

IBHE FIRST LOOK – FALL ENROLLMENT 2024-25
Illinois Public Universities

Highlights

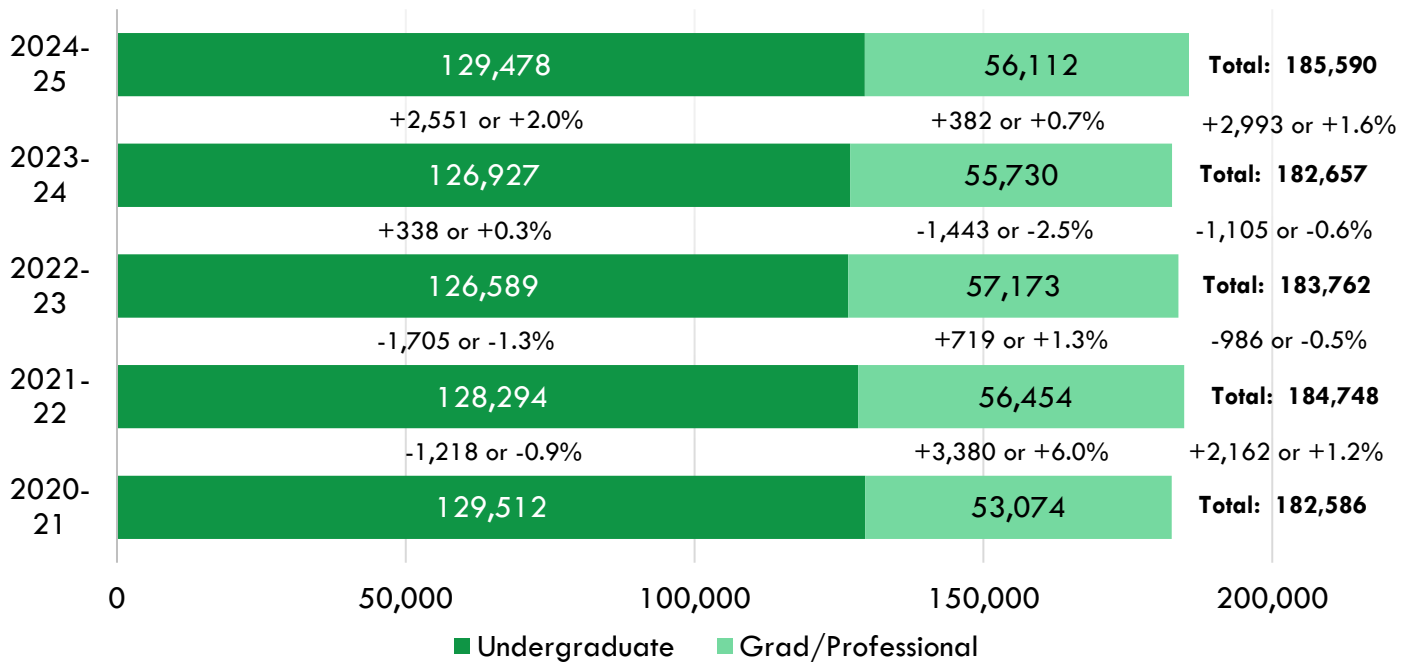
- Fall enrollment at Illinois public universities increased by 1.6% (+2,933 students) from the previous fall to 185,590. This is the first overall enrollment growth since Fall 2021.
- Undergraduate enrollment increased 2% (+2,551 students), continuing last year's growth.
- New full-time transfer student enrollment increased significantly by 5.1%, an increase of 489 students.
- There was a strong year-over-year increase in dual credit enrollment of 9.8% (+287 students).
- Enrollment of African American students increased by 3.5% (+718 students) to 21,054 students. Undergraduate enrollment of African American students increased year-over-year by 2.8% (+444 students). Enrollment of African American freshmen increased by 2.6% (+106 students) and transfer students increased significantly by 14.5% (+142 students).
- Undergraduate enrollment of Latino students increased by 1.4% (+333 students) year-over-year. However, enrollment of Latino freshmen decreased by 2.9% (-151 students). Enrollment of Latino transfer students increased by 6.9% (+121 students).
- The enrollment of new Asian transfer students increased by 9.8% (+67 students) to 749 students, with Asian male transfer students increasing the count by 12.8% or 44 students.
- Enrollment of graduate and professional students increased by 0.7%, adding 382 students and reversing the decrease (-2.5% and -1,443 students) from last year. Enrollment of African American graduate students increased by 6% (+274 students). Enrollment of Latino graduate students also increased by 6.8% (+339 students).
- The one-year retention rate of full-time freshmen increased by 1 percentage point from 80.3% to 81.3% for the fall 2023-24 academic year cohort.
- The retention rate of African American students increased by 2.6 percentage points to 61.8%. However, universities still retain African American students at rates 25 percentage points lower than white students.
- The retention rate of Latino students increased slightly by 0.4 percentage points to 75.7%. However, universities still retain Latino students at rates more than 11 percentage points lower than white students.
- Chicago State University's (CSU) retention rates had the largest increase with 8.1 percentage points to 56.1%.
- Northern Illinois University (NIU) (+5.1%, 69.6%), University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) (+4.9%, 74.8%), and Governors State University (GSU) (+4.1%, 56.7%) had significant increases in their fall-to-fall retention rates.

