



**IBHE FIRST LOOK – FALL ENROLLMENT 2025-26**  
**ILLINOIS PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES**  
**REVISED REPORT MARCH 2026**

## Highlights

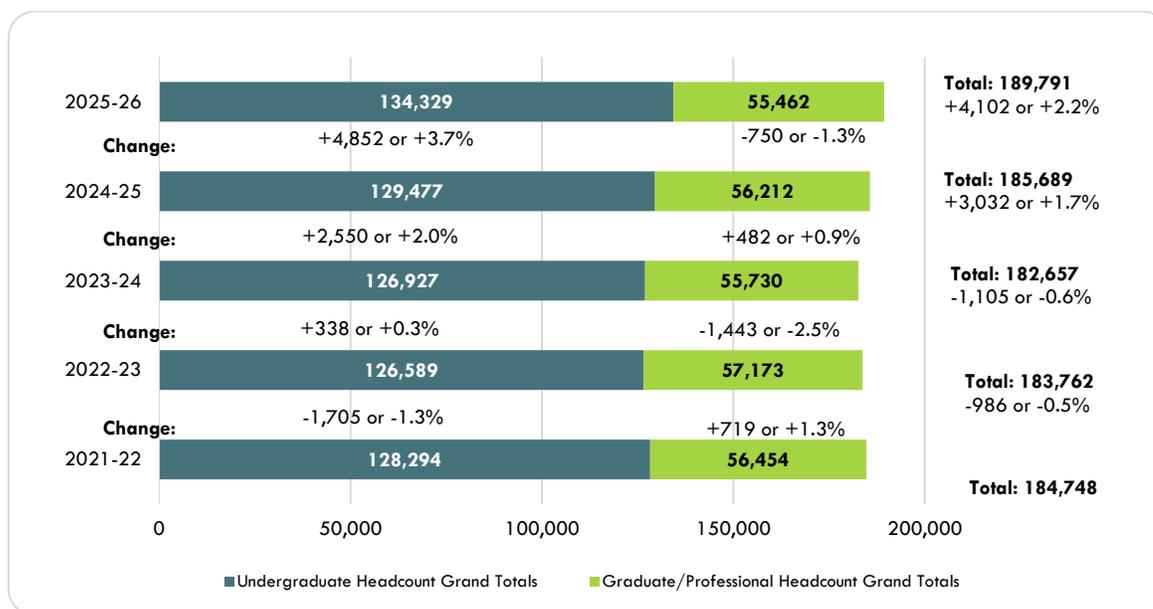
- **Overall Enrollment Growth:** Total enrollment increased by 2.2% (+4,102 students) to 189,791. This growth was driven entirely by undergraduates, as graduate/professional enrollment saw a slight decline.
- **Strong Undergraduate Increase:** The undergraduate population grew by 3.7% (+4,852 students). This growth was seen across all student types, including a 6.8% (+1,738 students) increase in first-time, full-time freshmen, a 6.5% (+651 students) increase in new full-time transfers, and a 19.5% (+625 students) jump in dual credit/dually enrolled students.
- **Growth for New Part-time Undergraduates:** This year saw the largest percentage jump among all enrollment categories for new part-time undergraduates, with growth at 21.8% (+878 students).
- **Gains for Underrepresented Students:** Total enrollment for African American students increased by 9.3% (+1,956 students), with African-American male new full time transfer students in the lead with a strong 33.5% increase (+141 students). Total Latino enrollment increased by 8.1% (+2,417 students).
- **Drop in International Graduate Students:** Undergraduate international enrollment increased by 2.9% (+258 students) driven almost entirely by females (+6.3%, +208 students). Graduate/professional international enrollment decreased by 14.1% (–2,178 students). Overall international student enrollment declined by 7.9% (–1,920 students).
- **Retention Rate Improvement:** The overall fall-to-fall retention rate for freshmen improved, rising 2.3 percentage points to 83.6%. Retention gaps for underrepresented students narrowed. The gap between African American (67.3%) and White students (88.4%) decreased by more than 4 percentage points, while the rate for Latino students rose to 80.6%.

## Overview

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) collaborates with Illinois public universities to provide an early look at fall enrollment. Aligned with IBHE's strong focus on equity as described in the 2021 strategic plan for higher education, [A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth](#), this report provides enrollment and retention data by race and ethnicity, as well as information on more nuanced enrollment types, like dual credit and new undergraduate transfers.

Illinois public universities increased the total number of students to 189,791, an increase of 2.2%. As shown in Figure 1, there were 4,102 more students in the fall of 2025 compared to fall of 2024. Illinois public universities continued a year-over-year undergraduate enrollment increase of 4,852 (3.7%). Graduate and professional enrollment decreased by 1.3%, losing 750 students. This is mainly due to a 14.1% drop in international graduate students (–2,178).

Figure 1. Illinois Public University Headcount Enrollments from Fall of Academic Year 2021-22 to 2025-26



**Undergraduate Enrollment.** As shown in Table 1, undergraduate enrollment was up 3.7% in the fall of academic year 2025-26. The increase represented 4,852 additional undergraduate students relative to academic year 2024-25.

