

For the U.S. to regain the top ranking in the world for college degree attainment, Latinos will need to earn 6.2 million degrees by 2030.¹

FAST FACTS

STATE RANKING:

Virginia had the **16th largest Latino population** in the U.S.

K-12 POPULATION:

In Virginia, **15%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.²

POPULATION:

In Virginia, **10%** of the population was **Latino**.²

MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in Virginia was **29**, compared to **42** for **White non-Hispanics**.²



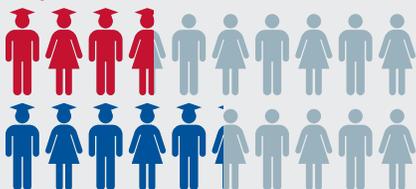
ENROLLMENT:

In Virginia, **22%** of **Hispanics** (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **24%** of **White non-Hispanics**.²

DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In Virginia, **36%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **53%** of **White non-Hispanic adults**.²

Hispanic Adults = 3.6 of 10



White Adults = 5.3 of 10

To reach the degree attainment goal by 2030, the U.S. can: close the degree completion gap by accelerating Latino completion while increasing for all students and scale up programs and initiatives that work for Latino, and all, students. The following demographics, institutional data, and practices inform Latino degree attainment.

ENROLLING: Top 5 Institutions (Hispanic Undergraduates) in Virginia, 2021-22

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Northern Virginia Community College	Public, 2-year	32,902	8,757	27%
2	George Mason University	Public, 4-year	26,339	4,354	17%
3	Liberty University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	47,179	3,436	7%
4	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Public, 4-year	29,699	2,556	9%
5	Virginia Commonwealth University	Public, 4-year	20,918	2,307	11%

ASSOCIATE DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in Virginia, 2020-21

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Northern Virginia Community College	Public, 2-year	5,860	1,354	23%
2	ECPI University	Private for-profit, 4-year	2,046	249	12%
3	Tidewater Community College	Public, 2-year	2,384	199	8%
4	Germanna Community College	Public, 2-year	986	130	13%
5	Brightpoint Community College	Public, 2-year	978	123	13%

BACHELOR DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in Virginia, 2020-21

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	George Mason University	Public, 4-year	6,236	956	15%
2	Liberty University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	10,300	590	6%
3	Virginia Commonwealth University	Public, 4-year	5,155	538	10%
4	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Public, 4-year	6,943	471	7%
5	James Madison University	Public, 4-year	4,797	328	7%

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

Source: *Excelencia in Education* analysis using U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), 2021 Fall Enrollment, Graduation Rates Survey and Institutional Characteristics Survey.

¹ Projections to 2030: *Excelencia in Education*. (2020). Ensuring America's Future: Benchmarking Latino College Completion to 2030. *Excelencia in Education*. Washington, D.C.

² U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Virginia Gap in Degree Completion

Closing the degree completion gap can be tracked by the 4 measures shown below. Alone, none of these measures capture the entire “story” of degree completion. However, in combination, they provide a useful picture of the gap in degree attainment between Hispanic and White non-Hispanic cohorts in a single year.

Graduation Rate — Total percentage of students who graduated within 150% of normal time for first-time, full-time freshmen. This incorporates students that graduated in 3 years at two-year institutions, or in 6 years at four-year institutions.

Transferred to Another Institution — Percentage of students that transferred to another institution and did not complete a degree.

Still Enrolled — Percentage of students that are still enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

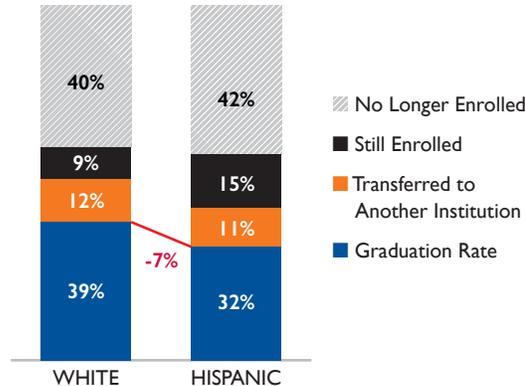
No Longer Enrolled — Percentage of students that are no longer enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

DEGREE OUTCOMES

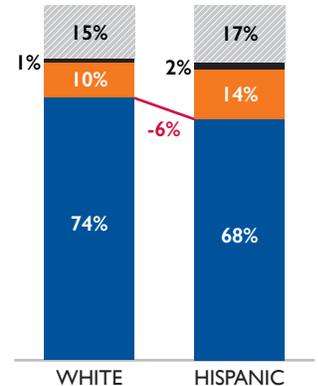
At two-year institutions, Hispanics’ graduation rate was **7%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Virginia.

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

TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS



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 2018, and for students at four-year institutions who started in Fall 2015.

Source: *Excelencia* in Education analysis using the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 2021 Graduation Rates Survey and the Institutional Characteristics Survey.

Examples of What Works for Latino Students

There are institutions showing success in enrolling, retaining, and graduating Latino students. The following are examples of programs across the country with evidence of effectiveness in serving Latino students nominated for Examples of *Excelencia*.

Bilingual Undergraduate Studies for Collegiate Advancement (BUSCA), an Associate of Arts degree program at La Salle University, offers Hispanic students a unique opportunity to transform their lives and their futures. BUSCA helps students by developing their foundational knowledge, improving their academic and language skills, deepening their intellectual curiosity, and increasing their self-confidence. BUSCA provides bilingual support services to help students through every stage of their education, from the time they are applicants through their graduation from their bachelor’s degrees at La Salle University. The students in BUSCA take courses in a shelter-immersion environment to improve their academic English and

Spanish in the hopes that they are able to speak, listen, read, and write proficiently and professionally in both languages.

BUSCA continues to educate the next generation of Philadelphia Latino leaders successfully: 375 students have earned their associate’s degrees; many have gone on to earn their bachelor’s degrees here (88) and at other institutions. Six students have earned master’s degrees from La Salle University. In January 2014, 49 students graduated from BUSCA. Of that group, 75% immediately enrolled in a bachelor’s degree program. For the past five years, BUSCA’s graduation rate has been above 50%; for the past two years, it was over 60%.

For more information on institutional programs improving Latino student success in higher education, access *Excelencia* in Education’s Growing What Works database at <http://www.edexcelencia.org/growing-what-works>