Overview

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has continued to collaborate 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 185,590 or up 1.6%. As shown in Figure 1, there were almost 3,000 more students in the fall of 2024 compared to the fall of 2023. Illinois public universities continued a year-over-year increase, resulting in 2,551 additional undergraduate students or a 2.0% increase. Graduate and professional enrollment increased by 0.7%, adding 382 students, reversing last year’s decrease of 2.5%.

Figure 1: Illinois Public University Headcount Enrollments from Fall of Academic Year 2020-21 to 2024-25



Undergraduate Enrollment. As shown in Table 1, undergraduate enrollment was up 2% in the fall of academic year 2024-25. The increase represented 2,551 additional undergraduate students relative to academic year 2023-24.

New first-time, full-time undergraduates (generally freshmen) increased by 0.6% or 148 students, with a larger percentage increase of new transfer students (+5.1%). There was a nearly 10% increase in the number of dual credit/dually enrolled students (+287 students). Continuing undergraduates, the largest category of undergraduate students, increased by 1.3%.

Table 1: Undergraduate Enrollment Type for Illinois Public Universities (Headcount)

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	1-Year Change	1-Year % Change
Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment	2,463	2,518	2,641	2,919	3,206	287	9.8%
First-Time, Full-Time Undergrads	22,016	23,708	24,895	25,278	25,426	148	0.6%
New Full-Time Transfers	10,020	9,934	9,478	9,551	10,040	489	5.1%
Continuing Undergraduates	90,368	87,734	85,443	84,974	86,090	1,116	1.3%
New Part-Time Undergraduates	4,645	4,400	4,132	4,205	4,716	511	12.2%
Total	129,512	128,294	126,589	126,927	129,478	2,551	2.0%

Graduate and Professional Enrollment. As shown previously in Figure 1, graduate and professional enrollment at Illinois public universities increased by slightly less than 1% (0.7%), which represents 382 additional students. The increase in graduate and professional levels is an improvement from 2023-24 where there was a decrease in enrollment (-2.5%).

Institutional Highlights and Detailed Enrollment

Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment. In the fall of 2024-25, nine public universities reported dual credit/dual enrollment students. As shown in Table 2, dual credit enrollment was up by 9.8% (+287 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 started a new dual credit program in academic year 2023-24 and experienced an increase of 34 students from 95 in 2023-24 to 129 in 2024-25. The number of students enrolled in dual credit at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) increased from 41 to 50. Illinois State University (ISU) experienced an increase from 7 students to 17, and Western Illinois University (WIU) experienced an increase from 86 students to 115 students. At nearly 81%, EIU still accounts for the largest proportion of dual credit enrollment among Illinois public universities.

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

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	1-Year Change	1-Year % Change
CSU	0	0	62	80	84	4	5.0%
EIU	2,228	2,275	2,325	2,447	2,595	148	6.0%
GSU	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
ISU	16	8	11	7	17	10	142.9%
NEIU	29	12	98	105	169	64	61.0%
NIU	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
SIUC	2	3	5	7	4	-3	-42.9%
SIUE	0	0	0	95	129	34	35.8%
UIC	0	0	16	41	50	9	22.0%
UIS	11	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
UIUC	91	94	71	51	43	-8	-15.7%
WIU	86	126	113	86	115	29	33.7%
Totals	2,463	2,518	2,701	2,919	3,206	287	9.8%

First-Time, Full-Time Undergraduates. Fall 2024 marked the fourth consecutive year of growth and the highest recent number of full-time freshmen at Illinois public universities, representing 25,426 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 Illinois public universities. With over 4,260 freshmen, ISU again experienced growth in 2024-25. Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) continued to grow its freshmen class and experienced an annual increase of 3.7%. Freshmen enrollment at University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (UIUC) increased 8.3%, to over 9,000 students. Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) enrolled 1,710 new freshmen in 2024-25, its fifth consecutive year of growth.

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

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	1-Year Change	1-Year % Change
CSU	144	148	157	155	138	-17	-11.0%
EIU	890	770	858	804	772	-32	-4.0%
GSU	202	189	288	247	257	10	4.0%
ISU	3,324	3,355	3,974	4,133	4,267	134	3.2%
NEIU	352	314	498	514	533	19	3.7%
NIU	1,998	2,147	2,377	2,179	1,979	-200	-9.2%
SIUC	1,322	1,387	1,486	1,580	1,710	130	8.2%
SIUE	1,509	1,936	1,827	1,580	1,534	-46	-2.9%
UIC	3,457	4,024	4,179	4,565	4,360	-205	-4.5%
UIS	292	260	243	254	257	3	1.2%
UIUC	7,474	8,273	7,946	8,316	9,004	688	8.3%
WIU	1,052	905	1,062	951	615	-336	-35.3%
Totals	22,016	23,708	24,895	25,278	25,426	148	0.6%

New Full-Time Transfer Students. New full-time transfer enrollment was up over five percent (+5.1%) from the previous year. Seven of the 12 Illinois public universities experienced year-over-year growth in new transfers. NIU experienced the most growth with an increase of over thirteen percent (+13.6%), followed by NEIU with an increase of 11.6%, SIUE with an increase of 10.4%, and UIUC with an increase of 10.4%. UIC, SIUC, and UIS experienced increases of new transfer students at more modest levels of 6.3%, 5.8% and 5%, respectively.

