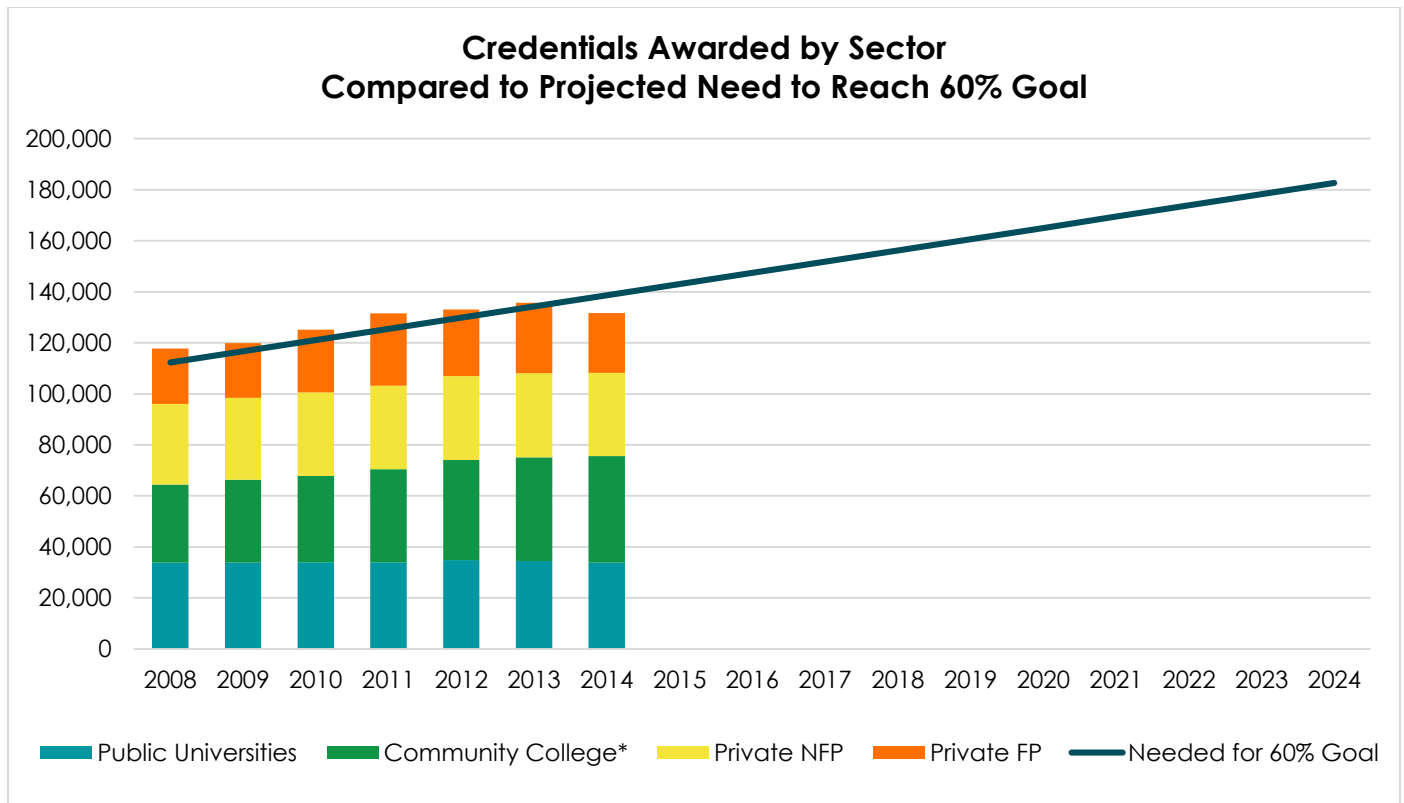


## Credentials Awarded by Sector Compared to Projected Need to Reach 60% Goal

Illinois is tracking the number of credentials awarded, as reported to IPEDS<sup>1</sup>, each year to measure progress towards reaching the goal of having 60% of the adult population holding a credential of value by the year 2025. The columns represent the number of credentials<sup>2</sup> awarded to students with each colored segment representing one of the postsecondary sectors while the line is the number needed to reach the goal.