New first-time, full-time undergraduates (generally freshmen) increased by 6.8% or 1,738 students, which was a larger percentage increase than that of new transfer students (+6.5% or 651 students).

Table 1. Undergraduate Enrollment Type for Illinois Public Universities (Headcount)<sup>1</sup>

Enrollment Type	2024-2025	2025-2026	1-Year Change	1-Year % Change
Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment	3,206	3,831	625	19.5%
First-Time, Full-Time Undergrads	25,426	27,164	1,738	6.8%
New Full-Time Transfers	10,040	10,691	651	6.5%
Continuing Undergraduates	86,773	87,823	1,050	1.2%
New Part-Time Undergraduates / Other	4,032	4,910	878	21.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>129,477</b>	<b>134,329</b>	<b>4,852</b>	<b>3.7%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Minor differences in totals reflect institutional reporting practices related to the classification of specific undergraduate subgroups.

There was a 19.5% increase in the number of dual credit/dually enrolled students (+625 students). Continuing undergraduates, the largest category of undergraduate students, increased by 1.2% (+1,050 students).

**Graduate and Professional Enrollment.** As shown previously in Figure 1, graduate and professional enrollment at Illinois public universities decreased by 1.3%, which represents 750 fewer students. The decrease in graduate and professional levels is a reversal from 2024-25 where there was an increase in enrollment (0.9%).

### Institutional Highlights and Detailed Enrollment

**Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment.** In the fall of 2025-26, ten public universities reported dual credit/dual enrollment students. As shown in Table 2, dual credit enrollment was up by 19.5% (+625 students). This was driven by modest year-over-year growth at Eastern Illinois University (EIU) and large proportional growth at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), which experienced an increase of 478 students from 129 in 2024-25 to 607 in 2025-26. The number of students enrolled in dual credit at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) decreased from 50 to 39 (-22.0%). Illinois State University (ISU) experienced a decrease from 17 students to 11 (-35.3%). At

nearly 70%, EIU still accounts for the largest proportion (2,673 of 3,831 total) of dual credit enrollment among Illinois public universities.

Table 2. Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment at Illinois Public Universities (Headcount)

	2021-2022	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	1-Yr Change	1-Yr % Change
CSU	0	2	80	84	126	42	50.0%
EIU	2,275	2,325	2,447	2,595	2,673	78	3.0%
GSU	0	0	0	0	1	1	NA*
ISU	8	11	7	17	11	-6	-35.3%
NEIU	12	98	105	169	156	-13	-7.7%
NIU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SIUC	3	5	7	4	0	-4	-100.0%
SIUE	0	0	95	129	607	478	370.5%
UIC	0	16	41	50	39	-11	-22.0%
UIS	0	0	0	0	37	37	NA*
UIUC	94	71	51	43	61	18	41.9%
WIU	126	113	86	115	120	5	4.3%
Totals	2,518	2,641	2,919	3,206	3,831	625	19.5%

\*Percentage change cannot be calculated from a starting value of zero.

**First-Time, Full-Time Undergraduates.** Fall 2025 marked the fifth consecutive year of growth and the highest recent number of full-time freshmen at Illinois public universities, representing 27,164 new freshmen. This reverses the pandemic low from the fall of academic year 2020-21. The year-over-year growth in freshmen enrollment varied across the Illinois public universities and resulted in the recent high-water mark for freshmen enrollment at several institutions. Freshmen enrollment at University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (UIUC) increased 2.2%, to 9,198 students. Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) enrolled 1,503 new freshmen in 2025-26, a decrease of 207 students (-12.1%). UIC enrolled 5,331 new freshmen, a 22.3% increase and the largest gain system-wide (+971 students). NIU increased by 21.8% (+431 students) and CSU more than doubled its freshman class, growing 107.2% (+148 students). Conversely, WIU experienced the steepest decline at -25.9% (-159 students).

Table 3. First-Time Full-Time Undergraduates (Freshmen) at Illinois Public Universities (Headcount)

	2024-25	2025-26	1-Yr Change	1-Yr % Change
CSU	138	286	148	107.2%
EIU	772	787	15	1.9%
GSU	257	291	34	13.2%
ISU	4,267	4,244	-23	-0.5%
NEIU	533	523	-10	-1.9%
NIU	1,979	2,410	431	21.8%
SIUC	1,710	1,503	-207	-12.1%
SIUE	1,534	1,826	292	19.0%
UIC	4,360	5,331	971	22.3%
UIS	257	309	52	20.2%
UIUC	9,004	9,198	194	2.2%
WIU	615	456	-159	-25.9%
Totals	25,426	27,164	1,738	6.8%

**New Full-Time Transfer Students.** New full-time transfer enrollment was up 6.5% (+651 students) from the previous year. Eight of the 12 Illinois public universities experienced year-over-year growth in new transfers. CSU experienced the largest increase, up 50.6%. SIUE followed with 20.6% increase, and NEIU increased 19.6%. UIC also reported growth of 18.7%. Additional increases were reported at NIU (7.7%), EIU (5.5%), and UIUC (4.4%). Institutions reporting decreases included SIUC (-113 students, -11.0%), ISU (-58 students, -3.6%), WIU (-14 students, -2.9%), and GSU (-7 students, -2.0%).