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

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	1-Year Change	1-Year % Change
CSU	147	121	137	163	160	-3	-1.8%
EIU	460	467	478	401	380	-21	-5.2%
GSU	324	339	322	363	354	-9	-2.5%
ISU	1,514	1,648	1,647	1,659	1605	-54	-3.3%
NEIU	514	461	393	380	424	44	11.6%
NIU	1,225	1,201	1,051	1,090	1238	148	13.6%
SIUC	911	974	873	970	1026	56	5.8%
SIUE	831	738	724	689	761	72	10.4%
UIC	1,960	1,917	1,784	1,668	1773	105	6.3%
UIS	318	277	293	299	314	15	5.0%
UIUC	1,222	1,252	1,264	1,382	1525	143	10.3%
WIU	594	539	512	487	480	-7	-1.4%
Totals	10,020	9,934	9,478	9,551	10,040	489	5.1%

Continuing Undergraduate Students. For the 2024-25 academic year, there were 1,596 additional continuing undergraduate students (+1.9% year-over-year).

Table 5: Continuing Undergraduate Students at Illinois Public Universities (Headcount)

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	1-Year Change	1-Year % Change
CSU	1,131	1,025	903	833	896	63	7.56%
EIU	3,271	3,255	3,170	3,115	2,948	-167	-5.36%
GSU	2,241	2,020	1,794	1,762	1,829	67	3.80%
ISU	12,927	12,490	12,270	12,456	12,991	535	4.30%
NEIU	3,745	3,311	2,873	2,668	2,668	0	0.00%
NIU	8,726	8,057	7,737	7,831	7,896	65	0.83%
SIUC	5,383	5,407	5,370	5,349	5,557	208	3.89%
SIUE	7,194	6,897	6,486	6,324	6,225	-99	-1.57%
UIC	15,842	15,590	15,007	14,898	15,371	473	3.17%
UIS	1,789	1,751	1,667	1,585	1,552	-33	-2.08%
UIUC	24,136	24,232	24,684	24,785	24,977	192	0.77%
WIU	3,983	3,700	3,482	3,368	3,660	292	8.67%
Totals	90,368	87,735	85,443	84,974	86,570	1596	1.88%

Graduate and Undergraduate Enrollment Summary. As shown in Table 6, total enrollment increased by 1.6%, with a 2% increase at the undergraduate level along with 0.7% increase in graduate/professional enrollments. Six of the twelve Illinois public universities experienced undergraduate enrollment growth: GSU (1.5%), ISU (3.6%), NEIU (4.6%), UIC (1.8%) and UIUC (4.4%).

The largest undergraduate enrollment decrease was demonstrated by WIU (-10%). Other institutions demonstrated lesser decreases between 0.3% and 1.4%.

At the graduate level, Illinois enrollment increased by a minimal 0.7%. Four of the twelve public universities experienced growth in graduate/professional enrollment compared to Fall 2023-2024. The largest growth was demonstrated by UIUC with a 5.2% increase. GSU, NEIU, and SIUC experienced growth between 1.3% and 3.1%.

