

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:

Tennessee had the **26th largest Latino population** in the U.S.

K-12 POPULATION:

In Tennessee, **10%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.²

POPULATION:

In Tennessee, **6%** of the population was **Latino**.²

MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in Tennessee was **25**, compared to **42** for **White non-Hispanics**.²



ENROLLMENT:

In Tennessee, **15%** of **Hispanics** (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **21%** of **White non-Hispanics**.²

DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In Tennessee, **26%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **40%** of **White non-Hispanic adults**.²

Hispanic Adults = 2.6 of 10



White Adults = 4.0 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 Tennessee, 2021-22

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Middle Tennessee State University	Public, 4-year	17,713	1,412	8%
2	The University of Tennessee-Knoxville	Public, 4-year	24,957	1,375	6%
3	University of Memphis	Public, 4-year	14,591	1,195	8%
4	Vanderbilt University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	7,104	758	11%
5	Austin Peay State University	Public, 4-year	7,490	721	10%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Austin Peay State University	Public, 4-year	1,301	133	10%
2	Nashville State Community College	Public, 2-year	1,025	101	10%
3	Motlow State Community College	Public, 2-year	1,112	96	9%
4	Pellissippi State Community College	Public, 2-year	1,599	88	6%
5	Volunteer State Community College	Public, 2-year	1,243	80	6%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Middle Tennessee State University	Public, 4-year	3,916	238	6%
2	The University of Tennessee-Knoxville	Public, 4-year	5,170	214	4%
3	University of Memphis	Public, 4-year	3,152	171	5%
4	Vanderbilt University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	1,712	167	10%
5	Belmont University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	1,536	109	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

Tennessee 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.

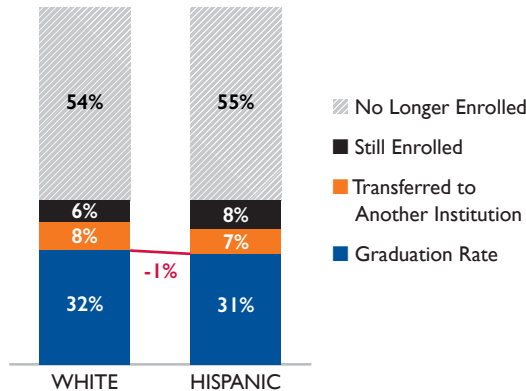
No Longer Enrolled — Percentage of students that are no longer enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

DEGREE OUTCOMES

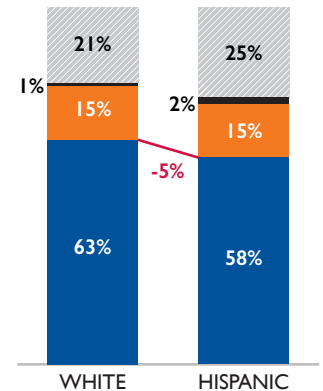
At two-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was **1%-point lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Tennessee.

At four-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was **5%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Tennessee.

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*.

The **YMCA Latino Achievers program** inspires and empowers Latino students to discover their strengths, shape their futures, and transform the world. Latino Achievers program uses evidence-based strategies to increase high school graduation, college application, and enrollment rates for Latino youth. They serve Latino high school students (ages 14-21) in nine public schools in Nashville’s metro schools. The Latino Achievers program serves schools that have two to seven times more Latino youth than the state average of 9.0%, lower than average high school graduation rates, have lower than average ACT scores, and will graduate mostly first-generation college students. Latino Achievers was adopted by the YMCA of Middle Tennessee in 2002 to address low high school graduation rates and college matriculation rates of Latino students. Since then, the program has grown to serve nine schools, with students from 18 area high schools attending workshops and field trips. Latino Achievers seeks to close the achievement gap for Latino students by using evidence-based practices to increase college application and enrollment rates for Latino students. These include: increasing exposure to college through tours and fairs, building skills including ACT preparation and financial aid

planning, encouraging mentorship and providing individualized counseling, introducing professions through the world of work tours, and after-school programming using a college readiness curriculum with a culturally responsive emphasis. Latino Achievers invites local Latino professionals to inspire and empower their students by sharing their experiences of being Latino in college and professional settings, both as guest speakers and in one-on-one meetings with students during their annual power lunch. In addition to continued participation with the program, students are encouraged to meet regularly with staff to receive additional support in their college application process. Latino Achievers also offers scholarships for their students, especially those who are ineligible for financial aid due to their residency status.

For the 2017- 2018 academic year the graduation rate for the 51 active Latinx students was 100% compared to the district average of 74% and the national average of 79%. In addition, for the 2010-2011 academic year, 93% of participants graduated high school. Of the 2017-2018 graduates, 98% enrolled in college compared to 38% for the 2010-2011 graduates.

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>