Table 4. New Full-Time Transfer Students at Illinois Public Universities (Headcount)

	2024-25	2025-26	1-Yr Change	1-Yr % Change
CSU	160	241	81	50.6%
EIU	380	401	21	5.5%
GSU	354	347	-7	-2.0%
ISU	1,605	1,547	-58	-3.6%
NEIU	424	507	83	19.6%
NIU	1,238	1,333	95	7.7%
SIUC	1,026	913	-113	-11.0%
SIUE	761	918	157	20.6%
UIC	1,773	2,104	331	18.7%
UIS	314	322	8	2.5%
UIUC	1,525	1,592	67	4.4%
WIU	480	466	-14	-2.9%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10,040</b>	<b>10,691</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>6.5%</b>

**Continuing Undergraduate Students.** For the 2025-26 academic year, there were 1,050 additional continuing undergraduate students (+1.2% year-over-year). UIUC added 952 continuing undergraduates (+3.7%), the largest gain among continuing students. The largest declines in continuing undergraduates were experienced by SIUC, falling 14.1% (-782 students) while WIU declined 11.4% (-361 students).

Table 5. Continuing Undergraduate Students at Illinois Public Universities (Headcount)<sup>1,2</sup>

	2024-25	2025-26	1-Yr Change	1-Yr % Change
CSU	896	868	-28	-3.1%
EIU	2,948	2,783	-165	-5.6%
GSU	1,829	1,847	18	1.0%
ISU	12,991	13,519	528	4.1%
NEIU	2,668	2,730	62	2.3%
NIU	7,896	8,061	165	2.1%
SIUC	5,557	4,775	-782	-14.1%
SIUE	6,225	6,379	154	2.5%
UIC	15,371	15,932	561	3.6%
UIS	1,552	1,498	-54	-3.5%
UIUC	25,660	26,612	952	3.7%
WIU	3,180	2,819	-361	-11.4%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>86,773</b>	<b>87,823</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>1.2%</b>

<sup>1</sup> The decline in continuing student headcount and retention for some institutions coincides with expanded transfer opportunities introduced by the NCAA's one-time transfer exception in April 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Due to the large enrollment decline between Fall 2024 and Fall 2025, WIU has consolidated academic units (from four to two) for efficiency and financial savings.

**Graduate and Undergraduate Enrollment.** As shown in Table 6, total enrollment increased by 2.2%, with a 3.7% increase at the undergraduate level along with a 1.3% decrease in graduate/professional enrollments. CSU stands out with the highest total enrollment growth at 12.1%, nearly six times the system average of 2.2%. Nine of the twelve Illinois public universities experienced undergraduate enrollment growth: CSU (16.9%), SIUE (11.0%), UIC (7.8%), NIU (6.8%), UIUC (3.9%), ISU (2.1%), GSU (1.7%), UIS (1.2%), and NEIU (0.5%).

The largest undergraduate enrollment decrease was demonstrated by WIU (-14.3%).

At the graduate level, six of the twelve public universities experienced growth. The largest growth was demonstrated by CSU with a 2.3% increase. Institutions such as ISU and UIC both grew by 1.7%, followed by NEIU (1.6%), and SIUC (1.0%). Graduate declines were experienced by six institutions, most notably EIU (-20.0%) and WIU (-19.1%), with additional declines at UIS, GSU, NIU, and SIUE.

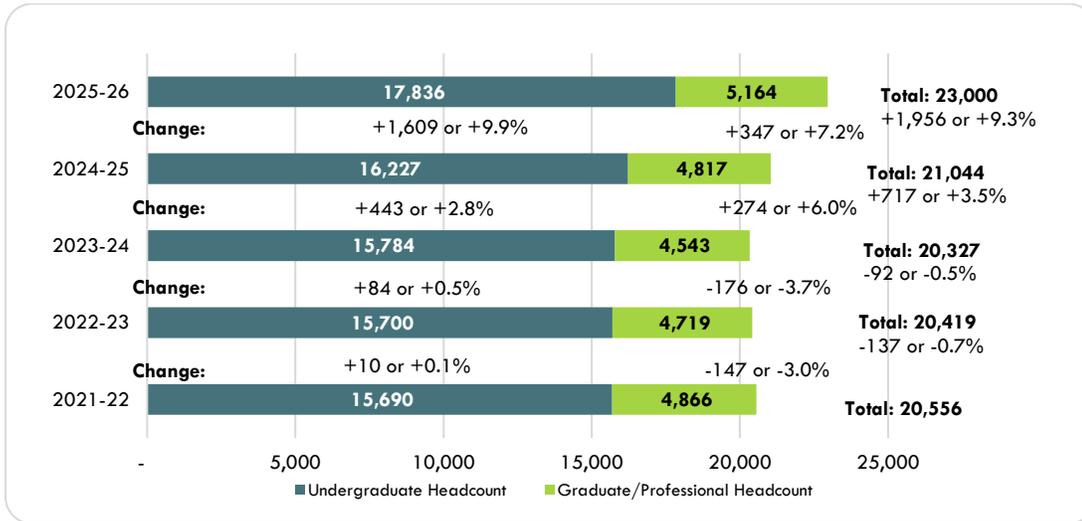
Table 6. Enrollments and Year to Year Change (Headcount)