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

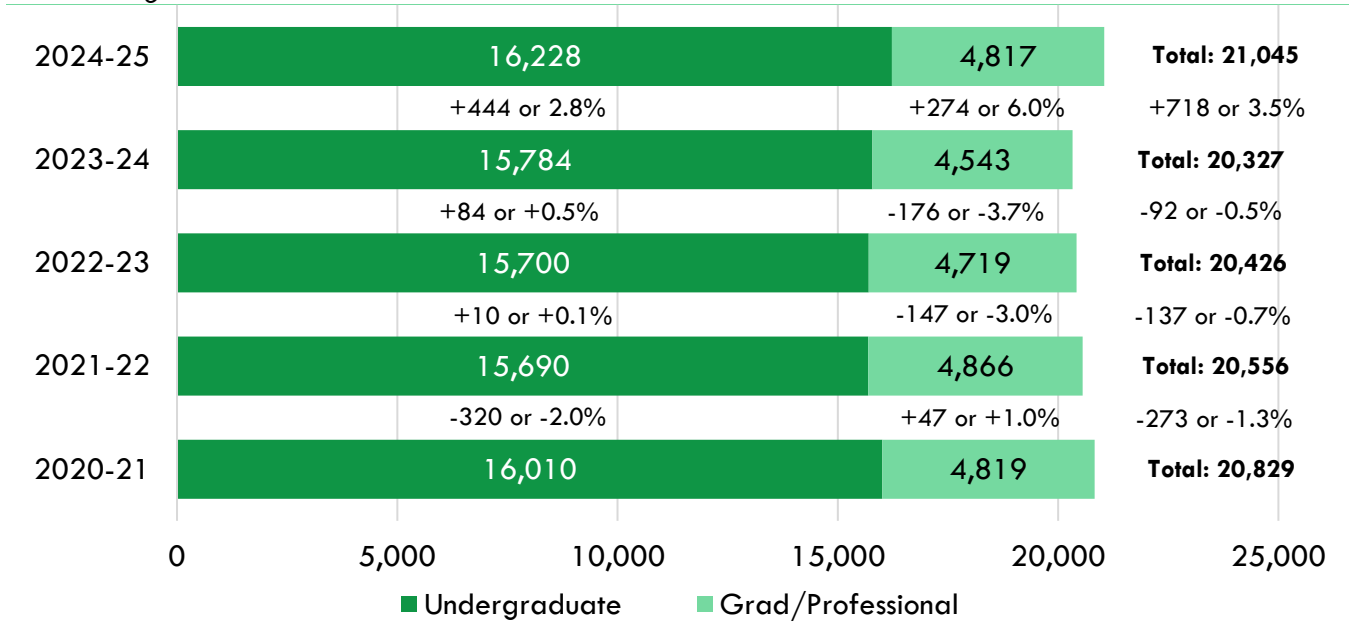
	Fall 2022-23			Fall 2023-24			Fall 2024-25			Year to Year % Change		
	Under-grad	Grad	Total	Under-grad	Grad	Total	Under-grad	Grad	Total	Under-grad	Grad	Total
CSU	1,417	859	2,276	1,484	811	2,295	1,470	733	2,203	-0.9%	-9.6%	-4.0%
EIU	6,916	1,941	8,857	6,849	1,955	8,804	6,785	1,720	8,505	-0.9%	-12.0%	-3.4%
GSU	2,615	1,796	4,411	2,536	1,802	4,338	2,574	1,826	4,400	1.5%	1.3%	1.4%
ISU	18,055	2,628	20,683	18,450	2,539	20,989	19,107	2,439	21,546	3.6%	-3.9%	2.7%
NEIU	4,207	1,549	5,756	4,042	1,462	5,504	4,226	1,508	5,734	4.6%	3.1%	4.2%
NIU	11,429	4,220	15,649	11,358	4,146	15,504	11,349	4,066	15,415	-0.1%	-1.9%	-0.6%
SIUC	8,000	3,107	11,107	8,195	3,164	11,359	8,553	3,237	11,790	4.4%	2.3%	3.8%
SIUE	9,321	3,198	12,519	8,975	3,070	12,045	8,945	2,948	11,893	-0.3%	-4.0%	-1.3%
UIC	21,807	11,940	33,747	22,107	11,415	33,522	22,495	11,411	33,906	1.8%	0.0%	1.1%
UIS	2,393	1,805	4,198	2,342	2,319	4,661	2,309	2,319	4,628	-1.4%	0.0%	-0.7%
UIUC	35,120	21,796	56,916	35,564	20,999	56,563	37,140	22,098	59,238	4.4%	5.2%	4.7%
WIU	5,309	2,334	7,643	5,025	2,048	7,073	4,525	1,807	6,332	-10.0%	-11.8%	-10.5%
Total	126,589	57,173	183,762	126,927	55,730	182,657	129,478	56,112	185,590	2.0%	0.7%	1.6%

Enrollment Patterns by Race/Ethnicity

Enrollment of African American Students. Overall, African American enrollment increased by 3.5% (+718 students) to 21,045 students in 2024-25. Undergraduate enrollment of African American students increased year-over-year by 2.8% (an increase of 444 students). See Figure 2.

Graduate and professional enrollment of African American students increased by 487 (6.0%) to 4,817 students, the first increase since the 2021-2022 academic year.

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



A breakdown of African American enrollments by each of the public universities can be seen in Table 7. Between academic years 2023-24 and 2024-25, ISU experienced the largest undergraduate growth with a 22.2% increase, followed by NEIU (+19.4%), UIS (+8.1%), and SIUC (+7.6%).

There are 4,817 African American graduate students enrolled in 2024-25, a 6% increase. African American graduate data were strengthened by NEIU’s 39.7% increase followed by NIU (+16.1%), SIUC (+15.5%), and SIUE (+13.7%).

