

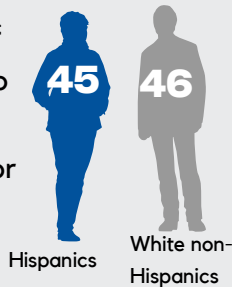
FAST FACTS

In Puerto Rico, **98%** of the population aged 0 to 5 years old was Latino.¹

In Puerto Rico, **99%** of the K-12 population was Latino.¹

In Puerto Rico, **99%** of the population was Latino.¹

The median age of Hispanics in Puerto Rico was **45**, compared to **46** for White non-Hispanics.¹



26% of Hispanics (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **14%** of White non-Hispanics.¹

43% of Hispanic adults (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **60%** of White non-Hispanic adults.¹

Hispanic Adults



White Adults

Median income of adults **without a college degree** vs. **with a college degree** in Puerto Rico.¹

\$15,073

\$31,382

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 PUERTO RICO²

	Institution	Sector	Enrollment (Fall 2023)	Completions (2022-23)
1	NUC University	4-Priv*	90% Latino 23,223 25,881	94% Latino 2,531 2,702
2	University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez	4-Pub	94% Latino 8,946 9,564	93% Latino 1,629 1,745
3	Universidad Ana G. Méndez-Gurabo Campus	4-Priv	100% Latino 7,666 7,666	100% Latino 1,301 1,301
4	University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras	4-Pub	84% Latino 7,392 8,748	80% Latino 1,147 1,433
5	Universidad Ana G. Méndez-Cupey Campus	4-Priv	100% Latino 4,579 4,579	100% Latino 758 758

*This institution is a private, for-profit institution.

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.

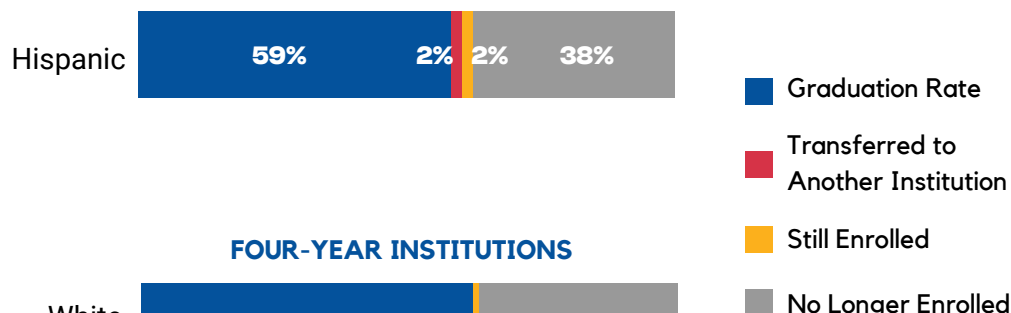
PUERTO RICO DEGREE COMPLETION GAP

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—graduated, transferred to another institution, still enrolled, and no longer enrolled—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.

TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

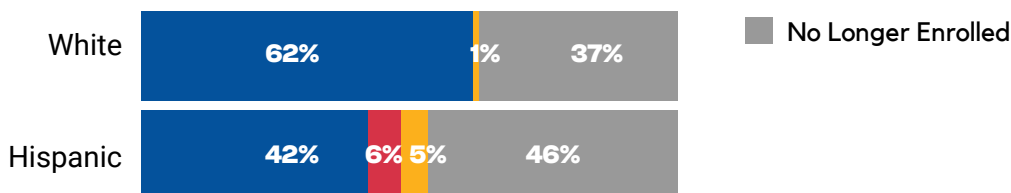
At two-year institutions in Puerto Rico, Hispanics' graduation rate is 59%.

Note: For two-year institutions in this cohort, there were no White non-Hispanic students reported.



FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

At four-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was 20%-points lower than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Puerto Rico.



*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 **Institute of Interdisciplinary Research (IIR)** at the University of Puerto Rico-Cayey (UPR-Cayey) advances undergraduate research, academic inquiry, and community service, with a mission to support interdisciplinary, regional, and applied research that responds to the needs of the surrounding communities.

Established in 2003 as an undergraduate research initiative, the IIR has driven a major institutional shift—from a primarily teaching-focused college to one that values and invests in student research and scholarly output.

The IIR provides students—many of whom are Latino—with: research assistant positions and training in research methodology; mentorship networks and Personal Development Plans; coaching and guidance for graduate school preparation; and opportunities for publication and academic dissemination.

During the pandemic, IIR expanded its student-centered

support through: a formal coaching program; stipends to support research participation; tuition assistance; and the launch of the Antonia Pantojas mentorship program, designed to provide holistic guidance for student researchers.

Results demonstrate student success:

- As of 2020, 79% of undergraduate participants had applied to graduate school, and 92% of those were accepted.
 - By comparison, only 41% of the overall student body applied to graduate school between 2015 and 2018.
- As of 2022, IIR supports one-third of the UPR-Cayey graduating class.

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