

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:

Rhode Island had the **37th largest Latino population** in the U.S.

K-12 POPULATION:

In Rhode Island, **27%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.²

POPULATION:

In Rhode Island, **17%** of the population was **Latino**.²

MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in Rhode Island was **29**, compared to **46** for **White non-Hispanics**.²



ENROLLMENT:

In Rhode Island, **27%** of **Hispanics** (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **32%** of **White non-Hispanics**.²

DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In Rhode Island, **22%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **50%** of **White non-Hispanic adults**.²

Hispanic Adults = 2.2 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 Rhode Island, 2021-22

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Community College of Rhode Island	Public, 2-year	11,136	2,840	26%
2	University of Rhode Island	Public, 4-year	13,850	1,469	11%
3	Rhode Island College	Public, 4-year	5,128	1,258	25%
4	Brown University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	7,125	802	11%
5	Johnson & Wales University-Providence	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	4,591	716	16%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Community College of Rhode Island	Public, 2-year	2,064	353	17%
2	New England Institute of Technology	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	752	57	8%
3	Johnson & Wales University-Providence	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	301	45	15%
4	Roger Williams University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	42	4	10%
5	Providence College	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	6	2	33%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of Rhode Island	Public, 4-year	3,312	308	9%
2	Rhode Island College	Public, 4-year	1,357	279	21%
3	Brown University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	1,563	165	11%
4	Johnson & Wales University-Providence	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	1,061	127	12%
5	Providence College	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	985	82	8%

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

Rhode Island 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.

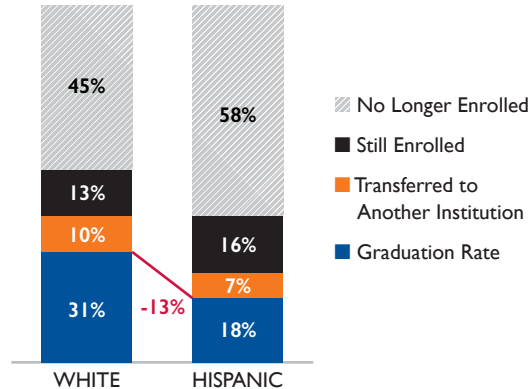
No Longer Enrolled — Percentage of students that are no longer enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

DEGREE OUTCOMES

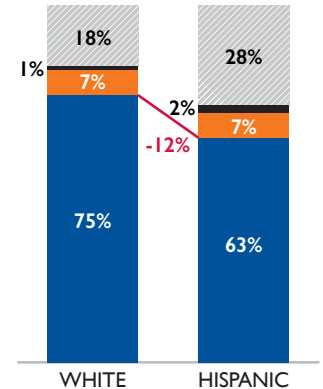
At two-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was **13%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Rhode Island.

At four-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was **12%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Rhode Island.

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 **College Crusade of Rhode Island** is Rhode Island’s largest college access program aimed at increasing high school graduation, college readiness, and college completion for students from the state’s low-income communities. They focus on reducing remediation rates among college-going students, promoting early college coursework, and improving families’ knowledge of post-secondary options. Latino students make up 70% of the students served with a majority of students identifying as first-generation and living predominantly in Spanish-speaking households. Students enroll in the College Crusade in the 6th grade and receive ongoing services into their undergraduate college years. They provide personalized support through 29 advisors who operate in 37 middle schools, high schools, and at the state’s three public colleges. Advisors are full-time college readiness professionals, many of whom share a similar lived experience. They provide over 60 programs to meet students’ academic, social and emotional development, career exploration, and college preparation needs. College Crusade also provides direct college scholarships and has awarded nearly \$19 million to 2,175 Latino students. They serve over 1,400 families a year through one-on-one meetings, parent councils, family forums, and 100 workshops that build parents’ financial literacy skills and capacity to

advocate for their children’s success. All family engagement programming is presented by native speakers in both Spanish and English.

Between 2010 and 2017, students’ on-time high school graduation rates increased from 69% to 86% and now exceeds the state rate of 84%. During the same time period, students’ immediate college enrollment rates increased from 50% to 84%, well above the state rate of 59%. Students’ first-year college persistence rates have exceeded the rates for all students at the state’s public colleges for over a decade, most recently by 8 percentage points (84% vs. 76%). Analysis by Drexel University finds, from the point of entry in sixth grade, Latino students in their program are 7.4% more likely to graduate high school on time, 27% more likely to immediately enroll in college, and 43% more likely to persist to a second year of college than Latino students in the comparison group. Findings among Latino students are similar to overall findings for College Crusade students vs. comparison group students, where 11% are more likely to graduate high school on time, 30% are more likely to enroll college immediately after graduation, and 39% are more likely to persist to a second year of college.

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>