

# Illinois Postsecondary Profiles User Guide

JULY 2024

**Illinois**  
POSTSECONDARY  
PROFILES

WELCOME

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## About Illinois Postsecondary Profiles

Welcome to Illinois Postsecondary Profiles (IPP)! IPP is a website from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), and Northern Illinois University (NIU). The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is an additional partner to the project. IPP is a powerful but accessible and user-friendly website where the public can access the official state data for postsecondary schools.

The IPP is a dynamic resource that provides multiple ways to view numerous types of postsecondary data and resources in one place. Designed with various users in mind and built to be practical and accessible, the IPP enables users to follow their interests, easily locate the data they want, and quickly navigate among different views and visualizations.

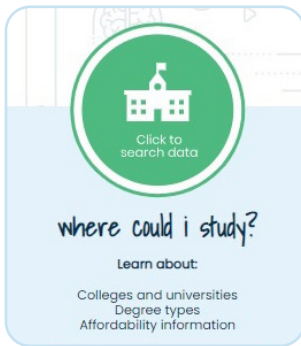


Fig. 1 - IPP Home page

## Why the IPP?

Exploring information about postsecondary education can seem like a simple thing, but the simplest answers aren't always the best ones. IPP lets you examine Illinois postsecondary education in a variety of ways available through no other information portal. It gives you access to data that is more current than any other postsecondary information portal. It provides more data than any other postsecondary information website. It supports exploring the data in ways that are meaningful for you, focusing on the institutions, areas of study, careers, or equity issues that concern you most. It is the perfect place to start your journey as a student, your investigation as a family member, or your research as a professional interested in postsecondary education in Illinois.

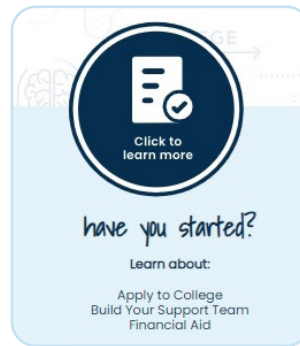
Users can access these resources through different "profile paths," such as Institutional Profiles, Occupational Profiles, and Equity Profiles, each with unique features that allow them to explore the data quickly.



### Institutional Profiles

Provides in depth data and details about specific Illinois Postsecondary Institutions, including enrollment and graduation information, types of institutions, degree types and affordability information.

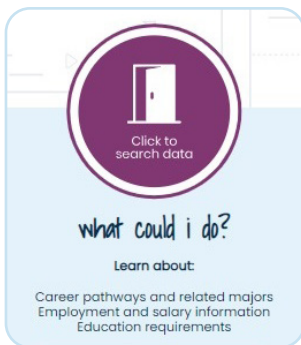
Fig. 2 - Institutional Profile Tile



### Student Resources

Highlights resources and tools needed to pursue postsecondary education, including details on how to apply and access financial aid.

Fig. 5 - Student Resources tile



### Occupational Profiles

Allows users to learn about career pathways and related majors, including employment and salary information and education requirements.

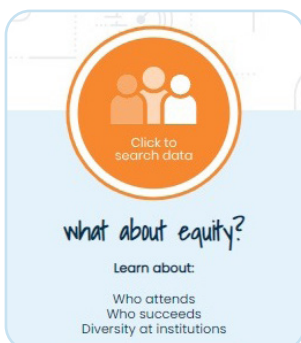
Fig. 3 - Occupational Profile Tile



### State Profile

Offers statewide information for enrollment and completion data at postsecondary institutions.

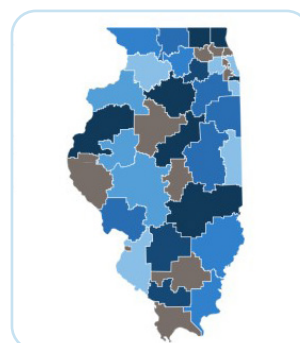
Fig. 6 - State Tile



### Equity Profiles

Allows users to view completion and enrollment data categorized by age group, ethnicity, and gender, facilitating comparisons across different demographic groups.

Fig. 4 - Equity Profile Tile



### Explore by Regions

Allows users to explore and compare community college data with US census data and display those results by community college district boundaries across the state.

Fig. 7 - Map Tile

## Institutional Profiles

Illinois Postsecondary Profiles provides a unique chance to explore aspects of the postsecondary experience in Illinois. The Institutional Profiles on IPP is centered on exploration, providing insights into many institutions offering postsecondary opportunities throughout the state. This includes traditional colleges and universities (public and private, community colleges, and a variety of institutions that offer professional training and certification in a variety of fields. Different data may be presented depending on the type of institution viewed (community colleges vs. 4-year institutions. Those differences are described below in each section of the Institutional Profiles.

### Beginning Your Exploration

The Institutional Profiles is easily identified by its large green icon with the school building. You can begin exploring Institutional Profiles by clicking either the green icon or the **Explore Institutional Profiles** button or clicking on the Institutional Profiles icon within the circle. Within the [Institutional Profiles](#) section of the IPP, numerous ways exist to search for institutions and access information. In the search bar within the green box at the top of the page titled, **Enter school name**, you can:

- Enter the name of a desired institution and access its detailed information.
- Browse the alphabetically sorted list to see all active institutions.

