

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:

Illinois had the **6th largest Latino population** in the U.S.

K-12 POPULATION:

In Illinois, **24%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.²

POPULATION:

In Illinois, **18%** of the population was **Latino**.²

MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in Illinois was **30**, compared to **43** for **White non-Hispanics**.²



ENROLLMENT:

In Illinois, **21%** of **Hispanics** (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **23%** of **White non-Hispanics**.²

DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In Illinois, **25%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **50%** of **White non-Hispanic adults**.²

Hispanic Adults = 2.5 of 10



White Adults = 5.0 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 Illinois, 2021-22

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of Illinois Chicago	Public, 4-year	22,011	7,811	35%
2	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	Public, 4-year	33,889	4,759	14%
3	College of DuPage	Public, 2-year	14,801	4,079	28%
4	College of Lake County	Public, 2-year	9,124	3,980	44%
5	DePaul University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	14,059	3,093	22%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	City Colleges of Chicago-Harold Washington College	Public, 2-year	1,283	637	50%
2	City Colleges of Chicago-Wilbur Wright College	Public, 2-year	898	538	60%
3	College of DuPage	Public, 2-year	2,223	530	24%
4	William Rainey Harper College	Public, 2-year	1,921	475	25%
5	College of Lake County	Public, 2-year	1,233	432	35%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of Illinois Chicago	Public, 4-year	4,974	1,474	30%
2	Chamberlain University-Illinois	Private for-profit, 4-year	8,124	1,061	13%
3	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	Public, 4-year	8,301	944	11%
4	DePaul University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	3,335	610	18%
5	Northern Illinois University	Public, 4-year	3,003	567	19%

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

Illinois 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.

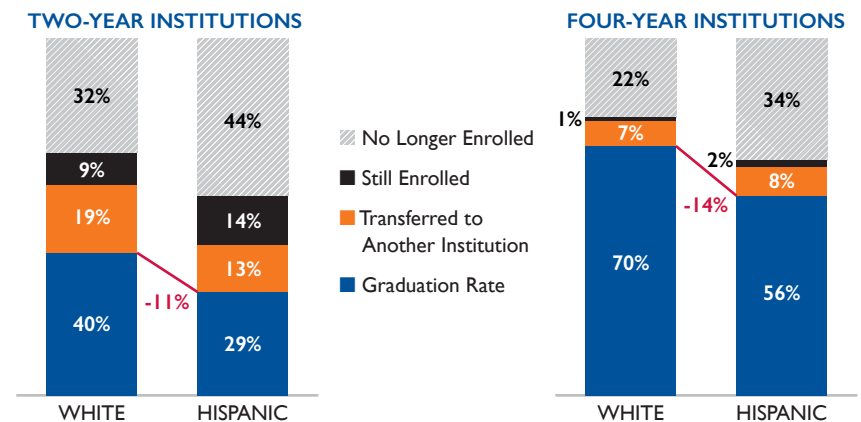
Still Enrolled — Percentage of students that are still enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

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 **11%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Illinois.

At four-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was **14%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Illinois.



*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 mission of **Cardinal First** at North Central College in Illinois is to 1) provide a supportive and welcoming community for first-generation college students and their families, 2) provide a campus culture that recognizes and celebrates first-generation student identity as an asset, and 3) provide a program that intentionally connects students to faculty, resources, information and experiences that promote academic and personal success from enrollment through graduation. Cardinal First prioritizes retention across all four years through cohort-based, interactive monthly workshops (offered at multiple times) for all first-gen students from first-year students to seniors. Each one-hour workshop includes food and fellowship, first-gen faculty sharing, peer mentoring, and asset-based, student success content. To incentivize participation, a meal is provided at every workshop and a renewable \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to students meeting the participation

requirements. Intrusive outreach is ongoing to all first-gen students and families (in Spanish as needed).

Average first-to-second year retention:

- Is higher for all students in Cardinal First (92%) compared to all students (78%) and first-gen students not in the program (61%)
- Is higher for Latino students in Cardinal First (89%) compared to all Latino students (72%) and Latino first-gen students not in the program (52%)

Average first-to-third year retention:

- Is higher for all students in Cardinal First (84%) compared to all students (71%) and first-gen students not in the program (53%)
- Is higher for Latino students in Cardinal First (85%) compared to all Latino students (69%) and Latino first-gen students not in the program (47%)”

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>