

For the U.S. to regain the top ranking in the world for college degree attainment, Latinos will need to earn 6.2 million degrees by 2030.¹

FAST FACTS

POPULATION AGED 0-5:

In the United States, 26% of the population aged 0 to 5 years old was Latino.²

K-12 POPULATION:

In the United States, 26% of the K-12 population was Latino.²

POPULATION:

In the United States, 20% of the population was Latino.²

MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of Hispanics in the United States was 31, compared to 43 for White non-Hispanics.²



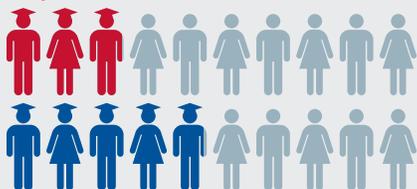
ENROLLMENT:

In the United States, 21% of Hispanics (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to 23% of White non-Hispanics.²

DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In the United States, 28% of Hispanic adults (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to 48% of White non-Hispanic adults.²

Hispanic Adults = 2.8 of 10



White Adults = 4.8 of 10

To reach the degree attainment goal by 2030, the U.S. can: close the degree completion gap by accelerating Latino completion while increasing for all students and scale up programs and initiatives that work for Latino, and all, students. The following demographics, institutional data, and practices inform Latino degree attainment.

ENROLLING: Top 5 Institutions (Hispanic Undergraduates) in the United States, 2021-22

	Institution	State	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Miami Dade College	FL	Public, 4-year	39,727	28,583	72%
2	Florida International University	FL	Public, 4-year	39,936	26,890	67%
3	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	TX	Public, 4-year	26,402	24,721	94%
4	Lone Star College System	TX	Public, 4-year	49,093	21,610	44%
5	NUC University	PR	Private for-profit, 4-year	23,700	21,597	91%

ASSOCIATE DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in the United States, 2020-21

	Institution	State	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Miami Dade College	FL	Public, 4-year	11,361	8,043	71%
2	Dallas College	TX	Public, 4-year	9,786	4,456	46%
3	South Texas College	TX	Public, 4-year	3,918	3,771	96%
4	Lone Star College System	TX	Public, 4-year	8,409	3,359	40%
5	Valencia College	FL	Public, 4-year	9,137	3,170	35%

BACHELOR DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in the United States, 2020-21

	Institution	State	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Florida International University	FL	Public, 4-year	12,608	8,365	66%
2	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	TX	Public, 4-year	4,924	4,598	93%
3	California State University-Northridge	CA	Public, 4-year	9,370	4,280	46%
4	California State University-Fullerton	CA	Public, 4-year	9,750	4,164	43%
5	University of Central Florida	FL	Public, 4-year	14,901	4,158	28%

NOTE: We use the terms Latino and Hispanic interchangeably in this factsheet.

Source: *Excelencia in Education* analysis using U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 2021 Fall Enrollment, Graduation Rates Survey and Institutional Characteristics Survey.

¹ Projections to 2030: *Excelencia in Education*. (2020). Ensuring America's Future: Benchmarking Latino College Completion to 2030. *Excelencia in Education*. Washington, D.C.

² U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

The United States Gap in Degree Completion

Closing the degree completion gap can be tracked by the 4 measures shown below. Alone, none of these measures capture the entire “story” of degree completion. However, in combination, they provide a useful picture of the gap in degree attainment between Hispanic and White non-Hispanic cohorts in a single year.

Graduation Rate — Total percentage of students who graduated within 150% of normal time for first-time, full-time freshmen. This incorporates students that graduated in 3 years at two-year institutions, or in 6 years at four-year institutions.

Transferred to Another Institution — Percentage of students that transferred to another institution and did not complete a degree.

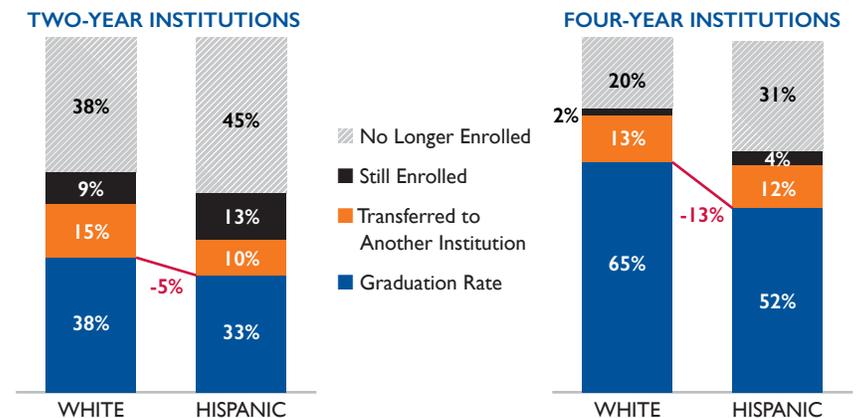
Still Enrolled — Percentage of students that are still enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

No Longer Enrolled — Percentage of students that are no longer enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

DEGREE OUTCOMES

At two-year institutions, Hispanics’ graduation rate was **5%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in the United States.

At four-year institutions, Hispanics’ graduation rate was **13%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in the United States.



*Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

NOTE: Outcomes shown are for students at two-year institutions who started in Fall 2018, and for students at four-year institutions who started in Fall 2015.

Source: *Excelencia* in Education analysis using the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 2021 Graduation Rates Survey and the Institutional Characteristics Survey.

Examples of What Works for Latino Students

There are institutions showing success in enrolling, retaining, and graduating Latino students. The following are examples of programs across the country with evidence of effectiveness in serving Latino students nominated for Examples of *Excelencia*.

Latino Promise and HACER Programs at Fairleigh Dickinson University are sister programs whose mission are to provide access to higher education by offering associate degree programs with the benefits of a university setting to traditional-aged, Latino students. Latino Promise-HACER ensures that primarily first-generation college students can transfer into a bachelor’s program of their choice. Latino Promise and HACER offer the same curriculum, but HACER (Hispanics Achieving College Education Recognition) helps students preserve and even improve their native Spanish while teaching them English through ESL; these students gradually transition from taking bi-lingual coursework to English-only. The Latino Promise program offers instruction in English. Both programs seek to redress educational, economic, and social barriers by recruiting in immigrant-heavy school districts, offering workshops for families on financial

aid and a one-credit course on transitioning to college life which promotes student retention. The programs provide a pre-college summer program, small classes, academic support, financial grants, personalized advising, and cultural enrichment all designed to mold high school graduates from the local communities into successful college students.

The average graduation rate since 2010 for Latino Promise is 40%, which is more than double the current average of 18% graduation rate for Latino students in associate programs at New Jersey two-year institutions. Latino Promise time to (associate) degree is at 2.19 years (2012-2021 average). For the HACER cohort, it is 2.13 years (2018-2021). A persistence rate for Latino Promise students is 93% from fall to spring over the past three years. For HACER, the average graduation rate is 25% (2019-2022 anticipated).

For more information on institutional programs improving Latino student success in higher education, access *Excelencia* in Education’s Growing What Works database at <http://www.edexcelencia.org/growing-what-works>