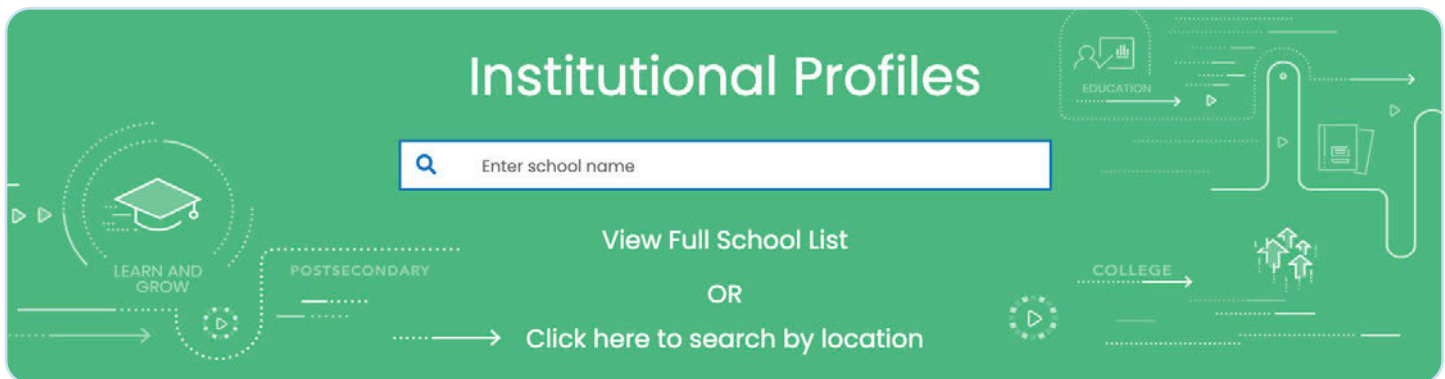


Fig. 8 - Institution banner

The [Click here to search by location](#) link enables you to enter a city, county, or zip code, allowing you to search for institutions based on their proximity to a specified location or entered parameters. Click the **Select Miles** drop-down menu located on the top-right to control how far your search area will extend from the selected location. Click the **Submit** button when you have made your desired selections. Satellite campuses are not listed, so please use the main campus location to examine an institution's data. Click on the name of any of the institutions to examine its profile and other associated information like Enrollment, Completion, Affordability, etc.

Aside from the search options, the landing page lists over 250 postsecondary institutions with profiles within the tool. In addition to displaying the institution's name, location, and a link to view the full profile, the landing page offers quick, at-a-glance information conveyed through icons. These icons represent the institution type, the duration of education offered, general geographical setting, size, and other relevant characteristics. On the left side of the school listing, you can adjust the slider to search by these characteristics and the annual net cost of attendance for a first-time/full-time student.

**Benedictine University**  
Lisle

[View School](#)

- Private Not for Profit
- Four Years
- MAP Included
- Campus Housing
- Religiously Affiliated
- Minority Serving Institution
- Study Abroad
- Suburban
- Large

**Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville**  
Edwardsville

[View School](#)

- Public
- Four Years
- MAP Included
- Campus Housing
- Study Abroad
- Suburban
- Large

Fig. 9 - Search result

## Using Criteria to Search or Refine Your Search

At any point, you can use the list of criteria on the left side of the screen to filter the list of displayed institutions. This can help you structure your search or refine your search results.

Click the box to the left of any filter to select or deselect it. You can activate and deactivate the filters in any combination, and you can use these selections to help adjust the size of your list to suit your preferences.

Filter by type of institutions we wish to see, such as 4 year/ 2 year/ < 2 years, or using **Filter by Area of Study** can be used to list all institutions that offer a degree or certificate with a name.

The **MAP Eligibility** filter allows you to limit your search to institutions that qualify for the distribution of aid to students through the Monetary Award Program (MAP) in Illinois. For more details on MAP, visit the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's website at <https://www.isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/>

Use the **Credential Offered** checkbox to limit your results based on the highest level of degree offered by each institution.

The **Annual Net Cost** filter provides a slider instead of a checkbox. You can adjust the cost range from either end by clicking and dragging the ends of the dark blue slider bar. Your search results will be limited to institutions whose annual net cost falls within your set range. *Note:* Remember that the annual net cost figures are based on nationally reported data, and your personal circumstances could significantly alter the projected costs of your attendance at that institution.

