

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Illinois Central College (ICC) is one of 48 community colleges within 39 community college districts in Illinois. ICC's district encompasses all or part of ten counties. With a district the size of 2,322 square miles, Illinois Central College District 514 ranks as the seventh largest community college district in the state. The district is diverse, home to over 347,000 people, and nearly equidistant from Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis.

The *Community College Week*, July 10, 2000, placed Illinois Central College in the top 3.5% of associate degree producers in the nation during the 1997-1998 academic year. In addition, ICC was recognized as a top 100 producer of certificates, placing Illinois Central College in the top 7% of certificate producers nationwide.

As reported in ICC's 2002 Self-Study, the development of online courses was increased in response to a North Central concern during 1992 that stated, "the College's dependency on traditional delivery systems may, in the future, limit its ability to respond to community needs." Many faculty use the College's website to reach students who are otherwise unavailable due to barriers such as distance, time, and disability. The College's online courses have increased from one in the summer semester 1999 to 85 being offered in the fall semester 2003. The online enrollment has grown from 84 students during fiscal year 1999 to 2,424 during fiscal year 2003.

When community members were asked in a telephone survey in Spring 2002 what they would like to see ICC do differently, comments such as "offer more Internet classes" were given. When students were asked, 593 indicated they would definitely or probably take a desired class if it were an online class. Seventy-five percent of ICC students have Internet access at home.

As a result of the growth of and request for online courses and programs:

85 Online Courses Developed/Offered

- Spring 1998 – First online course developed in 1998
- Fall 2000 – 12 online courses developed
- Fall 2001 – 33 online courses developed
- Fall 2002 – 60 online courses developed
- Fall 2003 – 85 online courses developed

ONLINE ENROLLMENTS

Online Course Student Enrollments

Summary of Total Enrollment: Online Classes			
FY 1999 to FY 2003			
Fiscal Year	Semester	Number of Courses Offered	Enrollment
1999	SUMMER	1	21
	FALL	3	35
	SPRING	3	28
	TOTAL	7	84
2000	SUMMER	1	14
	FALL	1	16
	SPRING	6	92
	TOTAL	8	122
2001	SUMMER	13	236
	FALL	16	220
	SPRING	29	403
	TOTAL	58	859
2002	SUMMER	23	387
	FALL	34	503
	SPRING	49	780
	TOTAL	106	1670
2003	SUMMER	32	453
	FALL	59	872
	SPRING	81	1099
	TOTAL	172	2424