

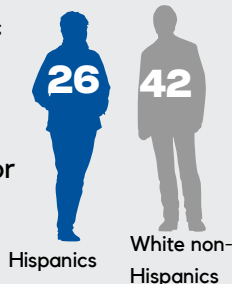
FAST FACTS

33rd largest Latino population in the U.S.¹

9% of the population was Latino¹

14% of the K-12 population was Latino¹

The median age of Hispanics in Arkansas was **26**, compared to **42** for White non-Hispanics.¹



15% of Hispanics (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **17%** of White non-Hispanics.¹

20% of Hispanic adults (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **37%** of White non-Hispanic adults.¹

Hispanic Adults



White Adults

Median income of adults without a college degree vs. with a college degree in Arkansas¹

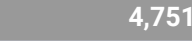
\$33,350

\$55,851

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 ARKANSAS²

	Institution	Sector	Enrollment (Fall 2023)	Completions (2022-23)
1	University of Arkansas	4-Pub	11% Latino  2,997  27,312	10% Latino  474  4,751
2	NorthWest Arkansas Community College	2-Pub	28% Latino  1,308  4,632	21% Latino  259  1,226
3	University of Arkansas-Fort Smith	4-Pub	19% Latino  791  4,133	16% Latino  219  1,372
4	Arkansas Tech University	4-Pub	12% Latino  706  5,993	10% Latino  246  2,565
5	University of Central Arkansas	4-Pub	8% Latino  570  7,426	6% Latino  90  1,618

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.

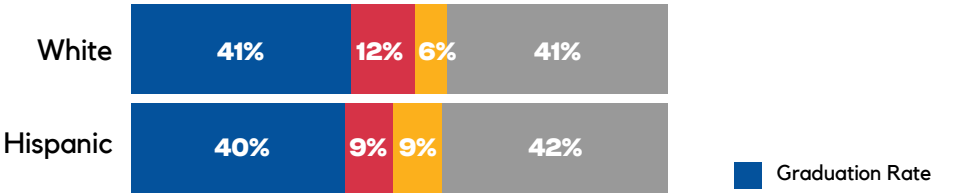
2. Excelencia in Education analysis using U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 2023 Fall Enrollment, Graduation Rates Survey, and Institutional Characteristics Survey.

ARKANSAS 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.

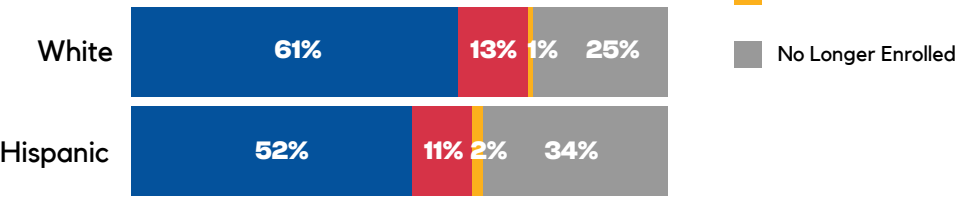
TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

At two-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was 1%-point lower than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Arkansas.



FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

At four-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was 9%-points lower than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Arkansas.



*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*.

Breakthrough Central Texas' **College and Career Success** program aims to build a path to and through college for students who will become the first in their family to earn a college degree. The program provides 12 years of wrap-around support to students in Central Texas, guiding them from middle school through college graduation. Students have access to career exploration opportunities, ongoing academic advising, and personalized, step-by-step guidance on the college admissions and financial aid process. Once enrolled in higher education, they receive intensive support to navigate academics, campus life, and financial responsibilities, including scholarships, aid eligibility, and loan management. Advisors also provide targeted interventions to increase first-year persistence and overcome the "sophomore slump."

To build professional skills, students are placed in paid summer internships in Austin and around the country. The program offers year-round touchpoints, including a summer conference, care packages, and near-peer support. The program's impact is strengthened through formal partnerships with Hispanic-Serving Institutions, where Breakthrough collaborates by co-hosting orientations, sharing data, and coordinating interventions and supports.

Among Latino participating students in the high school graduating class of 2020, 86% enrolled directly in college and 80% persisted to their second year. Between 2020 and 2023, Latino participants approached Breakthrough's 60% six-year graduation goal, with 58% of the class of 2016, 71% of the class of 2015, and 58% of the class of 2014 earning a college degree.