Criteria

Filter by Area of Study

Type in text

School Type

Public

Private for-Profit

Private not-for-Profit

2 year

4 year

< 2 years

Degree Granting

Non-Degree Granting

MAP Eligibility

MAP Eligible

Credential Offered

Associates

Bachelors

Masters

Doctoral

Annual Net Cost for First-Time/Full-Time Students

\$0 - \$50,000

Fig. 10 - Search Criteria

## Things to consider when searching the Institutional Profiles

- Want to search for an institution in a certain location? Use the search by location option to view within a certain number of miles from a city, county, or zip code.
- Want to search for schools that offer a particular area of study? Use the search bar to the left to type in the field of study to populate a list of schools.
- Cannot remember the name of a particular institution? Use the view full list to scroll through all schools alphabetically.
- Want to only see schools you can afford? Use the slider at the bottom of the options on the left to narrow your list of institutions that meet your criteria.

## The Institutional Profiles Page

After selecting a particular school, you will be taken to its Profile Page, which is the primary source of all information for the chosen institution.

At the top of the page is a quick snapshot of selected data points, including total enrollment, retention details, cost of attendance, and total completion data.

Below the snapshot, you will find more detailed information related to enrollment, including fall enrollment categorized by full-time or part-time status and a breakdown by ethnicity.

- The navigation buttons on the left side of the page allow you to explore these snapshot elements in greater detail. For 4 year and <2 years institutions, the fall enrollment count is displayed, where as for 2 year institutions (community colleges), annual enrollment total is displayed on the profile page.

As mentioned previously, different data may be presented depending on what type of institution is being viewed (community colleges vs. 4-year institutions). For example, community colleges include Student Advancement Rate details, whereas 4-year institutions show year-to-year retention. Community Colleges also offer another tab in the left navigation panel – Advancement – which is described in more detail below. Hovering over the **i** button shows the latest year and data source for that data.

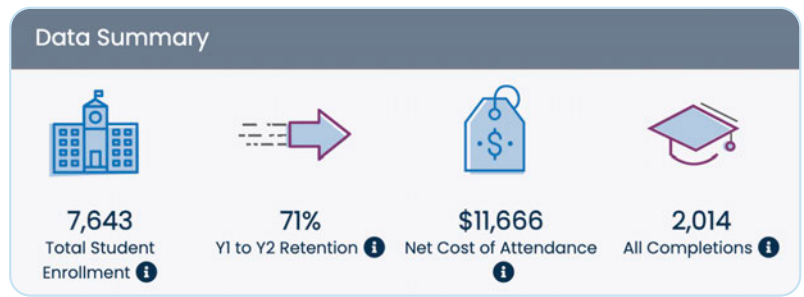


Fig. 11 - data summary

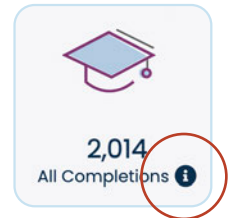


Fig. 11a - Profile Completion detail

The right of the page contains the institution's address, phone number, link to its website, and an interactive map. Below that is a box containing numerous other related quick links, such as the Institution's mission statement, admission and application, and financial aid.

Using the left-hand navigation buttons, users have several options to explore each institution at a deeper level, including:

- **Enrollment** – presents the total of both undergraduate and graduate enrollment based on the fall enrollment counts (as applicable) and overall enrollment counts based on several characteristics over time and within a five-year trend.
- **Affordability** – presents details on tuition and fees, living expenses, financial aid, and other financial resources and uses within the institution for undergraduate and graduate students (as applicable).
- **Areas of Study** – presents the degrees and certificates offered at the institution. The top ten programs by completion count are provided and can be filtered by overall, graduate or undergraduate, and by ethnicity, age, or gender.
- **Progress** – presents the overall retention trend data for full and part-time students representing the rate at which first-time bachelor's degree-seeking students who enrolled in the fall return to the same institution in the fall of the next year.



- **Advancement** - Unique to community college institutions, the Institutional Profile includes an Advancement tab that provides data on the advancement status of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students within a given year. This data can be viewed over time, by age, ethnicity, gender, Pell status, or Remedial status.
- **Completion** - presents the number of degrees or other credentials awarded as a five-year trend and broken down by ethnicity, age, and gender.

Explore each of these unique pages later in this section.

The **Institutional Details** section on the **Profile** page provides information such as **School Type**, **Highest Degree/Credentials Offered**, **Financial Aid**, and additional details for the selected institution.

To better understand the terminology used within the IPP, navigate to the **Glossary** or the **IPP Data Center** within the **Help** section, both accessible within the footer of the page.

Institution Details	
	<a href="#">EXPAND ALL</a>
School Type	+
Highest Degree/Credential Offered	+
Financial Aid	+
Religious Affiliation	+
Campus Setting	+
On-Campus Housing	+
Student to Faculty Ratio	+
Study Abroad	+



Glossary  
About (PDF)  
Help  
Illinois Report Card

Illinois Postsecondary Profiles  
138 E. Locust Street  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
IPP@niu.edu

Sign up today to keep in touch and learn more.

Fig. 13 - IPP Footer

Fig. 12 - Institution details

## View Schools Side-by-Side

In the upper right corner of the screen is a button to **View Schools Side-by-Side**.



After making a selection, click **View List** and it will take you to the side-by-side results below. Click **Back to List** at the top left of the page to add or remove schools and refine your list. You can also remove a school by clicking the **X** to the right of its name.

