

Monetary Award Program (MAP) Program Evaluation

Illinois Student Assistance Commission



MAP Helps Illinois Students

Illinois' Monetary Award program (MAP) is intended to help financially needy students obtain the postsecondary education of their choice. When the program was created it was noted that many qualified students were deterred from enrolling in college because of financial considerations, with a consequent irreparable loss to the State of talents vital to welfare and security. Providing financial grants to these students was designed to ease economic barriers to postsecondary education. MAP has been in existence in its current form since 1967 and continuously provided grants to undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need who are attending an Illinois college or university. Illinois is one of the largest providers of state-funded, need-based grant aid in the country, primarily through MAP. In FY2012, nearly 160,000 undergraduate students received more than \$411 million in MAP grants.

MAP is Important

MAP provides grant aid, which is money for college that a student does not have to repay. MAP helps students meet the expense of college while limiting excessive debt and is especially important to low-income students who may be afraid of borrowing large sums of money to pay for school. Public Act 90-488 requires that MAP be evaluated every two years and the findings be reported to the General Assembly.

MAP was also the subject of task force created by Senate Joint Resolution 69 (5/31/12). The Task Force was charged with examining whether MAP provides the best possible outcomes for students. The findings and recommendations of the MAP Task Force are available at:

<http://www.isac.org/about-isac/monetary-award-program-MAP-task-force/index.html>

Academic Year 2011-12 Award Information

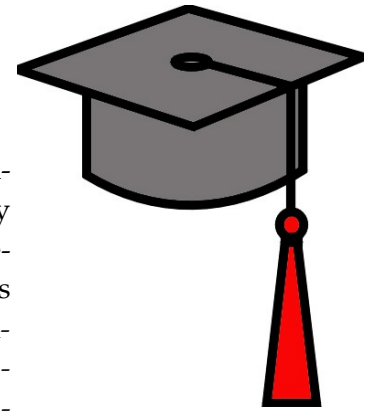
<u>Institution Type</u>	<u>Recipients</u>	<u>Payout</u>
Public 4-Year	47,588	\$165,081,221
Public 2-Year	59,771	\$56,837,820
Private Not-For-Profit	41,596	\$162,600,490
Hospital	975	\$3,355,804
Proprietary	8,419	\$23,729,227
Dependent recipients		92,503
Independent recipients		65,847
Freshmen		47%
Sophomores		23%
Upperclassmen		30%
Percent of recipients with no resources to pay for college		58%
Mean taxable income of recipients		\$23,487

ISAC MAP database, FY12 payout

MAP Students Hope to Graduate and Get a Degree Like Other Students

Based on survey data, most MAP recipients, including about 70 percent of dependent students enrolled at public universities and four-year private colleges, expect to graduate with a degree. Only a very small percentage of dependent MAP recipients intend to get a vocational certificate. Students with independent status have greater variation in their education goals than do dependent students. Survey data suggest about 60 percent are pursuing a bachelor's degree, either by attending a four-year institution or by planning to transfer to a four-year school from their community college, 30 percent intend to earn an associate degree, and 10 percent are enrolled in a certificate or vocational program. Survey data also indicate full-time, second generation students are more likely to have a four-year degree as their goal – 66 percent intend to go beyond an associate degree- than are part-time first generation (46 percent) or full-time first generation (55 percent) or part-time second generation students (55 percent).

The 2012 American Freshman survey conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute indicates almost 85 percent of incoming first-year students believe that they will graduate from college in four years. That Illinois survey data on MAP recipients, who are low-income and can be uncertain about their ability to meet the cost of college, suggest they are slightly less likely than incoming freshmen as a whole to be aiming for a four-year degree, is not surprising. Financial aid like MAP can help these students feel they will be able to stay on a completion plan and meet their educational costs and can help working students move from part-time enrollment to full-time enrollment. The financial assistance provided by MAP has the potential to directly affect student goals and aspirations.



Many MAP Students Choose to Major in STEM Fields

Four out of five MAP recipients have selected a major according to survey data. At least 30 percent of dependent students plan to major in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math) field. Students from lower income families are more likely to be in applied science majors and less likely to be in traditional Arts and Humanities majors than students with higher incomes. Dependent students with college-experienced parents were most likely to have decided on a major, whether they were attending full-time (88 percent) or part-time (81 percent). For independent students, who may be supporting families and already in the workforce, survey data indicate the most common areas of study are nursing or another health-related occupation (37 percent), followed by social work/education (22 percent), and business/computers (20 percent),

Chosen Field of Study of MAP Recipients

Dependent Students From Families

With Incomes Less Than \$60,000

Applied Sciences (26%)
Math, Science & English (20%)
English, History, Arts (17%)
Business (16%)
Education (13%)
Social Science (inc. Soc Work) (8%)

Independent Students

Nursing/Health (37%)
Social Work, Education (22%)
Business/Computers (20%)
Applied Job Specific (9%)
Art, Humanities (7%)
Science, Engineering (5%)

MAP Recipients Complete their Education at the Same Rate as Other Students

National studies have shown many common situations faced by low-income students; such as having to work full-time, supporting other family members, and academic preparation under less rigorous conditions; can be considered “risk factors.” Students with multiple risk factors are less likely to meet their educational goals and leave college with a degree or other credential. MAP recipients often have several risk factors. MAP grants can help put these lower-income, at-risk students on a more equal footing as compared to students from more affluent families, helping them overcome the financial barriers they face and stay in school.

