

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:

Arkansas had the **33rd largest Latino population** in the U.S.

K-12 POPULATION:

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

POPULATION:

In Arkansas, **8%** of the population was **Latino**.²

MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in Arkansas was **24**, compared to **42** for **White non-Hispanics**.²



ENROLLMENT:

In Arkansas, **14%** of **Hispanics** (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **19%** of **White non-Hispanics**.²

DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In Arkansas, **18%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **36%** of **White non-Hispanic adults**.²

Hispanic Adults = 1.8 of 10



White Adults = 3.6 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 Arkansas, 2021-22

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of Arkansas	Public, 4-year	24,001	2,493	10%
2	NorthWest Arkansas Community College	Public, 2-year	4,872	1,154	24%
3	University of Arkansas-Fort Smith	Public, 4-year	4,188	644	15%
4	Arkansas Tech University	Public, 4-year	6,467	628	10%
5	University of Central Arkansas	Public, 4-year	7,763	498	6%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	NorthWest Arkansas Community College	Public, 2-year	812	187	23%
2	Arkansas Tech University	Public, 4-year	973	75	8%
3	Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas	Public, 2-year	157	44	28%
4	University of Arkansas-Fort Smith	Public, 4-year	234	32	14%
5	North Arkansas College	Public, 2-year	247	30	12%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of Arkansas	Public, 4-year	5,190	491	9%
2	University of Central Arkansas	Public, 4-year	1,831	104	6%
3	Arkansas Tech University	Public, 4-year	1,195	80	7%
4	University of Arkansas-Fort Smith	Public, 4-year	738	77	10%
5	Arkansas State University	Public, 4-year	1,759	60	3%

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

Arkansas 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.

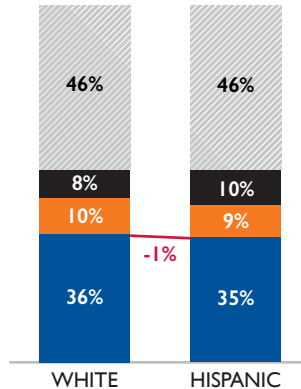
No Longer Enrolled — Percentage of students that are no longer enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

DEGREE OUTCOMES

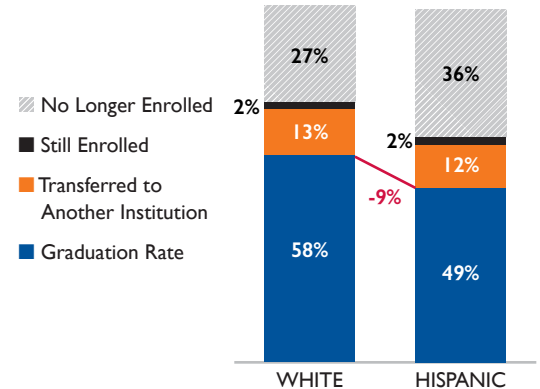
At two-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was **1%-point lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Arkansas.

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

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*.

Breakthrough Central Texas' **College and Career Success** program's mission is to build a path to and through college for students who will become the first in their family to earn a college degree. The College and Career Success program provides 12 years of wrap-around support to help students of color from low-income communities become the first in their families to earn a college degree. In 2022, the program was poised to help 800 high school graduates from low-income communities on their journey to achieving their dream of becoming the first in their families to graduate from college. Founded in 2001, their model is shaped by years of research on the underlying drivers of poverty and educational attainment. The program offers year-round advising, and career exploration opportunities, personalized guidance on the college

admissions and financial aid process, and provides intensive support once students enroll at institutions. Advisors are trained in preparing and supporting students of color to navigate predominately White institutions, as well as supporting Latinx students that are immigrants.

Breakthrough offers touchpoints throughout the year, including a summer conference to prepare for freshman year, care packages, and near-peer support. With 76% of students, and nearly half of staff and Board identifying as Hispanic, the program is committed to and embedded in the Latino community. Specific to their Latino students in the program, in the last three years: 96% graduated from high school on time, 88% enrolled directly in college and 51% graduated from college within six years.

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>