percent or more) compared to last year. Six colleges reported little or no change (less than 1.0 percent) versus last year. Longer term, statewide headcount enrollments were down 12.2 percent compared to Spring 2016.

Table 3 contains a comparison of full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollments for the same five-year period. Compared to last year, Spring 2020 FTE increases were reported by only 13 colleges and decreases by 27 colleges, and eight colleges indicated little or no change. Longer term, statewide FTE enrollments were down 13.4 percent compared to Spring 2016.

Table 4 provides fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2020 spring opening enrollments (duplicated) in internet-based courses at each community college. Spring enrollments in online courses have been steady across the most recent five years, increasing in the last three years. At the beginning of the Spring 2020 semester, there were 116,732 enrollments (duplicated) in internet courses compared to 110,716 in Spring 2019 (an increase of 5.4 percent) and 104,140 in Spring 2016 (an increase of 12.1 percent). Compared to last year, Spring 2020 duplicated internet enrollments increased at 32 colleges, decreased at 13 colleges, and had little or no change at three colleges.