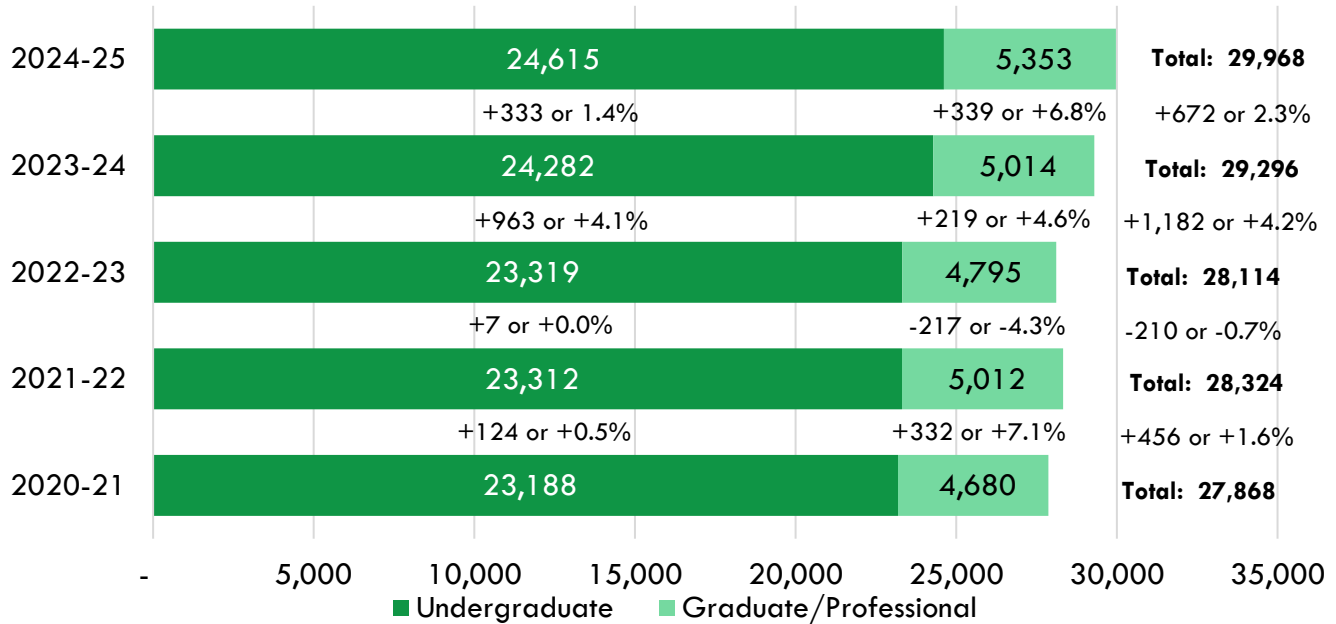
Table 7: African American Enrollments and Year to Year (Headcount)

School	Fall 2022-23			Fall 2023-24			Fall 2024-25			Year to Year % Change		
	Under-grad	Grad	Total	Under-grad	Grad	Total	Under-grad	Grad	Total	Under-grad	Grad	Total
CSU	1,064	501	1,565	1,123	443	1,566	1,067	398	1,465	-5.0%	-10.2%	-6.4%
EIU	1,055	95	1,150	948	96	1,044	880	88	968	-7.2%	-8.3%	-7.3%
GSU	1,038	505	1,543	1,035	513	1,548	1,043	523	1,566	0.8%	1.9%	1.2%
ISU	1,899	191	2,090	2,126	182	2,308	2,598	177	2,775	22.2%	-2.7%	20.2%
NEIU	505	120	625	423	78	501	505	109	614	19.4%	39.7%	22.6%
NIU	2,360	342	2,702	2,410	310	2,720	2,382	360	2,742	-1.2%	16.1%	0.8%
SIUC	1,330	335	1,665	1,373	328	1,701	1,477	379	1,856	7.6%	15.5%	9.1%
SIUE	1,285	280	1,565	1,316	262	1,578	1,357	298	1,655	3.1%	13.7%	4.9%
UIC	1,643	1,107	2,750	1,744	1,092	2,836	1,829	1,160	2,989	4.9%	6.2%	5.4%
UIS	311	187	498	296	259	555	320	281	601	8.1%	8.5%	8.3%
UIUC	2,041	915	2,956	1,955	851	2,806	1,944	904	2,848	-0.6%	6.2%	1.5%
WIU	1,169	141	1,310	1,035	129	1,164	826	140	966	-20.2%	8.5%	-17.0%
Total	15,700	4,719	20,419	15,784	4,543	20,327	16,228	4,817	21,045	2.8%	6.0%	3.5%

Enrollment of Latino Students. As shown in Figure 3, total Latino student enrollment reached a new peak of 29,968, after an increase of 2.3%. Latino undergraduate enrollment was up slightly by 1.4% or 333 additional students, also a new high of 24,615 students.

At the graduate/professional level, enrollment of Latino students increased by 6.8%, (+339 students), reflecting the largest graduate enrollment since at least fall of 2020.

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



As shown in Table 8, in academic year 2024-25, SIUC experienced the largest percentage increase in Latino undergraduates at 10.3% (+82 students), followed by UIS at 8.8% (+22 students), UIUC (+423 students, +8.7%), ISU (+168 students, +6.6%) and NEIU (+121 students, +5.9%).