Click the box to the left of each school's name to select which schools you would like to view side-by-side. You can choose up to nine schools to view side-by-side.

Clicking on the name of any institution in the results will take you directly to that **Institution's Profile Page**.

Clicking anywhere on the label for one of the data categories – like **Annual Enrollment, Affordability**, etc. in the side-by-side display opens the display for all your selected institutions. Clicking on the category header again will close those windows. Clicking on the header for another category will close the first set of displays and open the displays for the new selected category.



Fig. 14 - Compare School Filter

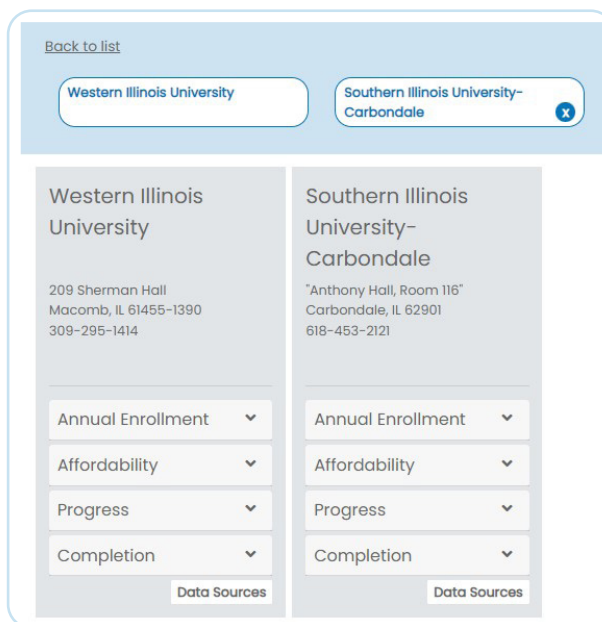


Fig. 15 - Compare school view

## Enrollment

The **Enrollment** tab within the Institutional Profiles presents the total of both undergraduate and graduate enrollment (overall as applicable for the fall enrollment counts (as applicable and annual enrollment counts based on several characteristics over time and within a five-year trend. You can view snapshot or trend data by degree type, age, gender, or ethnicity, providing yet another vehicle to explore equity within post-secondary institutions in Illinois. *Fall Enrollment* differs from *Annual Enrollment* in that annual enrollment includes any new students who enrolled in the winter or spring terms (as applicable, while fall enrollment only counts those students who were enrolled at the federal reporting deadline for enrollment in the fall semester. For 2-year community colleges, this data can be filtered by various types of institutional characteristics. For community colleges, you can also view Enrollment trends for Instructional Categories, such as Career and Technical Ed., ABE/ ASE/ESL, etc. Note: The annual enrollment count is not available for 4-year and < 2-year institutions.

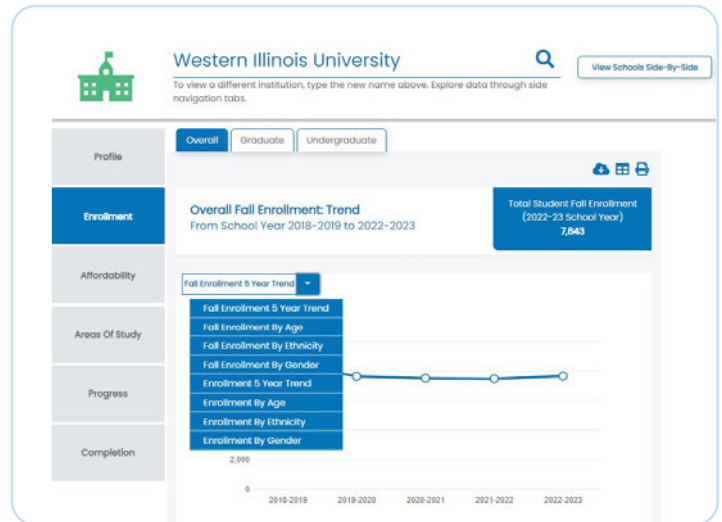


Fig. 16 - Enrollment chart dropdown

## Affordability

The **Affordability** tab within the Institutional Profiles presents undergraduate and graduate (as applicable) details on tuition and fees, net cost of attendance, living expenses, financial aid, and other financial resources and uses within the institution. Users can see the many types of financial aid available to students in this section. As interested users consider the cost associated with post-secondary education, the **Net Cost of Attendance** tab within this section provides the total cost of attendance reduced by the average amount of financial aid available. Note: The **Net Cost of Attendance** is not available for community colleges. As illustrated in the example screenshot, there are several tabs for users to navigate and view details related to affordability.



Fig. 17 - Affordability Chart

## Areas of Study

The **Areas Of Study** section presents the number of students who completed a degree or certificate at that institution. The top 10 programs by completion count are also provided and can be filtered by **Overall** students, **Graduate** or **Undergraduate**, which can be further filtered by ethnicity, age, or gender. So, when thinking about equity and options for various student characteristics, users can view the top areas of study based on those characteristics. Users can click to access the detailed information for that area of study and jump into the Occupational Profiles path. More details about **Occupational Profiles** will be provided later in this User Guide. The number of students who have graduated from that institution from that area of interest is also visible to the users.

