

# LATINO COLLEGE COMPLETION: CALIFORNIA

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

### STATE RANKING:

California had the **largest Latino population** in the U.S.

### K-12 POPULATION:

In California, **52%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.<sup>2</sup>

### POPULATION:

In California, **39%** of the population was **Latino**.<sup>3</sup>

### MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in California was **30**, compared to **46** for White non-Hispanics.<sup>4</sup>



### ENROLLMENT:

In California, **24%** of **Hispanics** (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **27%** of White non-Hispanics.<sup>5</sup>

### DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In California, **20%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **54%** of White non-Hispanic adults.<sup>6</sup>

**Hispanic Adults = 2.0 of 10**



**White Adults = 5.4 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 California, Fall 2018

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	East Los Angeles College	Public, 2-year	35,403	24,190	68%
2	Mt San Antonio College	Public, 2-year	29,346	18,688	64%
3	California State University-Northridge	Public, 4-year	35,051	17,308	49%
4	Bakersfield College	Public, 4-year	24,589	17,046	69%
5	California State University-Los Angeles	Public, 4-year	24,223	16,339	67%

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in California, 2017-18

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Mt San Antonio College	Public, 2-year	2,299	1,380	60%
2	Santa Ana College	Public, 4-year	1,803	1,242	69%
3	East Los Angeles College	Public, 2-year	1,657	1,232	74%
4	Pasadena City College	Public, 2-year	2,850	1,224	43%
5	Cerritos College	Public, 2-year	1,717	1,223	71%

### BACHELOR DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in California, 2017-18

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	California State University-Fullerton	Public, 4-year	9,038	3,660	40%
2	California State University-Northridge	Public, 4-year	8,806	3,573	41%
3	California State University-Long Beach	Public, 4-year	8,615	3,417	40%
4	California State University-Los Angeles	Public, 4-year	5,246	3,068	58%
5	San Diego State University	Public, 4-year	7,784	2,514	32%

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.

# California 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.

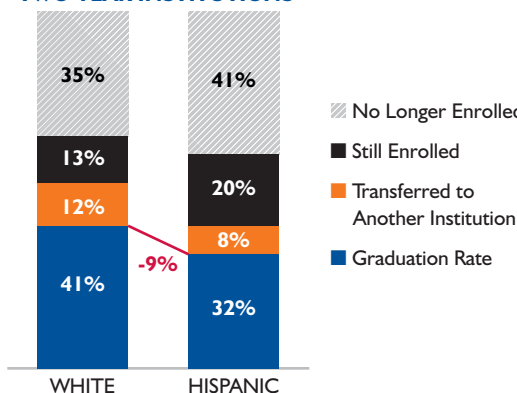
**No Longer Enrolled** — Percentage of students that are no longer enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

## DEGREE OUTCOMES

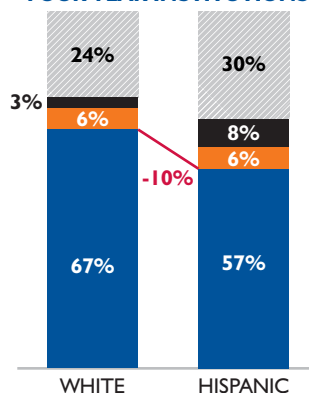
At two-year institutions, Hispanics’ graduation rate was **9%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in California.

At four-year institutions, Hispanics’ graduation rate was **10%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in California.

### 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*.

**The Center for Community College Partnership (CCCCP)** was a 2019 Example of *Excelencia*. CCCC is a partnership between the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and community-colleges to increase transfer rates and success of underserved populations. The program begins with a summer program and continues throughout the academic year to help students understand the challenges and the successes related to transferring. CCCC promotes leadership development,

awareness of Latino policy, and encourages giving back to the community. In Fall 2018, 48% of Latino CCCC students were admitted to UCLA compared to the general transfer admit rate of 23%. Of 25 Latino students in the Fall 2015 cohort that transferred to UCLA or other University of California institutions, 19 graduated by 2018, with the remaining students continuing to persist.

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

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

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

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

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

Nationally, Latino student enrollment and degree completion continues to increase. However, different patterns emerge within each state. For example, California is home to the largest Latino population in the country. Latinos in California graduate from four-year institutions at a higher rate than Latinos nationally. However, California lags in Latinos' degree completion and degree attainment.

## ***Population overview***

California has a large and young Latino population and is home to the largest Latino population in the United States. While 39 percent of the overall population is Latino, 52 percent of students in K-12 education are Latino. Furthermore, the median age for Latinos is 30, compared to 46 for White non-Hispanics. As more Latino students enter higher education, policymakers at the state and institutional level should keep in mind that they'll have an increasingly young, Latino, first-generation population.

## ***Where California leads***

California's public, four-year institutions are enrolling and graduating large numbers of Latino students. Take for example the California State University system. While they represent only two of the top five institutions enrolling Latino undergraduates, all top five institutions awarding bachelor's degrees to Latinos are a California State University institution. Additionally, graduation rates for Latino students at four-year institutions in California are six percentage points higher than the national average for Latinos—57 percent and 51 percent, respectively.

## ***Where California lags***

In California, equity gaps exist in degree attainment. Statewide, only 20 percent of Latino adults have an associate degree or higher, compared to 54 percent of White non-Hispanic adults. Additionally, two of the top five institutions enrolling Latino undergraduates are public, two-year institutions. However, at two-year institutions, 41 percent of Latino students are no longer enrolled three years after starting, and Latino students graduate at a rate nine percentage points lower than their White peers—32 percent and 41 percent, respectively. While at four-year institutions, Latinos are graduating at a higher rate than Latinos nationally, Latinos are graduating at a lower rate than their White peers—57 percent and 67 percent, respectively. Closing the degree attainment gap in California will require policies that help the many Latino students entering higher education on their path to completion.

## ***What comes next?***

State policies to increase Latino student success should keep in mind the profile of Latino students and adjust to meet their needs. California's public, two-year institutions are an important factor in accelerating Latino student success as they enroll tens of thousands of Latino students annually. Opportunities exist for two- and four-year institutions in California to help more Latinos attain a postsecondary degree.

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. California is home to one Seal certified institution, a public, four-year institution in the California State University system.