	Fall 2023-24	Fall 2024-25		Fall 2025-26			Year to year % Change			
	Total	Undergrad	Grad	Total	Undergrad	Grad	Total	Undergrad	Grad	Total
CSU	2,295	1,470	733	2,203	1,719	750	2,469	16.9%	2.3%	12.1%
EIU	8,804	6,785	1,720	8,505	6,731	1,376	8,107	-0.8%	-20.0%	-4.7%
GSU	4,338	2,573	1,826	4,399	2,616	1,733	4,349	1.7%	-5.1%	-1.1%
ISU	20,989	19,107	2,439	21,546	19,513	2,481	21,994	2.1%	1.7%	2.1%
NEIU	5,504	4,226	1,508	5,734	4,246	1,532	5,778	0.5%	1.6%	0.8%
NIU	15,504	11,349	4,066	15,415	12,118	3,960	16,078	6.8%	-2.6%	4.3%
SIUC	11,359	8,553	3,337	11,890	8,416	3,369	11,785	-1.6%	1.0%	-0.9%
SIUE	12,045	8,945	2,948	11,893	9,925	2,888	12,813	11.0%	-2.0%	7.7%
UIC	33,522	22,495	11,411	33,906	24,260	11,609	35,869	7.8%	1.7%	5.8%
UIS	4,661	2,309	2,319	4,628	2,337	2,027	4,364	1.2%	-12.6%	-5.7%
UIUC	56,563	37,140	22,098	59,238	38,572	22,276	60,848	3.9%	0.8%	2.7%
WIU	7,073	4,525	1,807	6,332	3,876	1,461	5,337	-14.3%	-19.1%	-15.7%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>182,657</b>	<b>129,477</b>	<b>56,212</b>	<b>185,689</b>	<b>134,329</b>	<b>55,462</b>	<b>189,791</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

### Enrollment Patterns by Race/Ethnicity

**Enrollment of African American Students.** Overall, African American enrollment increased by 9.3% (+1,956 students) to 23,000 students in 2025-26. As shown in Figure 2, undergraduate enrollment of African American students increased year-over-year by 9.9% (+1,609 students).

Figure 2. Headcount Enrollment of African American Students at Illinois Public Universities



Graduate and professional enrollment of African American students increased by 7.2% (+347 students) to 5,164 students. Between academic years 2024-25 and 2025-26, SIUE experienced the largest undergraduate growth with a 37.4% increase, followed by CSU (+22.3%), NEIU (+17.2%), UIC (+17.1%), and NIU (13.9%). WIU experienced the largest decline in African American enrollment, falling 22.2%.

Table 7. African American Enrollments and Year to Year (Headcount)

	Fall 2023-24	Fall 2024-25			Fall 2025-26			Year to year % Change		
	Total	Undergrad	Grad	Total	Undergrad	Grad	Total	Undergrad	Grad	Total
CSU	1,566	1,068	398	1,466	1,306	455	1,761	22.3%	14.3%	20.1%
EIU	1,044	880	88	968	878	92	970	-0.2%	4.5%	0.2%
GSU	1,548	1,042	523	1,565	1,046	562	1,608	0.4%	7.5%	2.7%
ISU	2,308	2,597	177	2,774	2,844	213	3,057	9.5%	20.3%	10.2%
NEIU	501	505	109	614	592	118	710	17.2%	8.3%	15.6%
NIU	2,720	2,382	360	2,742	2,712	344	3,056	13.9%	-4.4%	11.5%
SIUC	1,701	1,477	379	1,856	1,442	443	1,885	-2.4%	16.9%	1.6%
SIUE	1,578	1,357	298	1,655	1,864	324	2,188	37.4%	8.7%	32.2%
UIC	2,836	1,829	1,160	2,989	2,141	1,289	3,430	17.1%	11.1%	14.8%
UIS	555	320	281	601	347	274	621	8.4%	-2.5%	3.3%
UIUC	2,806	1,944	904	2,848	2,018	944	2,962	3.8%	4.4%	4.0%
WIU	1,164	826	140	966	646	106	752	-21.8%	-24.3%	-22.2%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20,327</b>	<b>16,227</b>	<b>4,817</b>	<b>21,044</b>	<b>17,836</b>	<b>5,164</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>9.3%</b>

**Enrollment of Latino Students.** Total Latino student enrollment reached a new peak of 32,385 after an increase of 8.1% (+2,417 students). As shown in Figure 3, Latino undergraduate enrollment was up by 9.1% or 2,233 additional students, also a new high of 26,848 students. EIU experienced the largest percentage increase in Latino undergraduates at 80.6%, followed by SIUE at 22.1% and NIU (+11.5%). At the graduate/professional level, enrollment of Latino students increased by 3.4% (+184 students). In contrast, NEIU and CSU saw graduate declines of 14.6% and 20.8%, respectively.