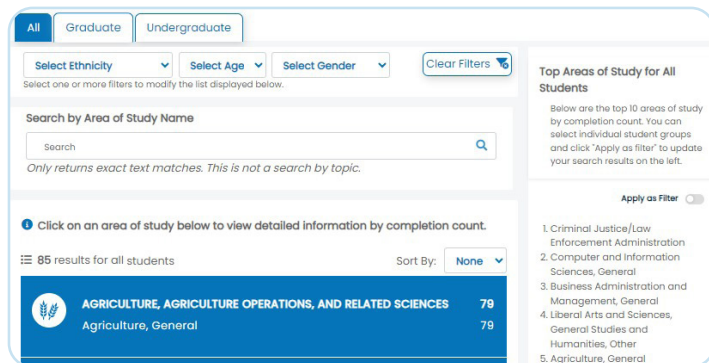


Fig. 18 - Area of study

## Progress

The **Progress** section within the Institutional Profiles presents the overall retention trend data for each type of institution. For four-year and technical institutions, fall-to-fall retention and graduation rates are provided. For community colleges, in addition to retention data, credit accumulation data, which represents the rate at which first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students collect academic credit, is also provided.

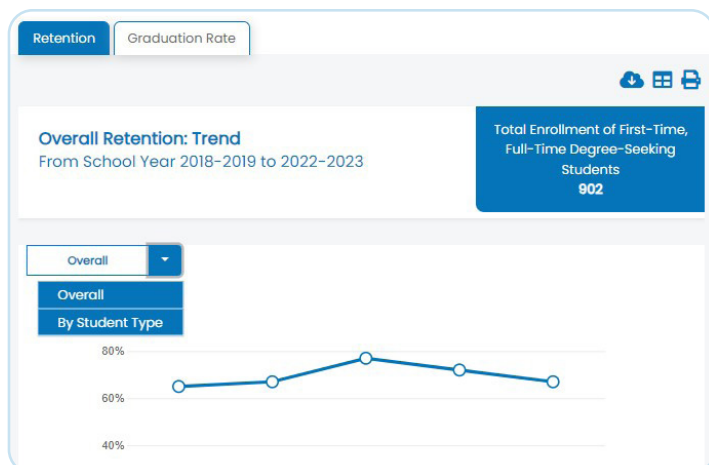


Fig. 19 - Progress chart with menu dropdown

## Advancement

Unique to community college institutions, the Institutional Profiles includes an **Advancement** tab that provides data on the advancement status of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students within a given year. This data can be viewed over time, by age, ethnicity, gender, Pell status, or Remedial status. Remedial data is only available for 2-year community colleges.

## Completion

Lastly, the **Completion** tab within the Institutional Profiles presents the number of degrees or other credentials awarded as a **five-year trend** or can be broken down by **ethnicity, age, and gender**. The data can be viewed by degree level, which varies depending on the type of institution (4-year, community college, technical) being viewed. This data viewed by demographic groups allows users to understand the success of students whom they identify with.



Fig. 20 - Advancement chart with Menu dropdown

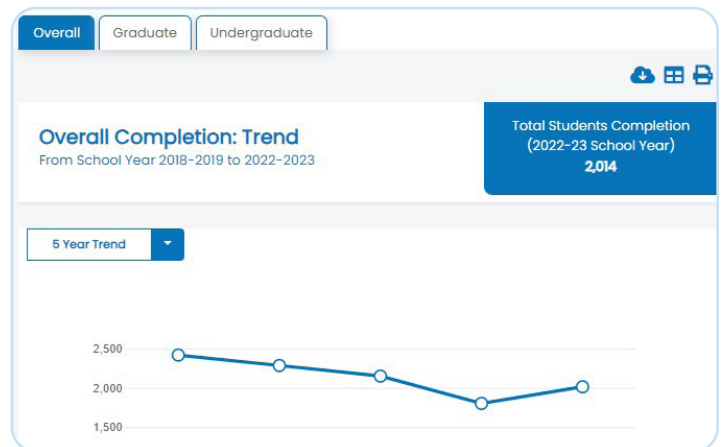


Fig. 21 - Completion trend chart with menu dropdown

## Occupational Profiles

There are two options for exploring Illinois data for occupations and degrees or certificates.

[Explore by Career Pathway](#) lists every career IPP has data for by the seven major pathways.

[Explore by Area of Interest or Keyword](#) lists all the degrees or certificates by 41 program categories, and you can search for both Degree/Certificate and Occupation by name.



Fig. 22 - Occupational Profile page

### Explore By Career Pathway

The [Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act](#) includes a process for school districts to award College and Career Pathway Endorsements to high school graduates. Students earn endorsements by completing an individualized learning plan, a career-focused instructional sequence, and professional learning opportunities. Each Career Pathway lists all the connected occupations, and you can choose to view federal and Illinois job information by clicking on the occupation title.

