



## **UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PRODUCTIVITY AT ILLINOIS PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES**

### **Why examine degrees/certificates per 100 FTE?**

"Degrees/Certificates per 100 FTE" has traditionally been used as an institutional productivity/ efficiency measure indicating how many postsecondary awards are conferred by a college in a year relative to the number of full-time equivalent students. As noted in the Aspen Institute's report on using comparative information to improve student success (2014), the measure illustrates a college's total "outputs" (degrees/certificates) relative to its total "inputs" (students). As a metric, degrees and certificates per 100 FTE takes into consideration all students including part-time and transfer students, two groups that traditionally are not included in the calculation of graduation rates. Graduation rates are typically calculated using cohorts of first-time/ full-time undergraduate students. As colleges can vary substantially in terms of the composition of their study body, first-time/full-time students may only represent a small proportion of the overall students; and therefore, graduation rates may not be the best measure of the overall performance of schools that focus more heavily on enrolling part-time students or students transferring from other colleges. As highlighted in previous IBHE analyses, the state of Illinois is the national leader in metrics that are inclusive of transfer students and students that enroll part-time, such as the completion rates at four-year institutions among all community college students (IBHE, 2019).

It has been argued that productivity and efficiency metrics such as degrees per 100 FTE are most meaningful when shown in comparison to other institutions, as was done here (Aspen Institute, 2014). The current analysis compares each Illinois public university with the national average, as well as the average of its respective peers. The peers included in this analysis were purposefully selected to account for programmatic offerings and student body composition (see list).

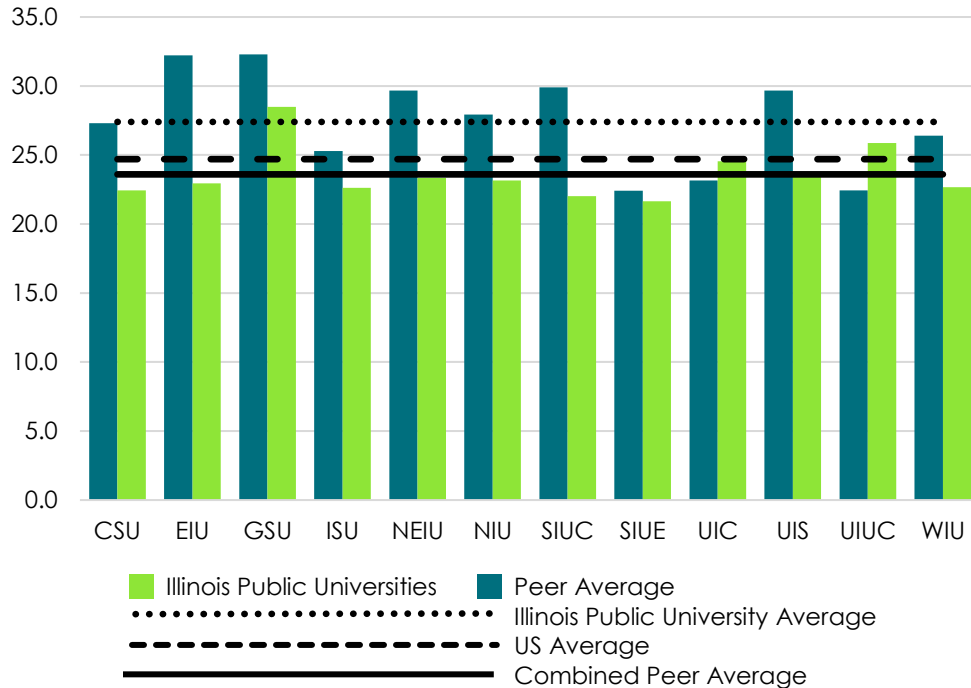
### **How do Illinois Public Universities perform relative to their peers and all other public universities?**

Specific to undergraduate degrees and certificates per 100 FTE, all Illinois public universities, except UIC and UIUC, outperformed their out-of-state peers. Illinois public universities, in aggregate, performed better than the national average (27.4 compared to 24.7) and the combined peer average (27.4 compared to 23.6). GSU, EIU, SIUC, NEIU and UIS had the highest number of undergraduate awards per 100 FTE and all conferred around 30 or more degrees per 100 FTE. NIU, CSU, and WIU also performed well above the national and peer averages.