Data show that first-time, full-time, dependent freshmen MAP recipients at public universities complete a degree at rates equal to the student population as a whole. Given the barriers low-income students face, merely “keeping pace” with students in general with regard to graduation and completion is an outstanding outcome. Completion rates for MAP recipients at private, not-for-profit institutions ranged from 56 to 60

MAP Recipients' Average Time to Degree Consistent With National Figures

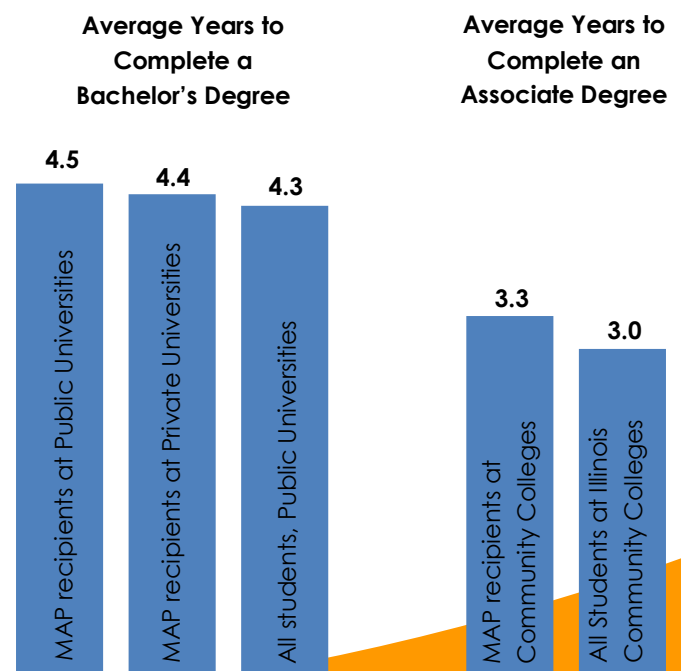
Completing a degree on schedule and in the recommended amount of time helps keep students on track and reduce their overall educational costs. National Student Clearinghouse data indicate MAP recipients who completed a degree within six years took an average of 4.5 years at public universities and 4.4 years at private four-year institutions to complete their degree. This is consistent with national time to degree figures from the Baccalaureate and Beyond study by the National Center for Education Statistics which suggest the mean time to a bachelor’s degree at public university is 4.3 years. First-time freshman MAP recipients beginning in 2006-2007 took an average of 3.3 years to complete a 2-year degree, compared to 3.0 years for all Illinois associate seeking students who received degrees in 2007-08.

Percent of Students at Public Universities Who Completed a Degree Within Six Years

<u>Cohort</u>	<u>Dependent MAP recipients</u>	<u>All Students</u>
2004-2009	59.6	59.8
2005-2010	62.5	62.5
2006-2011	62.6	62.4
2007-2012	62.4	NA

MAP graduation rate data from ISAC files compared to National Student Clearinghouse data. “All students” graduation rates from Integrated Postsecondary Education System (IPEDS) figures from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

percent for the 2004 to 2007 cohorts. For the 2004 to 2007 cohorts, between 17 and 22 percent of MAP recipients, regardless of dependency status completed a certificate or associate degree within 3 years. Although “150 percent of time” (6 years for a 4-year degree, 3 years for a 2-year degree) is the most common measure of completion success, it is worth noting that at public universities, 10-year graduation rates for MAP recipients as a whole exceed 70 percent.



**More
information?**

ISAC can create tables, charts, or other information products for the programs it administers, or for higher education issues in general.

- Grants by school
- Awards by income level
- Awards by race/ethnicity
- Enrollments
- College costs

If there is something you would like to see, please ask!

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MAP Recipients Do As Well As Other Students

MAP recipients do as well as other students when judged by generally accepted measures of academic success including grade point average (GPA), satisfactory academic progress (SAP), and credit hours earned. Survey data suggest GPA's for MAP recipients increase as students persist across their academic career and that MAP recipients GPA's are comparable to GPA's of students from higher income families. MAP recipients continue to be held to the standards of the Federal SAP. Meeting SAP requirements means students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA, be on track to finish a degree or certificate program within a maximum timeframe, and successfully complete a school determined percentage of the credits they attempt in order to remain eligible for financial aid. Payment data indicate most MAP recipients (80%) are enrolled full-time. This combined with graduation data suggest MAP recipients are attempting and earning credits at rates comparable to other students and at rates sufficient to graduate and compete their educational objectives.

**GPA of MAP Recipients by
Class Level Over Time**

GPA Range	Freshmen	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
< 2.50	27%	12%	9%	6%
2.50-2.99	29%	22%	22%	20%
3.00-3.49	31%	33%	37%	38%
3.50-3.99	12%	30%	30%	33%
4.00 >	1%	3%	2%	3%
Average GPA	2.84	3.17	3.19	3.27

ISAC MAP Longitudinal Data Survey

ISAC Overview

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) works to help ensure that financial considerations do not prevent Illinois students from realizing their postsecondary educational goals. ISAC has evolved into a one-stop financial aid center, offering a comprehensive array of programs and services. Each year, ISAC staff offers assistance to over 500,000 students and other clients who call the agency's various telephone support units, and reaches an additional 150,000 families at college fairs, workshops and other outreach events.

As the primary administrator for student financial aid in Illinois, ISAC awarded more than \$435 million to more than 170,000 students through grants and scholarships in FY2012. MAP continues to be one of the largest state-funded need-based grant aid programs in the country, helping to keep access to higher education possible for needy Illinois residents. *College Illinois!*, the State of Illinois' Prepaid Tuition Program administered by ISAC, provided over \$93 million in benefits for students in FY2012 and since inception has helped more than 21,500 students at over 900 colleges and universities in Illinois and across the nation.