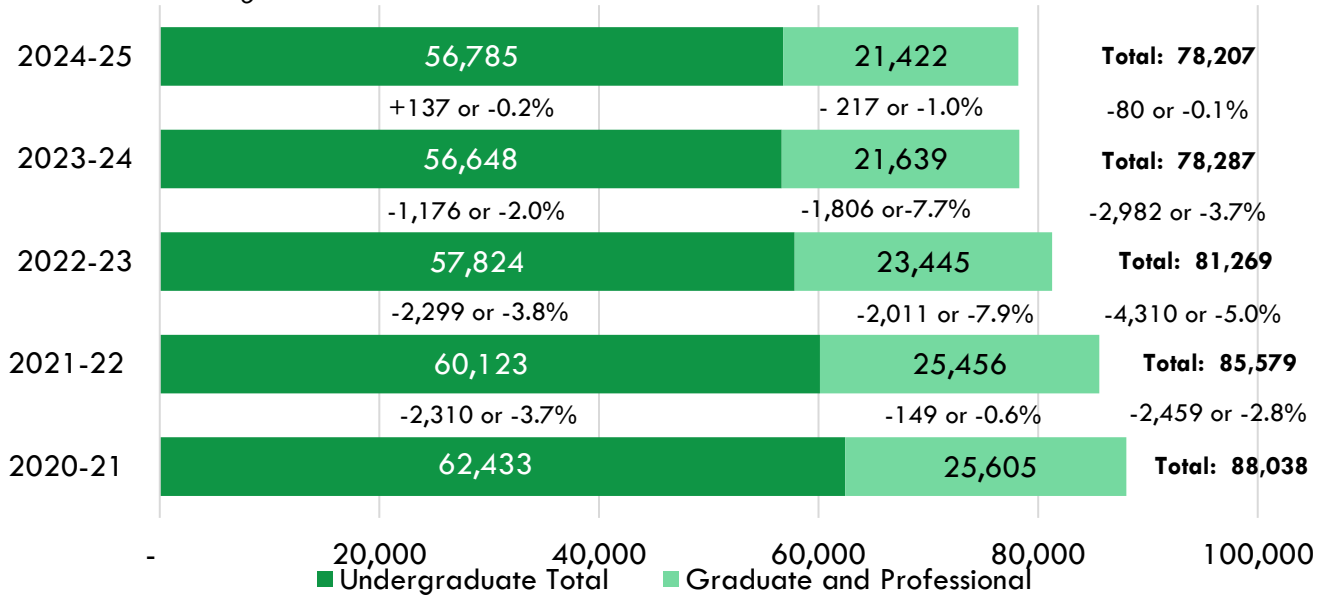
Latino graduate enrollment increased at UIS by 26.9%, WIU by 19.8%, GSU by 14.1%, and UIUC by +11.3%.

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

	Fall 2022-23			Fall 2023-24			Fall 2024-25			Year to Year % Change		
	Under-grad	Grad	Total	Under-grad	Grad	Total	Under-grad	Grad	Total	Under-grad	Grad	Total
CSU	95	26	121	99	29	128	83	24	107	-16.2%	-	-
EIU	1,122	69	1,191	1,174	77	1,251	671	71	742	-42.8%	-7.8%	-
GSU	510	161	671	501	185	686	510	211	721	1.8%	14.1%	5.1%
ISU	2,335	160	2,495	2,553	160	2,713	2,721	174	2,895	6.6%	8.8%	6.7%
NEIU	1,719	408	2,127	2,043	652	2,695	2,164	624	2,788	5.9%	-4.3%	3.5%
NIU	2,715	450	3,165	2,838	468	3,306	2,917	490	3,407	2.8%	4.7%	3.1%
SIUC	744	153	897	794	153	947	876	182	1,058	10.3%	19.0%	11.7%
SIUE	589	133	722	570	128	698	579	126	705	1.6%	-1.6%	1.0%
UIC	7,853	1,620	9,473	7,999	1,592	9,591	8,023	1,679	9,702	0.3%	5.5%	1.2%
UIS	259	87	346	249	104	353	271	132	403	8.8%	26.9%	14.2%
UIUC	4,720	1,418	6,138	4,843	1,360	6,203	5,266	1,513	6,779	8.7%	11.3%	9.3%
WIU	658	110	768	619	106	725	534	127	661	-13.7%	19.8%	-8.8%
Total	23,319	4,795	28,114	24,282	5,014	29,296	24,615	5,353	29,968	1.4%	6.8%	2.3%

Enrollment of White Students. As shown in Figure 4, overall, there was a slight decrease of 80 white students enrolled in academic year 2024-25, representing a loss of -0.1%. Undergraduate enrollment of white students increased by 0.2%, an increase of 137 students, while white graduate enrollment was decreased by 217 students (-1.0%).