Figure 3. Headcount Enrollment of Latino Students at Illinois Public Universities

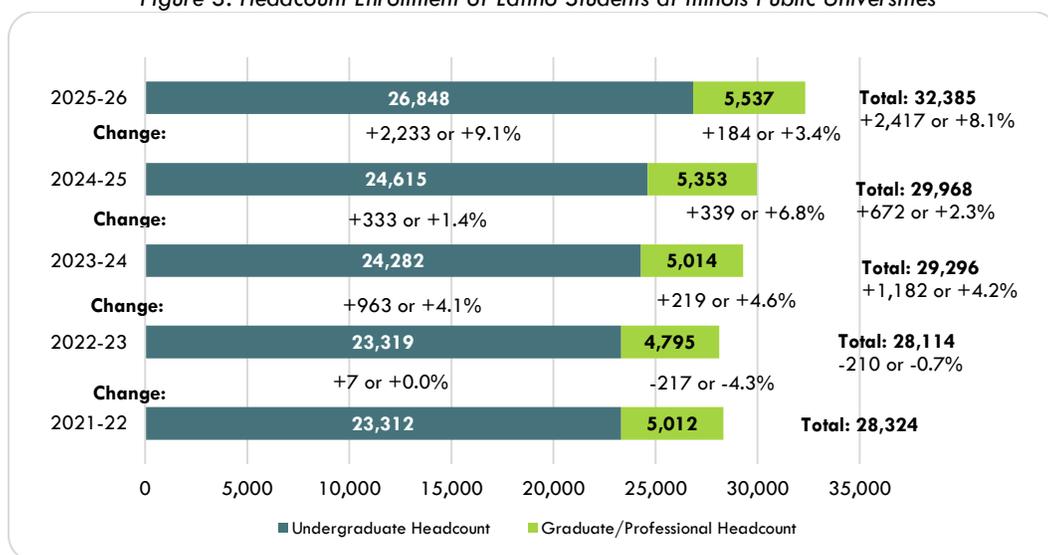
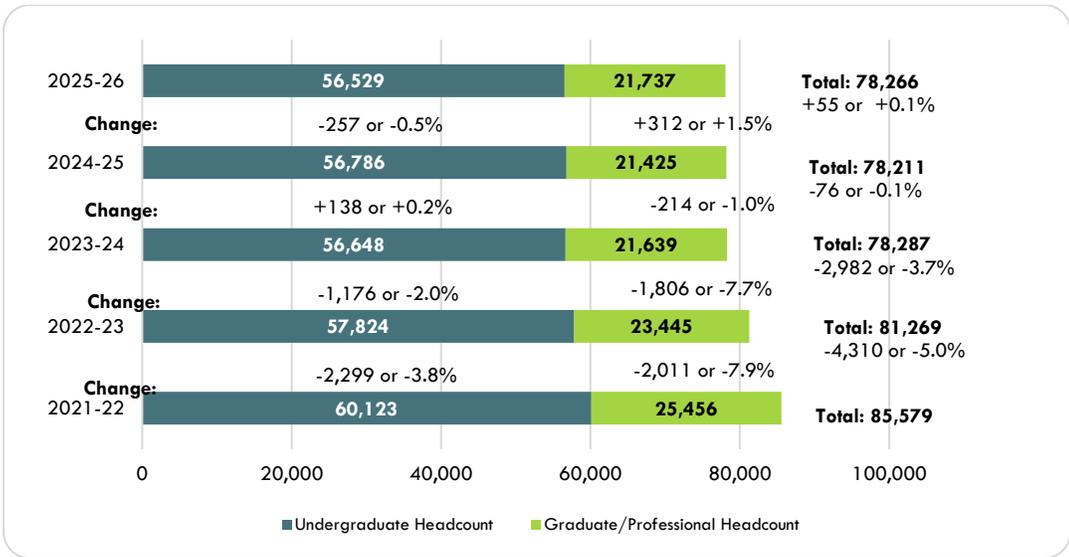


Table 8. Latino Enrollments and Year to Year (Headcount)

	Fall 2023-24	Fall 2024-25		Fall 2025-26			Year to year % Change			
	Total	Undergrad	Grad	Total	Undergrad	Grad	Total	Undergrad	Grad	Total
CSU	128	83	24	107	61	19	80	-26.5%	-20.8%	-25.2%
EIU	1,251	671	71	742	1,212	74	1,286	80.6%	4.2%	73.3%
GSU	686	510	211	721	500	219	719	-2.0%	3.8%	-0.3%
ISU	2,713	2,721	174	2,895	2,909	209	3,118	6.9%	20.1%	7.7%
NEIU	2,695	2,164	624	2,788	2,017	533	2,550	-6.8%	-14.6%	-8.5%
NIU	3,306	2,917	490	3,407	3,253	514	3,767	11.5%	4.9%	10.6%
SIUC	947	876	182	1,058	941	226	1,167	7.4%	24.2%	10.3%
SIUE	698	579	126	705	707	124	831	22.1%	-1.6%	17.9%
UIC	9,591	8,023	1,679	9,702	8,844	1,777	10,621	10.2%	5.8%	9.5%
UIS	353	271	132	403	262	133	395	-3.3%	0.8%	-2.0%
UIUC	6,203	5,266	1,513	6,779	5,673	1,597	7,270	7.7%	5.6%	7.2%
WIU	725	534	127	661	469	112	581	-12.2%	-11.8%	-12.1%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29,296</b>	<b>24,615</b>	<b>5,353</b>	<b>29,968</b>	<b>26,848</b>	<b>5,537</b>	<b>32,385</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>