It should be noted that in 2017, not a single Illinois public university awarded an undergraduate certificate of any length and only SIUC conferred associate degrees; therefore, nearly all (99.7%) the undergraduate degree/certificates awarded in 2017

were at the baccalaureate level. At the peer institutions, bachelor's degrees accounted for a slightly lower proportion of total undergraduate degrees and certificates awarded (97.8%). In other words, the Illinois public universities, in aggregate, substantially outperformed the peer average even through nearly all the undergraduate awards the Illinois public universities conferred were bachelor's degrees, which by default take longer to complete than certificate programs (some of which can be finished in less than a semester).

Figure 1: Undergraduate Degrees/Certificates Awarded per 100 FTE



Data Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)-12-month FTE enrollment for 2017 and total degrees (Associate's, Bachelor's) and certificates (less than 1 year, 1 year to 2 years, 2 to 4 years) for 2017.

Work Cited:

Illinois Board of Higher Education. (2019). Illinois Proud: Completing College—A Comparative Profile of Illinois Higher Education. Springfield, IL. Retrieved from: <https://www.ibhe.org/DataPoints/Illinois-Proud-2019-Completing-College.html>

The Aspen Institute, College Excellence Program. (2014). Using Comparative Information to Improve Student Success. Washington, DC. Retrieved from: <https://assets.aspeninstitute.org/content/uploads/files/content/docs/pubs/UsingComparativeInformationGuide.pdf>

## List of Peer Groups Selected by Each Illinois Public University

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### Chicago State University

Auburn University at Montgomery  
Bowie State University  
California State University,  
Dominguez Hills  
Coppin State University  
CUNY Lehman College  
Fayetteville State University  
Framingham State University  
Georgia College and State University  
Jacksonville State University  
New Jersey City University  
Texas A & M International University  
University of Houston – Clear Lake  
University of North Alabama

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### Eastern Illinois University

Appalachian State University  
College of Charleston  
Eastern Washington University  
Georgia Southern University  
Kean University  
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania  
Murray State University  
Saint Cloud State University  
Sam Houston State University  
University of North Carolina  
Wilmington  
University of Northern Iowa  
University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse  
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater  
Western Washington University  
William Paterson University  
of New Jersey

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### Governors State University

Austin Peay State University  
Bridgewater State University  
California State University  
San Marcos  
CUNY Brooklyn College  
Metropolitan State  
University of Denver  
Montclair State University  
University of Baltimore  
University of Houston – Clear Lake  
University of Maryland, Baltimore  
University of Michigan – Dearborn  
University of Missouri – St. Louis  
University of North Florida

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### Illinois State University

Ball State University  
Bowling Green State University

Central Michigan University  
Miami University  
Old Dominion University  
Portland State University  
University of North Carolina  
at Charlotte  
University of North Carolina  
at Greensboro  
Western Michigan University  
Wichita State University

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### Northeastern Illinois University

Auburn University at Montgomery  
California State University,  
Dominguez Hills  
California State University, Stanislaus  
CUNY Lehman College  
Indiana University – Northwest  
New Jersey City University  
Purdue University Calumet  
Texas A & M University –  
Corpus Christi

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### Northern Illinois University

Ball State University  
Central Michigan University  
Kent State University  
Ohio University  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
University of Toledo  
Western Michigan University

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### Southern Illinois University Carbondale

East Carolina University  
Kent State University  
University of Louisville  
University of Missouri – Kansas City  
University of North Dakota  
University of Northern Colorado  
West Virginia University  
Wright State University

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### Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

East Tennessee State University  
Grand Valley State University  
Marshall University  
Oakland University  
University of Missouri – Kansas City  
University of North Carolina  
at Greensboro  
University of South Alabama  
Western Carolina University

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### University of Illinois at Chicago

University at Buffalo  
University of Alabama  
at Birmingham  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Connecticut  
University of Louisville  
University of South Florida  
University of Utah  
Virginia Commonwealth University

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### University of Illinois at Springfield

Auburn University at Montgomery  
College of Charleston  
Georgia College and State University  
Lake Superior  
State University  
Northern Michigan University  
Shippensburg University  
of Pennsylvania  
SUNY College at Brockport  
University of South Dakota  
University of Wisconsin – Green Bay

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### University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, San Diego  
University of Michigan  
University of North Carolina  
at Chapel Hill  
University of Texas at Austin  
University of Virginia  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin – Madison

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### Western Illinois University

Appalachian State University  
Central Washington University  
Grand Valley State University  
James Madison University  
Montclair State University  
Truman State University  
University of Central Missouri  
University of Nebraska at Kearney  
University of Northern Iowa  
University of Wisconsin – La Crosse  
University of Wisconsin –  
Stevens Point  
University of Wisconsin – Whitewater  
William Paterson University  
of New Jersey