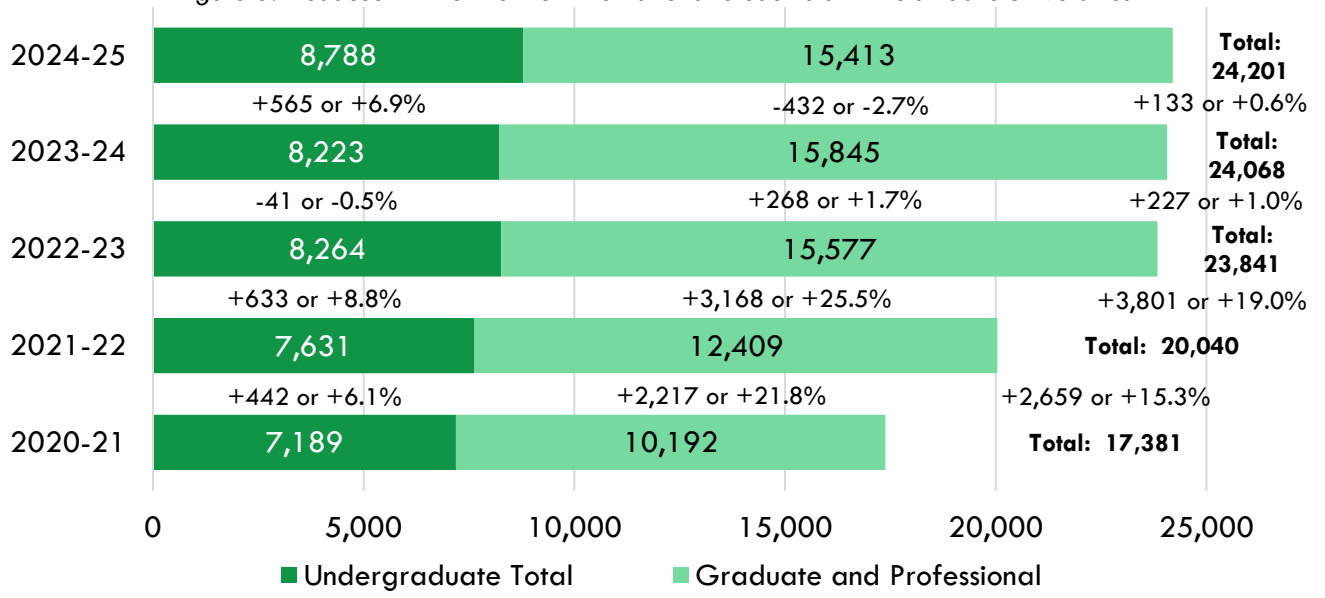
Figure 4: Headcount Enrollment of White Students at Illinois Public Universities



Enrollment of International Students. As shown in Figure 5, overall enrollment of international students increased by 133 to 24,201 students (+0.6%). Undergraduate levels reversed last year's decrease with an increase of 6.9% (565 students).

However, enrollment of international graduate/professional students decreased by 2.7%, or 432 fewer graduate international students in fall of 2024-25.

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



Note: EIU did not collect the race/ethnicity of many of their dual credit students. The numbers will be lower for this report. An update will be added when EIU collects the race/ethnicity of their dual credit students.

Fall to Fall Retention by Race/Ethnicity. As shown in Figure 6, more than eight out of every 10 (81.3%) new freshmen at Illinois public universities who were enrolled in the fall of 2023-24 were still enrolled in the fall semester of 2024-25 (reported as 2024). This rate was close to that of the prior year. When retention rates were disaggregated by race/ethnicity, there were clear gap differences. Institutions retained African American undergraduates (61.8%) at rates more than 25 percentage points below white peers (87.2%), although the gap was 2 percentage points lower than in the previous year. Institutions retained Latino undergraduates (75.7%) at 11 percentage points below white undergraduates. After Asian undergraduates (93.3%), white and international students had the highest rates (87.2% and 85.4%, respectively) of retention among all groups.