### Explore by Area of Interest or Keyword

If a user is uncertain about a specific pathway they wish to explore, they can utilize the search option by entering an area of interest or keyword. This populates a list of industry categories and related degrees or certificates. If searching for areas of study, within the default view of Degree and Certificates, those degrees and certificates are tagged with helpful information to quickly guide the user, including the number of institutions offering that degree or certificate, the number of students that complete that area of study, and the 3-year completion trend. The 3-year completion trend captures the trend in completions for this area of study over the past 3 years – are more people focusing on this area, fewer, or roughly the same?

Users are taken to the **Occupational Profile** for that area by clicking on any of the degrees or certifications. The arrow on the 3-year completion trend suggests if the numbers are increasing or decreasing for that area of interest for past 3 years. The view can be changed to explore Areas of Interest based on Occupation using the criteria options on the left side of the page. In this option, users again see quick details about each occupation, including typical salary details, number of job openings, and counts.

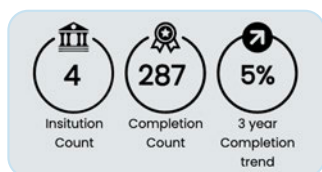


Fig. 23 - Close up of additional degree and certificate data

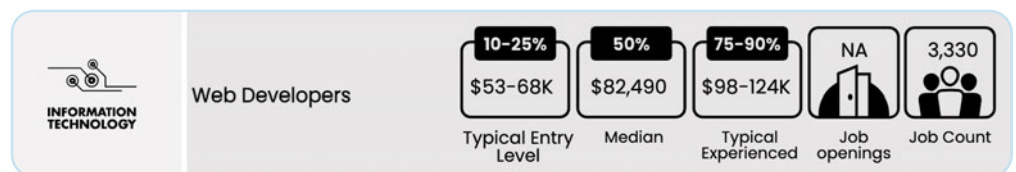


Fig. 24 - Close up of occupation context data

## Degrees and Certificates Profile

Like the **Institutional Profile** pages, there is detailed information, either in the snapshot view on the landing page or within each subtab, about enrollment and completion for this Area of Study. The enrollment data is a composite of different data sources. There are some quick icons that allow users to see the number of institutions offering that degree, the completion count, the 3-year completion trend, and other data points, if applicable.

A pie chart provides the total enrollment statewide by ethnicity. Below is a list of all the related Occupations, which provides detailed state and federal information about that job. On the bottom right, users can further explore which institutions offer these degrees and certificates on a state map and an alphabetical list split into 2-year or 4-year institutions. Clicking on these institutions will take users to the **Institutional Profiles** pages.

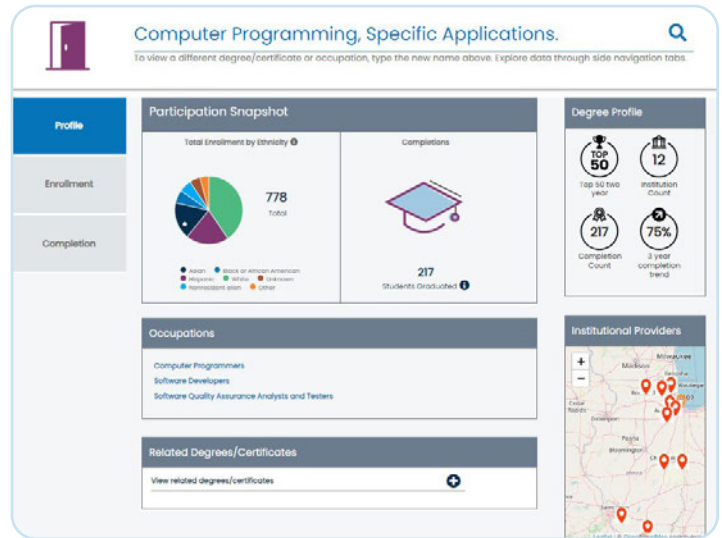


Fig. 25 - Program profile page

## Occupational Profiles

The profile page for a searched occupation offers an overview of employment details, enabling users to assess the career and financial prospects associated with a specific job. Typical employment data like salary, job openings and training is provided at the state and national level. Quick icons are available to easily see the potential salary for the occupation as well as the number of job openings and the number of individuals within the field.

A chart breaks down the typical education level for individuals employed in this occupation, and you can explore related degrees and certificates typical for those in this industry. The carousel containing information about related degrees or certificates can be explored and clicked on. Selecting a tile from the carousel will redirect the user to the specific program's profile page.

