

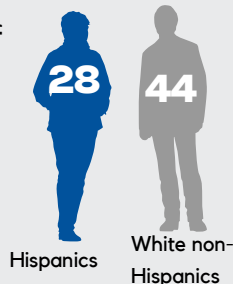
FAST FACTS

48th largest Latino population in the U.S.¹

2% of the population was Latino¹

3% of the K-12 population was Latino¹

The median age of Hispanics in West Virginia was **28**, compared to **44** for White non-Hispanics.¹



36% of Hispanics (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **19%** of White non-Hispanics.¹

32% of Hispanic adults (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **33%** of White non-Hispanic adults.¹

Hispanic Adults



White Adults

Median income of adults without a college degree vs. **with a college degree** in West Virginia¹

\$33,333

\$54,414

ACCELERATING COLLEGE COMPLETION

To make our country stronger and meet the economy's demand for a highly educated workforce, we must ensure access to quality higher education for Latino, and all, students. This requires accelerating Latino degree completion, increasing completion for all students, and scaling programs and initiatives proven to support Latino, and all, student success. The following demographics, institutional data, and practices inform Latino degree attainment.

TOP 5 INSTITUTIONS ENROLLING AND GRADUATING HISPANIC UNDERGRADUATES IN WEST VIRGINIA²

	Institution	Sector	Enrollment (Fall 2023)	Completions (2022-23)
1	American Public University System	4-Priv*	19% Latino 7,408 38,976	16% Latino 1,704 10,876
2	West Virginia University	4-Pub	4% Latino 777 17,705	4% Latino 155 4,374
3	Martinsburg College	4-Priv*	16% Latino 513 3,214	10% Latino 3 29
4	Shepherd University	4-Pub	8% Latino 199 2,375	6% Latino 32 510
5	Marshall University	4-Pub	3% Latino 198 7,149	2% Latino 30 1,558

*These institutions are private, for-profit institutions.

NOTE: The institutions in this chart are ordered from highest to lowest Latino enrollment.

Legend

■ Latino Enrollment	■ Latino Completions
■ All Enrollment	■ All Completions

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

1. U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

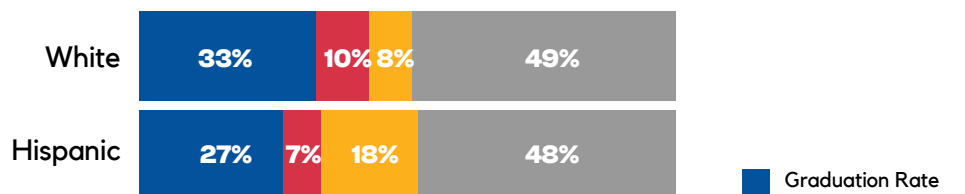
2. Excelencia in Education analysis using U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 2023 Fall Enrollment, Graduation Rates Survey, and Institutional Characteristics Survey.

WEST VIRGINIA DEGREE COMPLETION GAP

Tracking the progress of students along their educational pathways can inform strategies and practices to close the degree completion gap. Four key indicators of student progress highlight different stages on the path to graduation. Together, they provide a clearer picture of how degree attainment varies between Hispanic and White non-Hispanic student cohorts in a given year. While no single indicator tells the whole story, collectively they help illustrate the extent of the gap and where targeted efforts can make a difference.

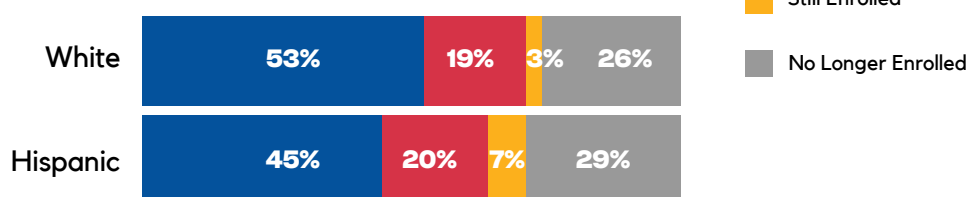
At two-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was 6%-points lower than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in West Virginia.

TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS



At four-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was 8%-points lower than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in West Virginia.

FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS



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

NOTE: Outcomes shown are for students at two-year institutions who started in Fall 2020, and for students at four-year institutions who started in Fall 2017. These rates are at the point of 150% normal time to completion, and capture first-time, full-time undergraduate students only.

Source: *Excelencia* in Education analysis using the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 2023 Graduation Rates Survey and the Institutional Characteristics Survey.

EXAMPLE OF WHAT WORKS FOR LATINO STUDENTS

There are institutions showing success in enrolling, retaining, and graduating Latino students. The following is an example of a program across the country with evidence of effectiveness in serving Latino students recognized for Examples of *Excelencia*.

The **Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars (MFOS)** program at the University of Florida (UF) reimagines the first-generation college experience by providing transformative access, full scholarships, and high-impact support. Established in 2006 under the leadership of then-President Machen, MFOS was created to remove financial barriers for academically talented Florida students from low-income, first-generation backgrounds—ensuring they can earn a degree from the state's flagship institution without taking on student debt.

The program provides comprehensive financial aid packages that cover the full cost of attendance through a combination of grants and scholarships, eliminating the need for student loans. In addition to financial support, MFOS offers programming that fosters personal development, life skills, self-awareness, career planning, and financial literacy.

Students are encouraged to participate in the First-Generation Academy (FGA)—a year-long leadership

program focused on career preparation, self-discovery, and global citizenship.

MFOS is driving strong outcomes for Latino students:

- As of Spring 2023, 89% of Latino MFOS scholars earned a GPA of 3.0 or higher, with an average GPA of 3.41—on par with the overall MFOS student average, highlighting consistent academic achievement across groups.
- MFOS is closing gaps in graduation rates. Among First-Time-In-College students in the 2015 cohort:
 - 126 Latino students were supported by MFOS, out of a total of 292.
 - The four-year graduation rate for Latino MFOS students was 68%, and the six-year rate was 91%.
 - These outcomes are closely resemble the university-wide averages (72% four-year, 91% six-year), demonstrating that MFOS is leveling the playing field for Latino scholars.

For more information on institutional programs improving Latino student success in higher education, visit <https://www.edexcelencia.org/what-works/growing-what-works>