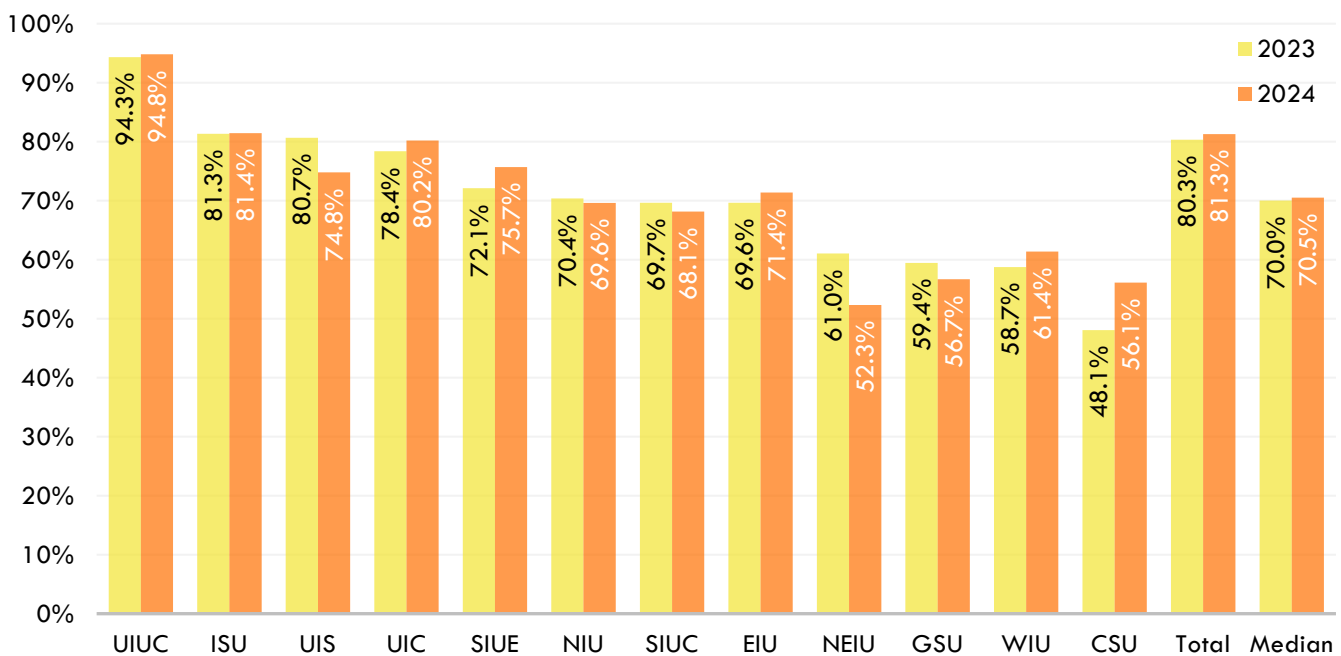
Figure 6: Fall to Fall Retention by Race/Ethnicity at Illinois Public Universities

	2022	2023	2024	Annual Change
All	80.3%	80.3%	81.3%	↑ 1.0%
African American	62.0%	59.2%	61.8%	↑ 2.6%
American Indian, Alaska Native	67.9%	62.5%	78.3%	↑ 15.8%
Asian	92.7%	91.9%	93.3%	↑ 1.4%
Latino	75.7%	75.3%	75.7%	↑ 0.4%
White	83.8%	86.5%	87.2%	↑ 0.7%
2+ Races	79.7%	80.5%	85.2%	↑ 4.7%
International Students	88.0%	85.8%	85.4%	↓ -0.4%
Missing/Not Reported	79.3%	81.1%	80.9%	↓ -0.2%

Note: EIU did not collect the race/ethnicity of many of their dual credit students. The numbers will be lower for this report. A n update will be added when EIU collects the race/ethnicity of their dual credit students.

Fall to Fall Freshmen Retention. As shown in Figure 7, there was variation across the 12 Illinois public universities in retention of new freshmen from fall of academic year 2022-23 to fall of 2024-25 (reported as 2024). UIUC continued to have the highest retention rate at 94.8% followed by ISU at 81.4%. NEIU had the lowest rate at 52.3% followed by CSU, which experienced the largest positive change of 8.1% from the previous year.

Figure 7: Public University Retention, AY 2022-23 to Fall 2024-25



Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity and Sex

African American: African American undergraduate enrollment increased by 2.8% at Illinois public universities, with males experiencing flat enrollment and females driving the overall increase (+3.7%). Enrollment of African American freshmen increased by 2.6% year-over-year, with African American females driving the overall growth (+3.9%) and only slight enrollment growth among males (+0.8%). Enrollment of African American transfer students increased dramatically by 14.5%, with both African American males and females demonstrating large increases of 14.8% and 13.9%, respectively.

Asian: Undergraduate enrollment of Asian students at Illinois public universities increased by 3.5%. Freshmen Asian students saw positive growth, with Asian males driving up the numbers to 3.2%. New transfer students experienced an overall 9.8% surge, with Asian male transfer students (12.8%) boosting the total numbers.

Latino: Enrollment of Latino students increased slightly across all enrollment types for both males and females (1.4%). Unlike the previous year, enrollment of freshmen Latinos decreased by 2.9% in 2024-25. However, enrollment of Latino females and males increased by 7.5% and 6.1%, respectively.

White: Enrollment of white students decreased across nearly across all enrollment types, with a decrease in freshmen enrollment (-2.3%), especially males (-4.9%). Total new transfer white students increased by 1.9%.

International: International students demonstrated strong numbers with an overall undergraduate enrollment of 6.9%. Total freshmen international students increased by 17.5%. Enrollment of international new transfer students increased by 10.9%.

Professional/Graduates: Enrollment of professional students from all racial/ethnic backgrounds except for white and international students increased between 5-10%. Enrollment of African American graduate students increased by 6%. Similarly, enrollment of Latino graduate students increased by a strong 6.8%, as did enrollment of Asian graduate students with a 6.9% increase. Enrollment of white graduate students decreased slightly, but even so, the gap is smaller in 2024-25 (total: -1.0%) than in 2023-24 (-7.7%). Enrollment of international professional students decreased year-over-year 1.7% in the previous year to -2.7% in 2024-25.

Figure 8: Change in Headcount Enrollments at Illinois Public Universities from 2023-24 to 2024-25