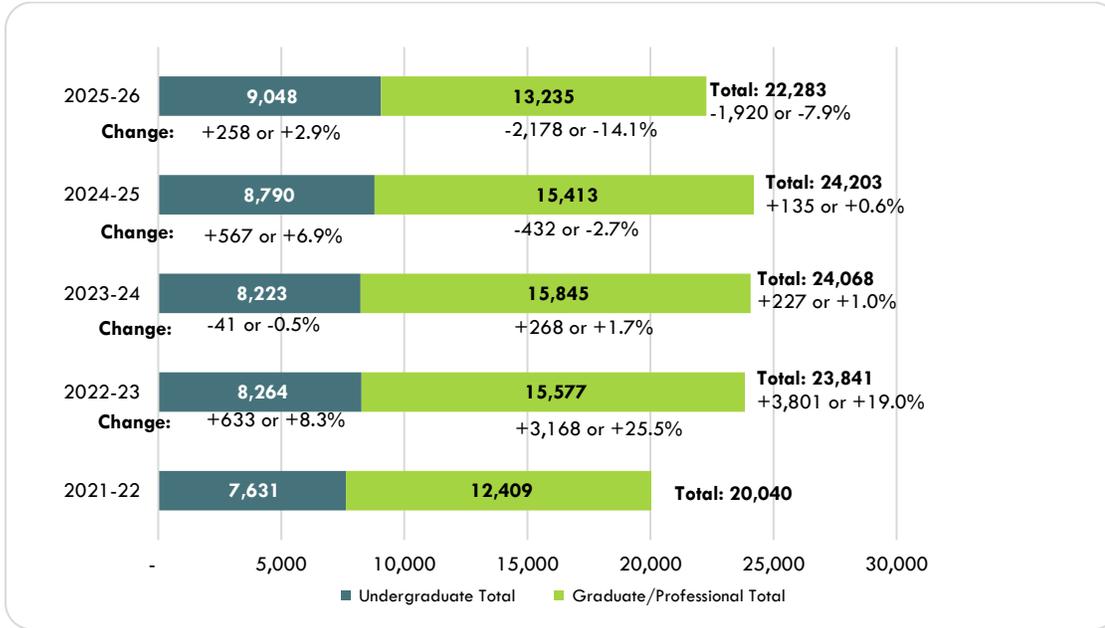
**Enrollment of White Students.** As shown in Figure 4, there was an overall increase of 55 white students (+0.1%) enrolled in academic year 2025-26. Undergraduate enrollment of white students decreased by 0.5% (-257 students), while graduate enrollment saw an increase of 1.5% (+312 students).

Figure 4. Headcount Enrollment of White Students at Illinois Public Universities



**Enrollment of International Students.** Overall enrollment of international students decreased by 1,920 to 22,283 students (-7.9%) in 2025-26. As shown in Figure 5, undergraduate levels continued last year's increase with an increase of 2.9% (258 students). However, enrollment of international graduate/professional students decreased by 14.1%, or 2,178 fewer students.

Figure 5. Headcount Enrollment of International Students at Illinois Public Universities



### Fall to Fall Retention by Race/Ethnicity

More than eight out of every 10 (83.6%) new freshmen at Illinois public universities who were enrolled in the fall of 2024-25 were still enrolled in the fall of 2025. This rate was an improvement over the prior year, which was 81.3%.

Institutions retained African American undergraduates at 67.3%, which was 21.1 percentage points below the rate for white peers (88.4%). However, this gap narrowed from the previous year. Institutions retained Latino undergraduates at 80.6%. After Asian undergraduates (92.9%), white students had the second-highest rate (88.4%) of retention. When retention rates were disaggregated, clear disparities emerged. The drop in retention rates for American Indian / Alaska Native students represented a 16.5 percentage point decline, marking a significant equity concern. Conversely, the increase for students who are Missing / Not Reported made them a highly retained 'group' with a jump of 5.9 percentage points.

Table 9. Fall to Fall Retention by Race / Ethnicity at Illinois Public Universities<sup>1</sup>

