

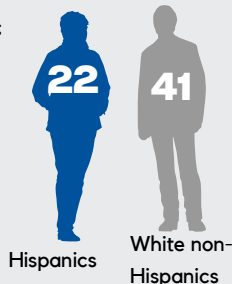
FAST FACTS

46th largest Latino population in the U.S.¹

5% of the population was Latino¹

7% of the K-12 population was Latino¹

The median age of Hispanics in South Dakota was **22**, compared to **41** for White non-Hispanics.¹



17% of Hispanics (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **20%** of White non-Hispanics.¹

28% of Hispanic adults (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **48%** of White non-Hispanic adults.¹

Hispanic Adults



White Adults

Median income of adults without a college degree vs. **with a college degree** in South Dakota¹

\$34,562

\$56,549

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 SOUTH DAKOTA²

	Institution	Sector	Enrollment (Fall 2023)	Completions (2022-23)
1	University of South Dakota	4-Pub	6% Latino 300 5,239	4% Latino 50 1,190
2	South Dakota State University	4-Pub	3% Latino 255 8,798	2% Latino 43 1,948
3	National American University-Rapid City	4-Priv*	16% Latino 132 832	12% Latino 23 195
4	South Dakota School of Mines and Technology	4-Pub	6% Latino 115 2,042	5% Latino 19 383
5	Dakota State University	4-Pub	5% Latino 103 1,969	3% Latino 13 400

*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
■ All Enrollment

■ Latino Completions
■ All Completions

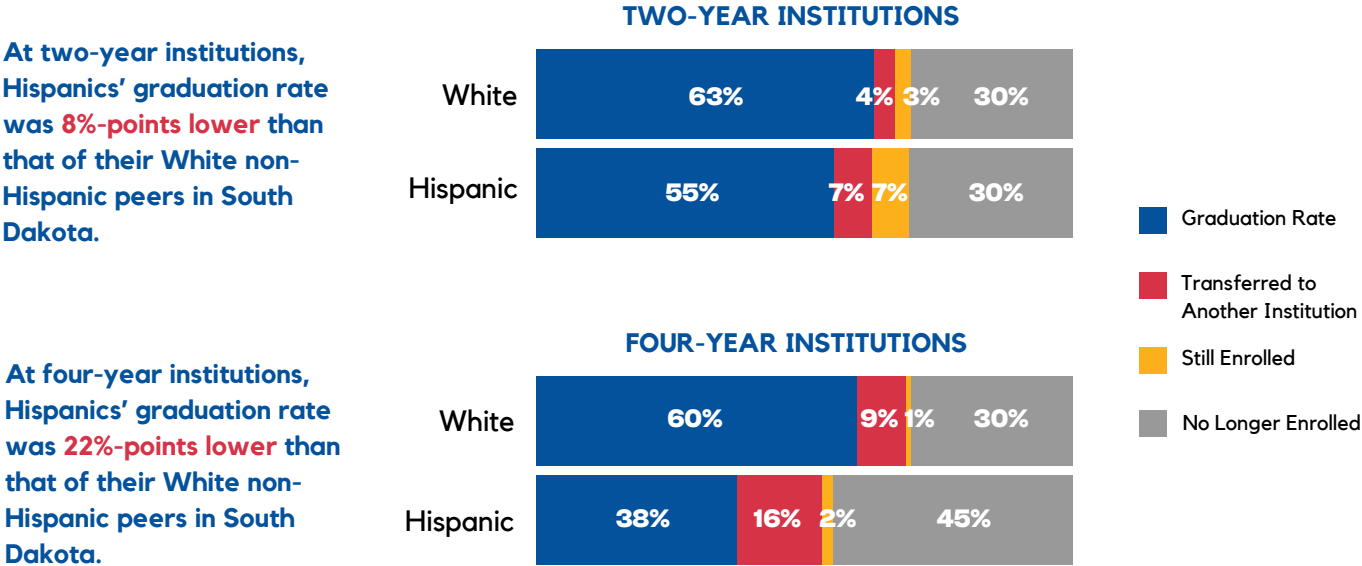
NOTE: We use the terms Latino and Hispanic interchangeably in this factsheet.

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.

SOUTH DAKOTA 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 **Compact Scholars Program** at San Diego State University (SDSU) supports undergraduate students through academic and social support, while helping them cultivate a strong sense of identity connected to their academic work and community. The program is grounded in a commitment to eliminating the national achievement gap in Latino college completion. Established in 2006, Compact Scholars serves as the postsecondary component of the Compact for Success partnership between SDSU and the Sweetwater Union High School District (SUHSD)—a district where the majority of students are Latino. The program promotes higher graduation rates among SUHSD students by providing a comprehensive support structure that includes first-year experience programming, holistic and intrusive academic advising, peer and faculty mentoring, and experiential learning opportunities such as study abroad, undergraduate research, service learning, and internships.

To reduce financial barriers, students can apply for scholarships to support participation in these high-impact activities, including research, service, and creative work.

- Consider the following among Latino participants:
- Enrollment growth: As of Fall 2019, 318 Latino students had enrolled in the program, an increase from just 84 students in Fall 2006.
 - Strong first-year persistence: In 2019, 86% of Latino program participants continued after their first year, compared to 84% of Latino non-participants.
 - Improved graduation rates: In 2000, only 38% of SUHSD Latino students at SDSU graduated within six years. By 2019, the six-year graduation rate for Latino Compact Scholars participants had increased to 69%, compared to 65% for Latino students not in the program.

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