

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>

## FAST FACTS

### STATE RANKING:

Montana had the **45th largest Latino population** in the U.S.

### K-12 POPULATION:

In Montana, **7%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.<sup>2</sup>

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In Montana, **4%** of the population was **Latino**.<sup>2</sup>

### MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in Montana was **25**, compared to **42** for **White non-Hispanics**.<sup>2</sup>



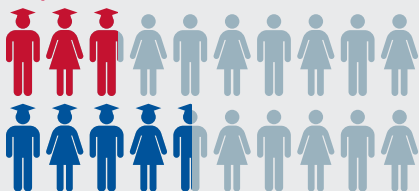
### ENROLLMENT:

In Montana, **18%** of **Hispanics** (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **17%** of **White non-Hispanics**.<sup>2</sup>

### DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In Montana, **28%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **45%** of **White non-Hispanic adults**.<sup>2</sup>

**Hispanic Adults = 2.8 of 10**



**White Adults = 4.5 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 Montana, 2021-22

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Montana State University	Public, 4-year	14,329	745	5%
2	The University of Montana	Public, 4-year	7,026	439	6%
3	Montana State University Billings	Public, 4-year	2,818	183	6%
4	Rocky Mountain College	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	807	72	9%
5	The University of Montana-Western	Public, 4-year	1,283	62	5%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Montana State University Billings	Public, 4-year	220	20	9%
2	The University of Montana	Public, 4-year	253	15	6%
3	Great Falls College Montana State University	Public, 2-year	214	14	7%
4	Montana State University	Public, 4-year	115	9	8%
5	Helena College University of Montana	Public, 2-year	168	8	5%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Montana State University	Public, 4-year	2,572	98	4%
2	The University of Montana	Public, 4-year	1,263	60	5%
3	Montana State University Billings	Public, 4-year	408	21	5%
4	Carroll College	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	254	10	4%
5	The University of Montana-Western	Public, 4-year	189	8	4%

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.

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

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

# Montana 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.

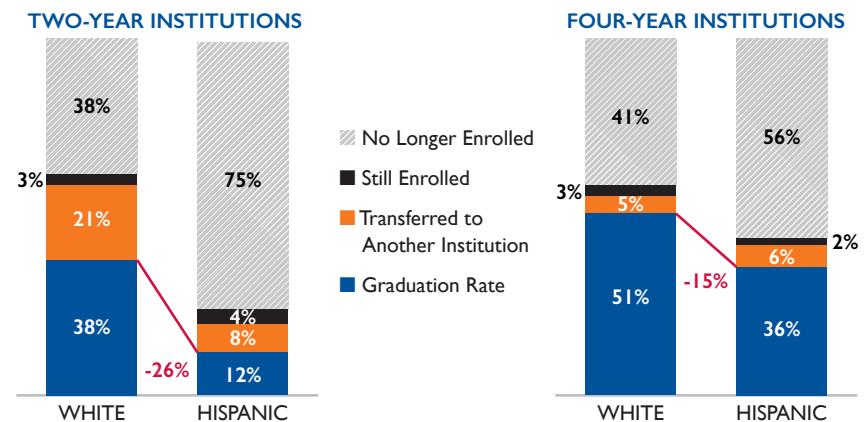
**Still Enrolled** — Percentage of students that are still enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

**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 **26%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Montana.

At four-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was **15%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Montana.



\*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*.

**Preparing Underrepresented Educators to Realize their Teaching Ambitions (PUERTA) Project** at Sonoma State University (SSU) has three primary goals: Increase Hispanic and Latina/o student persistence and graduation rates, increase the number of Hispanic and Latino students who earn a teaching credential, and increase the number of students who transfer to SSU from a two-year Hispanic-Serving Institution. There is a high need for educators of color in California, specifically in the field of bilingual education. PUERTA aims to increase teachers of color who are also linguistically competent. PUERTA implemented the following activities at SSU that focus on achieving project goals such as implementing a continuum of academic and student support services, Summer Bridge programming, outreach and career development support, improving first-year Latinx students' access to General

Education (GE) courses, and providing professional development engagement for aspiring teachers.

Between 2019-20 and 2020-21:

- Latinx students transferring to SSU from a community college increased 40% from 234 to 327.
- Enrollment in a SSU credential program increased from 15 to 52 and earning a teaching credential at SSU increased from 6 to 34.
- 50% of Latinx students completed 30 units in their first year of college, compared to 59% of PUERTA students.
- Latinx students increased their retention from 83% to 90%.
- 100% of transfer students returned.

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>