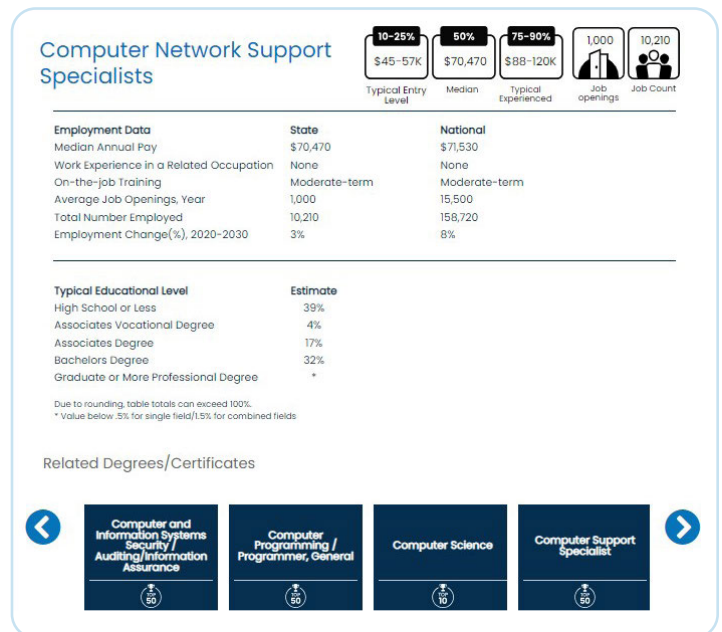


Fig. 26 - Occupation profile page

## Equity Profiles

The unique characteristics of the student body are an important consideration for many when exploring post-secondary institutions. The [Equity Profiles](#) within IPP allow users to analyze enrollment and completion data for various ethnicities, ages, and genders. Users can select a combination of characteristics within the landing page to view more detailed data. Within this section, users can add a comparison group and view the data of different demographic areas side-by-side.

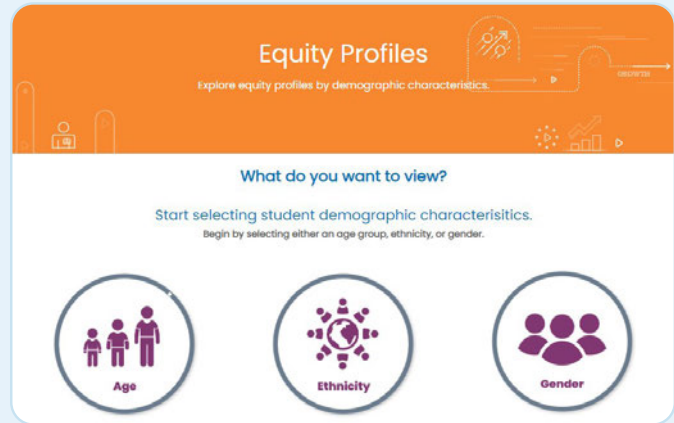


Fig. 27 - Equity Profile page

Once selected, users enter a new page that provides several data points, including the number of degrees and certificates awarded to that configuration of characteristics. In addition, data regarding the percentage of all completions and whether that was an increase or decrease over the past three years is provided. Lastly, that data is compared with the state over the same period.



Fig. 28 - Equity profile with summary data



## Things to consider when searching the Equity Profiles

- Want to explore the enrollment and completion rates for students with a particular demographic? Access the Equity Profile to view a combination of data points and experiences.
- Want to know what individuals' study most depending on their characteristics? View the specific profile to see the top institutions, and top areas of study both at the 2- and 4-year institutions.
- Want to compare completion between diverse groups of students with particular characteristics? Use the compare feature within the Equity Profile.

From here, you can view the profile of that demographic group. On this page are links to the leading area of study and related occupations for this group. This allows users to understand better the paths and options for students with similar characteristics. There is also a list of institutions with the highest completion counts for this group. This data is helpful in determining which institutions traditionally support completion for a particular group of students (community colleges listed in orange and universities listed in blue) again, thinking about the success of students with a variety of characteristics, data related to enrollment and completion.

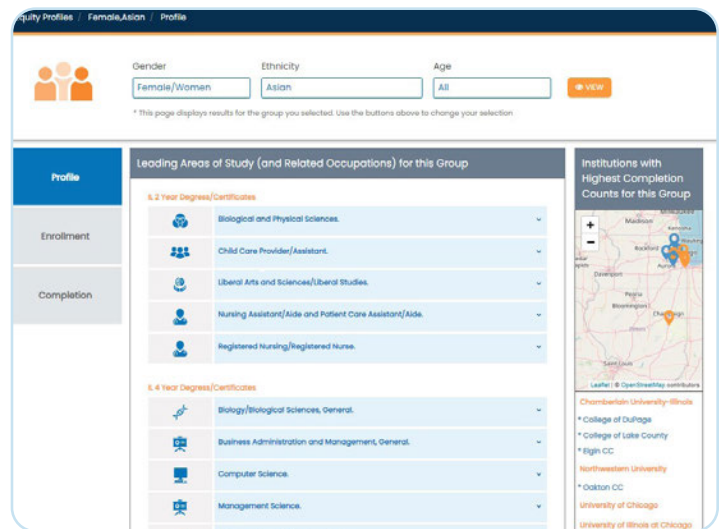


Fig. 29 - Equity Profile page with detailed data

## Enrollment & Completions

You can view data about the number of total enrollments in the state broken down by ethnicity, age, or gender based on the selection and their enrollment or completion at 2- or 4-year institutions. Within the **enrollment** or **completion** subtabs, there is data reflecting enrollment or completion totals at each institution in the state that enrolls students in the selected demographic group. Alternatively, similar data is available by **Area of Interest**.

