

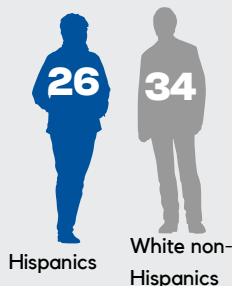
FAST FACTS

23rd largest Latino population in the U.S.¹

16% of the population was Latino¹

20% of the K-12 population was Latino¹

The median age of Hispanics in Utah was **26**, compared to **34** for White non-Hispanics.¹



20% of Hispanics (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **26%** of White non-Hispanics.¹

30% of Hispanic adults (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **51%** of White non-Hispanic adults.¹

Hispanic Adults



White Adults

Median income of adults without a college degree vs. **with a college degree** in Utah¹

\$39,421

\$67,337

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 UTAH²

	Institution	Sector	Enrollment (Fall 2023)	Completions (2022-23)
1	Western Governors University	4-Priv	15% Latino 20,783 135,822	10% Latino 2,435 23,973
2	Salt Lake Community College	2-Pub	26% Latino 4,406 17,247	20% Latino 584 2,938
3	University of Utah	4-Pub	14% Latino 3,668 26,041	14% Latino 758 5,556
4	Utah Valley University	4-Pub	13% Latino 3,665 27,481	10% Latino 667 6,788
5	Brigham Young University	4-Priv	8% Latino 2,577 32,221	7% Latino 454 6,638

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

Legend

■ Latino Enrollment
■ All Enrollment

■ Latino Completions
■ All Completions

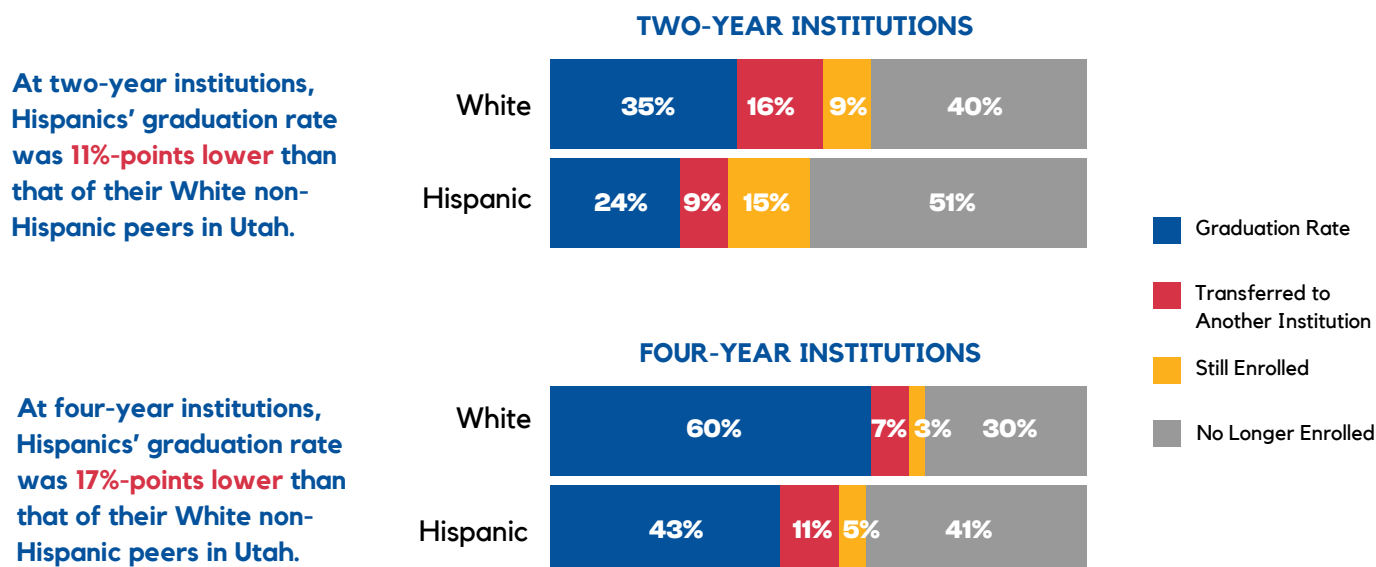
NOTE: We use the terms Latino and Hispanic interchangeably in this factsheet.

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.

UTAH 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.



*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 **Achieving a College Education (ACE)** Program at the Maricopa Community College District is nationally recognized for its over 30-year track record of motivating underrepresented students to graduate from high school and pursue college degrees. Designed as a two-year program, ACE brings together local universities, high schools, students identified as "at-risk," and their families to foster a supportive, college-going culture.

The program has three central goals: 1) increase the number of students graduating from high school; 2) increase the number of students enrolling in college; and 3) increase the number of students earning a college degree or certificate.

ACE integrates nine essential elements and provides students with the opportunity to take college courses during the fall, spring, and summer semesters at a Maricopa Community College or through Rio Salado

College's online ACE format. Over two years, students can earn up to 24 college credits while still in high school. Families also participate in a required orientation and a series of workshops on topics such as financial aid, careers, and college readiness—ensuring students remain supported and informed throughout their ACE experience. Program results underscore its success:

- In 2018, ACE students had an average high school GPA of 3.43 and a college GPA of 3.08, with a 94% high school graduation rate.
- As of 2020, 62% of students completing the ACE program in the previous five cohorts continued their education at Maricopa Community Colleges.
- To date, 5,259 ACE alumni have earned over 10,273 postsecondary degrees and certificates.

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