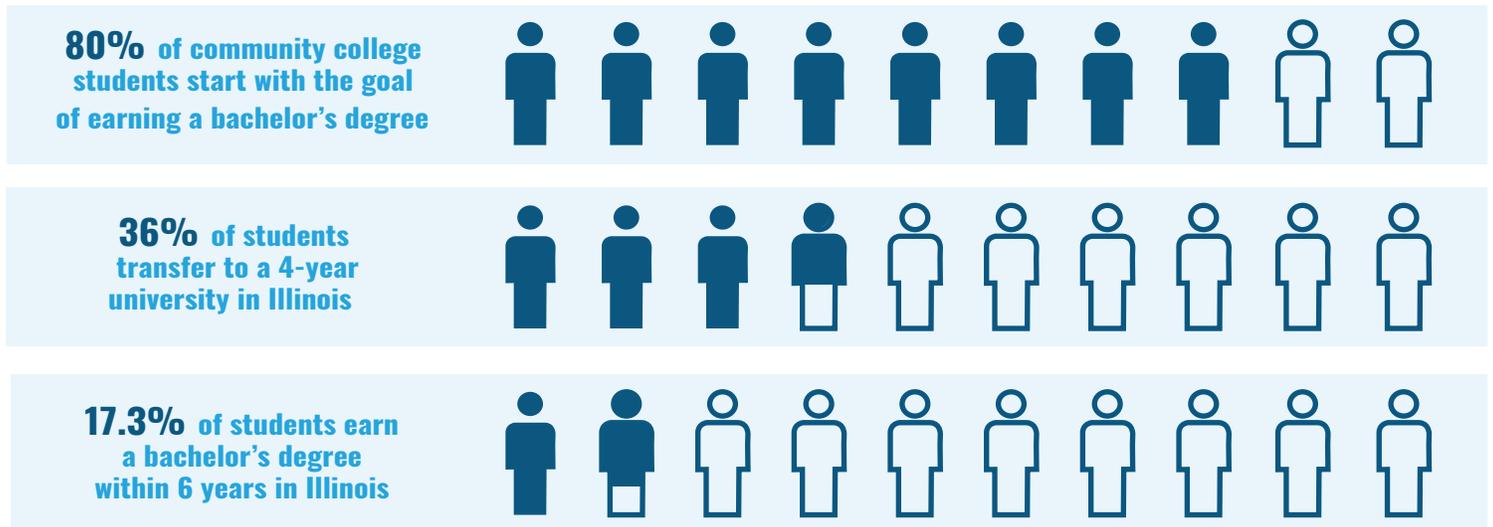


Transfer



Illinois is a leader in bachelor's degree completion among students who begin at a community college and transfer into a bachelor's degree program.¹ However, less than 35% of Illinois' community college students ever transfer to a bachelor's degree-granting institution.² By focusing efforts on increasing transfer-in rates, the state can improve equity in bachelor's degree completion and continue to be a national model for transfer and student success.

Transfer student trajectory



Source: Community College Research Center, "Tracking Transfer," 2016.

Improving student outcomes

Maximize the number of students served

A recent report from the National Student Clearinghouse shows that while 36.9% of community college students transfer institutions, only 5.6% transfer after earning a degree.³ Because Illinois' transfer system was designed to serve students who have completed or are near-completion of an associate degree, the majority of transfer students may be left unserved by current state policy. Policymakers should consider how policies can be improved to serve students who transfer without a degree and incentivize prospective transfer students to earn a transferrable associate degree⁴ prior to transfer.

Leverage the AIM HIGH Grant Program

To improve successful 2 to 4 year transfer-in rates, and increase degree attainment throughout the state, universities should leverage the new AIM HIGH grant program and other sources of institutional aid to target bachelor's degree-seeking community college students. By offering financial aid packages to prospective transfer students that cover the cost of college, students who otherwise could not afford to attend a four-year institution would have a clearer pathway to bachelor's degree completion.

1. United States Department of Education, "Community College Outcomes: 1994-2009," 2011.
2. David Jenkins, "Redesigning College for Student Success: A Clearer Path," College and Career Access, Persistence and Success Presentation, 2017.
3. National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, "Signature Report," 2018.
4. Not all associate degrees are approved for transfer under the Illinois Articulation Agreement. See, <http://itransfer.org/aboutiai/>.