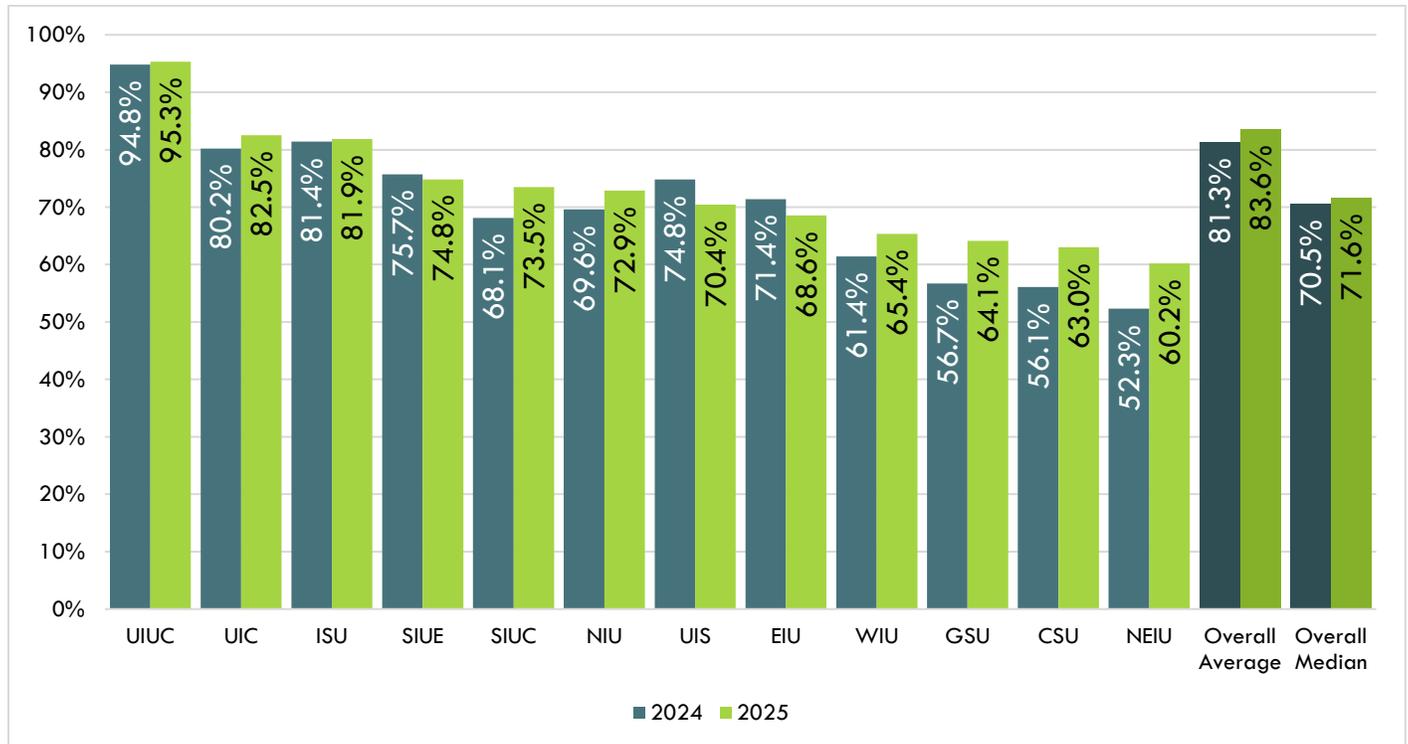
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Annual Change
All	81.7%	80.3%	80.3%	81.3%	83.6%	↑ 2.3%
African American	65.5%	62.0%	59.2%	61.8%	67.3%	↑ 5.5%
American Indian, Alaska Native	63.6%	67.9%	62.5%	78.3%	61.8%	↓ -16.5% <sup>1</sup>
Asian	93.4%	92.7%	91.9%	93.3%	92.9%	↓ -0.4%
Latino	76.9%	75.7%	75.3%	75.7%	80.6%	↑ 4.9%
White	85.6%	83.8%	86.5%	87.2%	88.4%	↑ 1.2%
2+ Races	78.2%	79.7%	80.5%	85.2%	84.2%	↓ -1.0%
International Students	87.9%	88.0%	85.8%	85.4%	83.8%	↓ -1.6%
Missing/Not Reported	81.9%	79.3%	81.1%	80.9%	86.8%	↑ 5.9%

<sup>1</sup> Because the number of students in the American Indian and Alaska Native subgroup is small, year-to-year percentage changes may appear larger and should be interpreted with caution.

## Fall to Fall Retention by Institution

As shown in Figure 6, there was variation across the 12 Illinois public universities in the retention of new freshmen. UIUC continued to have the highest retention rate at 95.3% followed by UIC at 82.5%. NEIU experienced the largest positive change, rising to 60.2%. GSU and CSU also demonstrated substantial gains, improving by 7.4 and 6.9 percentage points, respectively. Three institutions — UIS, EIU, and SIUE — saw modest retention declines. International student retention declined -1.6 percentage points to 83.8%.

Figure 6. Fall to Fall Retention by Illinois Public University<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The decline in continuing student headcount and retention coincides with expanded transfer opportunities introduced by the NCAA's one-time transfer exception in April 2021.

## Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

Across all Illinois public universities, total undergraduate enrollment grew by 3.7%. Freshmen enrollment increased by 6.8%, while new transfer students grew by 6.5%. This was offset by a 1.3% decrease in total graduate and professional enrollment.

**African American.** Overall, African American undergraduate enrollment increased by 9.9%. Within this group, males experienced 10.1% growth and females experienced 9.8% growth. Enrollment of African American freshmen increased by 12.4% year-over-year. As shown in Table 10, new transfer students increased significantly by 21.8%, with males demonstrating a particularly large increase of 33.5%. Enrollment of African American graduate students increased by 7.2%.