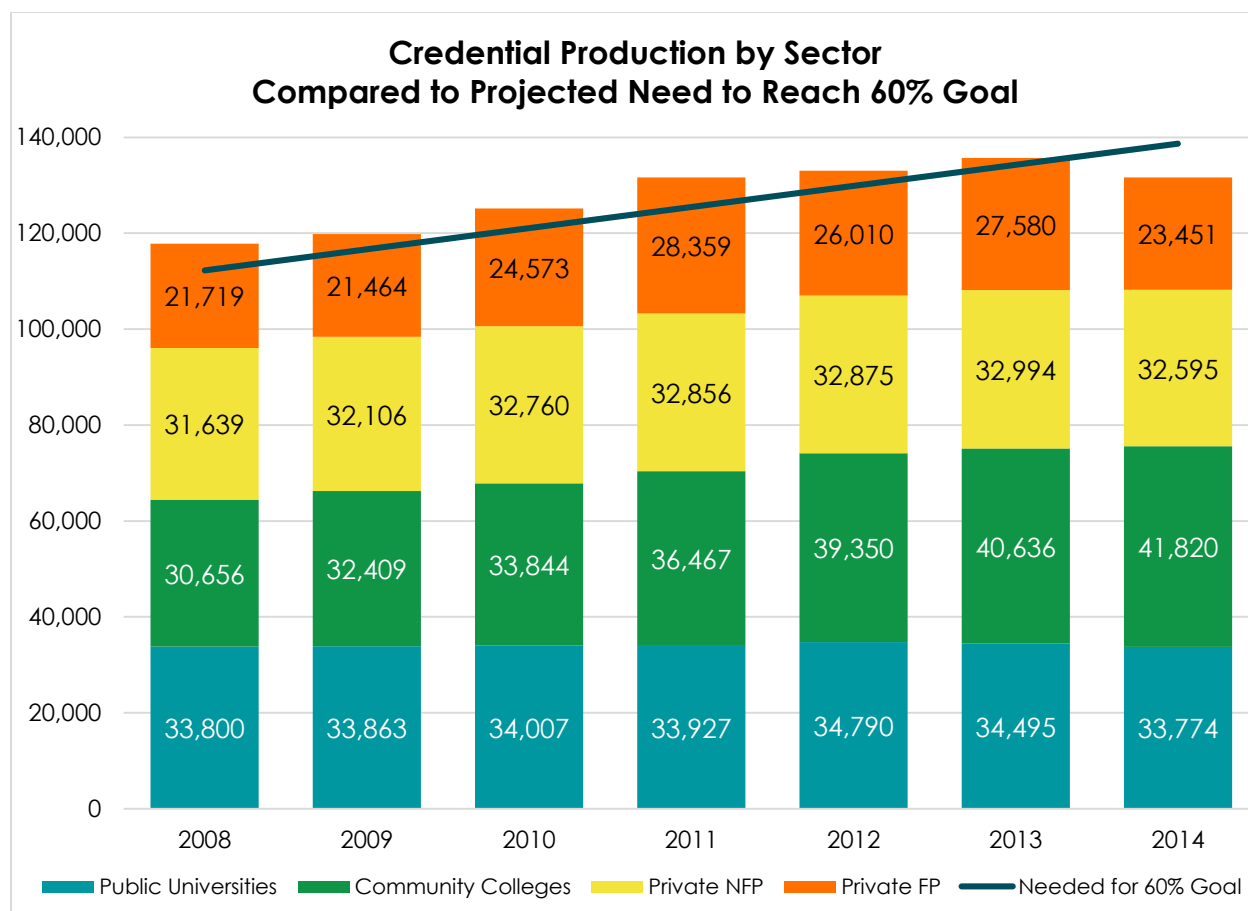
- The data represent all Illinois institutions that reported data to IPEDS, regardless of whether IBHE oversees their operations.
- Changes in the private sector data, especially in the for-profit sector, are due to both changes in the number of institutions or changes in their operating structure as well as changes in the actual number of awards (For example, some open and close each year while others “move” online students from Illinois to other states.)



<sup>1</sup>. IPEDS is the acronym for the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System operated by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. All institutions participating in federal financial aid programs are required to submit data to IPEDS annually and some others do voluntarily.

<sup>2</sup>. Credentials include awards of certificates of at least one-year in length up to and including bachelor's degrees. The counts represent the number of awards, not the number of students. A student that received two or more awards (a certificate and a degree, an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree, etc.) will be counted more than once. Students residing in other states and completing online programs are also included.

\* Community College totals include data (less than 200 awards) from two public certificate-only granting institutions.



In viewing just the time period with actual production data, we can more closely examine each sector's activity from year to year.

- Degree production at the Public Universities remained fairly stable over the course of these seven years at around 34,000 per year.
- The Community College sector is the only sector to experience growth in award production each year, with particularly large year over year increases in 2011 and 2012; but, that annual growth has slowed in the last two years.
- The Private NFP sector experienced slight annual gains in award production from 2008 through 2013, along with a small decline in 2014.
- Private FP institutions showed some notable increases in 2010 and 2011 and their degree production peaked in 2013. Schools within this sector contracted quite a bit in 2014 relative to 2013 (around 15%). This can be attributed to both the recent closure of some schools within the sector and reduced award production at others.

In summary, the Community College sector is the only sector to demonstrate yearly growth in awards produced but even that growth is now slowing. Meanwhile, activity in the Private FP sector has decreased while degree production at Public Universities and Private NFP institutions is somewhat flat. Reaching the 60% goal will require greater effort in all four sectors as the “needed” line continues its upward trajectory every year. However, at the present time, we are unable to track individuals who enter Illinois already holding a credential and those numbers would help us in raising the bar to meet the “needed” line. That is why it is useful to use both degree production within the state as well as the educational attainment data from the U.S. Census to measure such progress.