

# LATINO COLLEGE COMPLETION: UNITED STATES

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.<sup>1</sup>

## EAST FACTS

### POPULATION PROJECTION:

The Latino population in the United States is expected to increase by 25% by 2030.<sup>2</sup>

### K-12 POPULATION:

In the United States, 25% of the K-12 population was Latino.<sup>3</sup>

### POPULATION:

In the United States, 18% of the population was Latino.<sup>4</sup>

### MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of Hispanics in the United States was 30, compared to 44 for White non-Hispanics.<sup>5</sup>



### ENROLLMENT:

In the United States, 21% of Hispanics (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to 24% of White non-Hispanics.<sup>6</sup>

### DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In the United States, 24% of Hispanic adults (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to 46% of White non-Hispanic adults.<sup>7</sup>

Hispanic Adults = 2.4 of 10



To reach the degree attainment goal by 2030, the U.S. can: 1) close the equity gap in college completion; 2) increase the number of degrees conferred; and, 3) scale up programs and initiatives that work for Latino and other students. The following is a framework for tracking Latino degree attainment in the U.S.

### ENROLLING: Top 5 Institutions (Hispanic Undergraduates) in the United States, Fall 2018

	Institution	State	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Miami Dade College	FL	Public, 4-year	54,973	38,213	70%
2	Florida International University	FL	Public, 4-year	48,818	32,877	67%
3	South Texas College	TX	Public, 4-year	31,949	30,419	95%
4	Lone Star College System	TX	Public, 2-year	73,499	27,925	38%
5	El Paso Community College	TX	Public, 2-year	28,819	24,601	85%

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in the United States, 2017-18

	Institution	State	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Miami Dade College	FL	Public, 4-year	9,594	6,670	70%
2	South Texas College	TX	Public, 4-year	4,112	3,923	95%
3	El Paso Community College	TX	Public, 2-year	3,438	2,975	87%
4	Lone Star College System	TX	Public, 2-year	7,552	2,654	35%
5	Valencia College	FL	Public, 4-year	7,864	2,574	33%

### BACHELOR DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in the United States, 2017-18

	Institution	State	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Florida International University	FL	Public, 4-year	10,261	6,764	66%
2	California State University-Fullerton	CA	Public, 4-year	9,038	3,660	40%
3	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	TX	Public, 4-year	4,046	3,618	89%
4	California State University-Northridge	CA	Public, 4-year	8,806	3,573	41%
5	California State University-Long Beach	CA	Public, 4-year	8,615	3,417	40%

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), 2018 Fall Enrollment, Graduation Rates Survey and Institutional Characteristics Survey.

# United States Equity Gap in Degree Completion

Closing the equity gap in college completion can be tracked by the 4 measures shown below.

Alone, none of these measures capture the entire “story” of equity in degree completion. However, in combination, they provide a useful picture of the equity 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.

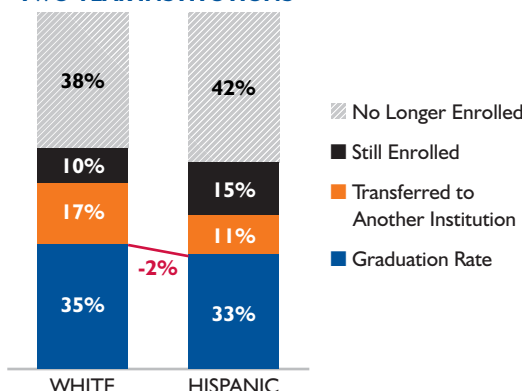
**Transferred to Another Institution** — Percentage of students that transferred to another institution. (Only incorporates students who have transferred out from an institution and did not complete a degree.)

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

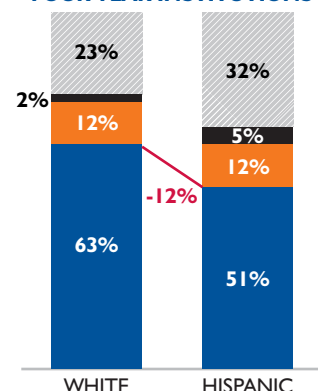
**No Longer Enrolled** — Percentage of students that are no longer enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

DEGREE OUTCOMES	
At two-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was <b>2%-points lower</b> than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in the United States.	At four-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was <b>12%-points lower</b> than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in the United States.

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 2015, and for students at four-year institutions who started in Fall 2012.

Source: *Excelencia in Education* analysis using the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 2018 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*.

**Attract, Inspire, Mentor, and Support Students – The AIMS2 Program** at California State University Northridge (CSUN) was a 2019 Example of *Excelencia*. The AIMS2 Program helps transfer students pursue degrees and careers in engineering and computer science. In partnership with Glendale Community College and College of the Canyons, the program offers stipends, special mentoring and advising by faculty, tutoring and peer

mentoring, social activities, field trips and opportunities to take part in paid research projects. Latino students in the 2012 through 2017 cohorts had a three-year transfer graduation rate of 70%, almost double the three-year transfer graduation rate of their peers in the college. The program has tripled the number of Latino students graduating in computer engineering and computer science majors from 57 students in 2012-13, to 171 students in 2016-17.

**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>**

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 Population Projection: U.S. Census Bureau, Projected Race and Hispanic Origin: Main Projections Series for the United States, 2017-2060.

3 K-12 Population: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

4 Population: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

5 Median Age: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

6 Enrollment: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

7 Degree Attainment: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

# LATINO COLLEGE COMPLETION: UNITED STATES

Nationally, Latino student enrollment and degree completion continues to increase. However, to reach the Latino degree attainment goal of 6.2 million degrees by 2030 requires a tactical plan for Latino college completion. This plan should include: closing equity gaps in degree completion, and accelerating, not just increasing, Latinos' degree attainment.

## *Population overview*

The United States has a growing and young Latino population. While 18 percent of the overall population is Latino, 25 percent of students in K-12 education are Latino. Additionally, the Latino population is projected to increase by 25 percent by 2030. Furthermore, the median age for Latinos is 30, compared to 44 for White non-Hispanics. As more Latino students enter higher education, policymakers at the state, institutional, and national level should keep in mind that they'll have an increasingly young, Latino, first-generation population.

## *Opportunities for growth*

In the United States, Latino students are significantly more likely to enroll in institutions primarily awarding associates degrees. Four of the top five institutions enrolling Latino undergraduates are associate degree-granting institutions. Additionally, each of the top five institutions enroll more than 24,000 Latino students.

However, equity gaps exist in degree attainment and degree completion in the United States. Nationally, only 24 percent of Latino adults have an associate degree or higher, compared to 46 percent of White non-Hispanic adults. Additionally, at two-year institutions, 42 percent of Latino students are no longer enrolled three years after starting their degree, and Latino students graduate at a rate two percentage points lower than their White peers—33 percent and 35 percent, respectively. At four-year institutions, Latinos are graduating 12 percentage points lower than their White peers—51 percent and 63 percent, respectively. Closing the degree attainment gap in the United States will require policies that help the many Latino students entering higher education on their path to completion.

## *What comes next?*

National policies to increase Latino student success should keep in mind the profile of Latino students and adjust to meet their needs. The Latino population in the United States is young, growing, and significantly enrolling in public institutions. Opportunities exist for institutions in the United States to help more Latino students complete their degrees to reach the Latino degree attainment goal by 2030.

Examples of institutional efforts to meet students' needs can be seen within the Seal of *Excelencia*. The Seal is a national certification for institutions intentionally SERVING Latino students through data, practice, and leadership.