**Asian.** Undergraduate enrollment of Asian students increased by 2.8%. Growth was split between genders, with women increasing by 2.2% and men by 3.4%. However, freshmen Asian students saw negative growth of -2.5%. New transfer students experienced a 5.5% increase, while Asian graduate students saw an 8.5% increase the highest growth rate of any racial group at the graduate level.

**Latino.** Enrollment of Latino students increased by 8.1% overall. This growth was consistent across genders, with Latino men increasing by 9.6% and females by 8.7%. Freshmen Latinos saw a substantial increase of 14.4% in 2025-26. New transfer enrollment also showed strong gains, increasing by 20.7%, more than triple the overall transfer growth rate of 6.4%. Graduate and professional enrollment for Latino students grew by 3.4%.

**White.** Undergraduate enrollment of white students decreased by 0.5%. Male enrollment declined by 0.9%, while female undergraduate enrollment remained flat at 0.0%. Despite the overall undergraduate decline, white freshmen enrollment increased by 2.8%. Total new transfer white students increased by 1.0%, and white graduate enrollment saw a slight gain of 1.5%.

**International.** International students demonstrated an overall undergraduate enrollment increase of 2.9%. Growth was higher among females (6.3%) than males (0.9%). Total freshmen international students had a growth rate of 0.1%. However, enrollment of international new transfer students decreased by 16.8%, and international graduate/professional students saw a sharp decline of 14.1%.

Table 10. Gender and Race Headcounts from 2024-25 to 2025-26

		2025 Undergraduate	2025 New FTFT Undergraduate	2025 New FT Transfers Undergraduate	2025 Graduate
African American	Men	10.1%	12.0%	33.5%	7.1%
	Women	9.8%	12.7%	14.9%	7.3%
	Total	9.9%	12.4%	21.8%	7.2%
Asian	Men	3.4%	-0.6%	14.6%	10.0%
	Women	2.2%	-4.6%	-4.3%	7.1%
	Total	2.8%	-2.5%	5.5%	8.5%
Latino	Men	9.6%	14.4%	25.4%	3.5%
	Women	8.7%	14.4%	17.1%	3.4%
	Total	9.1%	14.4%	20.7%	3.4%
White	Men	-0.9%	2.0%	1.4%	3.0%
	Women	0.0%	3.5%	0.7%	0.4%
	Total	-0.5%	2.8%	1.0%	1.5%
Non-Resident	Men	0.9%	-0.4%	-17.5%	-16.3%
	Women	6.3%	0.8%	-15.5%	-10.9%
	Total	2.9%	0.1%	-16.8%	-14.1%
Total	Men	3.5%	6.4%	8.6%	-2.7%
	Women	4.0%	7.4%	4.6%	0.2%
	Total	3.7%	6.9%	6.4%	-1.3%

**Conclusion**

For Academic Year 2025-26, the data points to significant increases in creating and strengthening pathways for all Illinois students at public universities. Enrollment growth is not isolated to one or two flagships; instead, nine of the twelve public universities reported growth in their undergraduate populations.

The robust 19.5% growth in dual credit enrollment and the 6.5% growth in new transfers demonstrate a healthy and expanding pipeline from K-12 and community colleges. The 9.3% growth for African American students and 8.1% growth for Latino students signals meaningful progress toward the goals outlined in the A Thriving Illinois strategic plan.

## Appendix: Methodology

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) collects fall enrollment data with a standardized, statewide process involving the Illinois Higher Education Information System (IHEIS) and the annual IBHE Fall Enrollment Survey. All 12 public universities in Illinois participate in this process by reporting official student enrollments as measured on the 10th day of the fall semester, commonly referred to as the census date. The 10-day census count provides a consistent and comparable institutional snapshot for enrollment trends and is widely recognized and used as a benchmark both within Illinois and nationally. Data is submitted for every student enrolled for credit, including undergraduates, graduates, dual credit participants, transfers, and non-degree students. IBHE specifies that participating universities must include students regardless of modality (in-person or online), degree-seeking status, or program level.

The IHEIS system, administered by IBHE as part of Illinois' Longitudinal Data System (ILDS), forms the core of data collection for degree-granting postsecondary institutions. Each institution designates a Research Analyst responsible for secure, timely, and accurate submissions. Data are collected three times per year (fall, spring, summer), with the fall submission being the official census used for annual reporting. These data undergo validation and error-checking prior to final confirmation by IBHE staff. Institutions submit detailed student-unit records following strict data specifications, including race/ethnicity, residency, program, and unique identifiers, per Public Act 096-1249 and related statutes. The IHEIS process is designed to align with federal data standards (IPEDS) and allow for detailed disaggregation and longitudinal research on enrollment, completion, and student movement patterns in Illinois public higher education.

*Fall 2024-25 enrollment figures presented in this report reflect revised institutional data and may differ from the preliminary report released in October 2025 (IBHE First Look, Fall Enrollment 2025-26). Institutions may submit corrections to their enrollment data following initial reporting. The figures in this report represent the most current, verified data available as of this publication date.*