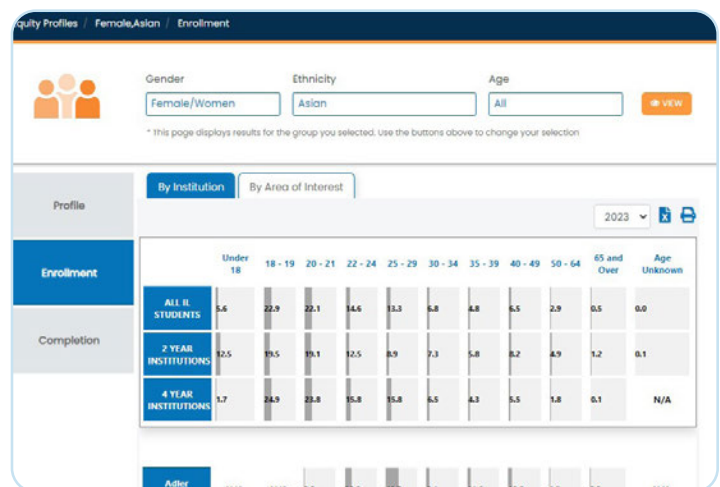


Fig. 30 - Equity Enrollment chart data

## Student Resources

Within [this section](#), users can find helpful advice and links to resources that will help them make progress on the postsecondary journey. The resources fall into four buckets that do not necessarily have to be taken in any order, but all are critical to a successful postsecondary journey! Assistance in exploring post-secondary options can be found in several areas, such as high school counselors and regional ISAC Corp members who can provide free one-on-one assistance. When the time arrives to apply for college, there are resources in this section about the general applications for community colleges and 4-year institutions. Resources for financial aid are critical to long-term success, and the FAFSA is the first step to most federal, state, and some institutional financial aid. This section includes additional details on different state grants, scholarships, and other financial aid programs. Find links to all these resources and more within the Access Profiles part of the IPP.

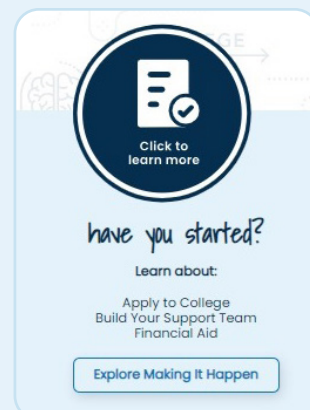


Fig. 31 - Student Resources Tile

## State Profile

The [State Profile](#) allows users to view extensive details about Illinois Postsecondary Institutions, including enrollment and completion at the statewide level. This section highlights enrollment by ethnicity. You can see the distribution of students depending on type—full-time or part-time. Statewide details include the number of public and private schools, whether on-campus housing is provided, and the student-to-faculty ratio.



Fig. 32 - State Profile page

## Enrollment & Completions

Within the enrollment and completion sections, users can explore various institutions by type (public, private, 4-year, 2-year, etc.) and graduate and undergraduate (if applicable) enrollment and completions at the statewide level. Within each of these subtabs, users can view 5-year trend data or data based on age, gender, or ethnicity (as applicable).

## Regional Data

The [choropleth](#) allows users to view community college characteristics, including completions, enrollment, and population by gender, age, or ethnicity across a map of the State of Illinois. Currently, the default regions are Illinois community college service regions. Users can select to view data by completion, enrollment, or population and then further by age, gender, and ethnicity. There is also the ability to view comparison maps via the side-by-side option. Once the options are selected, the map populates with the selected data, and users can hover over a region to see the specific data requested.

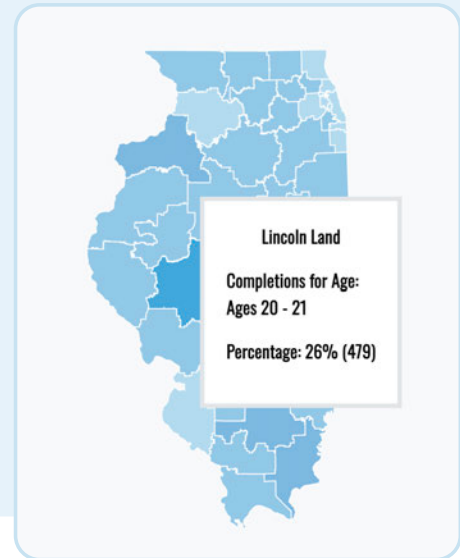


Fig. 33 - Regional data featuring completion data



Fig. 34 - IPP Logo

The Illinois Postsecondary Profiles provides an interactive, user-centered resource for learning about postsecondary institutions and participation in Illinois. New features are added regularly. Please use the **Contact Us** button on the IPP homepage to submit your questions, comments, and other feedback.