

LATINO COLLEGE COMPLETION: KENTUCKY – 2023

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:

Kentucky had the **38th largest Latino population** in the U.S.

K-12 POPULATION:

In Kentucky, **6%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.²

POPULATION:

In Kentucky, **4%** of the population was **Latino**.²

MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in Kentucky was **25**, compared to **41** for **White non-Hispanics**.²



ENROLLMENT:

In Kentucky, **20%** of **Hispanics** (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **21%** of **White non-Hispanics**.²

DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In Kentucky, **25%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **37%** of **White non-Hispanic adults**.²

Hispanic Adults = 2.5 of 10



White Adults = 3.7 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 Kentucky, 2021-22

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of Kentucky	Public, 4-year	21,358	1,251	6%
2	University of Louisville	Public, 4-year	13,815	898	7%
3	Jefferson Community and Technical College	Public, 2-year	7,286	766	11%
4	Bluegrass Community and Technical College	Public, 2-year	7,612	675	9%
5	Western Kentucky University	Public, 4-year	12,526	643	5%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Jefferson Community and Technical College	Public, 2-year	1,305	78	6%
2	Bluegrass Community and Technical College	Public, 2-year	1,677	64	4%
3	Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College	Public, 2-year	614	34	6%
4	West Kentucky Community and Technical College	Public, 2-year	599	31	5%
5	Hopkinsville Community College	Public, 2-year	360	30	8%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of Kentucky	Public, 4-year	4,748	215	5%
2	University of Louisville	Public, 4-year	2,975	152	5%
3	Western Kentucky University	Public, 4-year	2,784	88	3%
4	Eastern Kentucky University	Public, 4-year	2,406	77	3%
5	Northern Kentucky University	Public, 4-year	2,168	73	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

Kentucky 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.

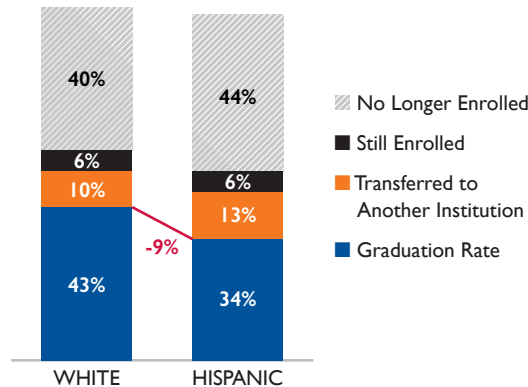
No Longer Enrolled — Percentage of students that are no longer enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

DEGREE OUTCOMES

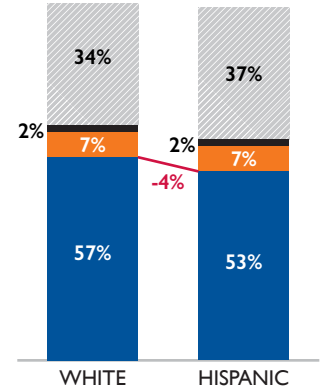
At two-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was **9%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Kentucky.

At four-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was **4%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Kentucky.

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*.

Adelante Hispanic Achievers aims to inspire and empower Latino youth to achieve their dreams and contribute as creative and educated world citizens. All students receive mentoring, enrichment, tutoring, college readiness, and ambassadors. The program is designed to assist students in becoming high academic achievers, graduate from high school, and make sure they are prepared to pursue higher education, and are connected with sufficient resources to afford higher education. Adelante Hispanic Achievers is the only organization in Louisville supporting Latino student success. They now serve 135 students across 7 free programs weekly including Mentoring & Enrichment, 2 after-school tutoring programs, College Readiness & College Corps, ACT Prep, and ambassadors leadership. Adelante Hispanic Achievers students are 100% Latino, first-generation, immigrant, and refugee youth ages 11-18 and attend middle or high schools across Louisville. The program’s unique model includes wraparound services that are long-term beginning in the 6th grade and through high school. They focus on the holistic and individual development

of each child, including academics, career exploration, cultural awareness, and personal/social development. They engage parents as partners and improve the lives of their participants and the vitality of the Latino community. In 2016, Adelante Hispanic Achievers began their College/University Ally partnership. The partnership allows them to continue supporting their students after they have finished high school and graduated out of their program. Students who continue on into the College/University Ally partnership receive a four-year renewal scholarship and are provided an on-campus community of support to ensure students’ obtain a college degree. Currently, their ally institutions include Hanover College, Centre College, Transylvania University, and Eastern Kentucky University.

100% of Adelante Hispanic Achievers graduate high school on time. 97% of Adelante Hispanic Achievers have gone to college directly after high school. 94% of Adelante Hispanic Achievers who have gone to college have graduated on time or are on track to do so. In 2017-18, the average GPA was 3.14, attendance was 96% and average graduating GPA was 3.34.

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>