

LATINO COLLEGE COMPLETION: WISCONSIN – 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:

Wisconsin had the **25th largest Latino population** in the U.S.

K-12 POPULATION:

In Wisconsin, **13%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.²

POPULATION:

In Wisconsin, **7%** of the population was **Latino**.²

MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in Wisconsin was **26**, compared to **44** for **White non-Hispanics**.²



ENROLLMENT:

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

DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In Wisconsin, **24%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **46%** of **White non-Hispanic adults**.²

Hispanic Adults = 2.4 of 10



White Adults = 4.6 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 Wisconsin, 2021-22

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	Public, 4-year	18,322	2,532	14%
2	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Public, 4-year	33,506	2,266	7%
3	Milwaukee Area Technical College	Public, 2-year	11,010	2,057	19%
4	Marquette University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	7,466	1,162	16%
5	Madison Area Technical College	Public, 4-year	8,536	1,120	13%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Milwaukee Area Technical College	Public, 2-year	1,239	191	15%
2	Gateway Technical College	Public, 2-year	719	144	20%
3	Madison Area Technical College	Public, 4-year	1,445	114	8%
4	Northeast Wisconsin Technical College	Public, 2-year	937	66	7%
5	Fox Valley Technical College	Public, 2-year	912	40	4%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Public, 4-year	7,743	417	5%
2	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	Public, 4-year	3,711	404	11%
3	Marquette University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	1,905	257	13%
4	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater	Public, 4-year	2,145	141	7%
5	University of Wisconsin-Parkside	Public, 4-year	652	126	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

Wisconsin 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.

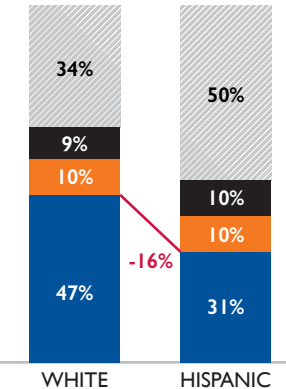
No Longer Enrolled — Percentage of students that are no longer enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

DEGREE OUTCOMES

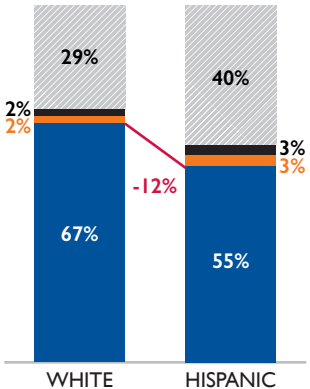
At two-year institutions, Hispanics’ graduation rate was **16%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Wisconsin.

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

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 Inter-University Program for Latino Research and the University of Illinois-Chicago **IUPLR/UIC Mellon Fellows Program** is a Ph.D. dissertation completion fellowship that mentors, supports, and professionalizes an annual national cohort of humanities-based doctoral candidates specializing in Latino Studies. Its mission is to strengthen the field of Latino Studies by building a growing network of early-career academics, researchers, and professionals. The IUPLR/UIC Mellon Fellows Program began as an initiative to increase the number of Latino scholars and advance dissertations and research in Latino Studies. Through a multi-faceted approach, the program has accelerated fellows’ time to degree completion, prepared them professionally, expanded their networks, and equipped them with long-term research and writing strategies. The program is organized around four guiding practices: 1) financial support; 2) creating a supportive environment through mentoring, cohorts, and structure; 3) writing support; and 4) professionalization. In addition to the monetary award, cohorts benefit from a supportive network of

staff, mentors, and alumni. The writing program offers the structure, accountability, and encouragement needed to become more confident and productive writers who can balance the demands of an academic career. We prepare the fellows for the job market through a series of workshops and ongoing consulting through the job market season.

Almost all of the program participants are Latinos. In all cases, the program shortened the time to degree by helping doctoral candidates maintain a dissertation writing schedule. As of 2021, 95% of program alumni have graduated with their PhDs; the remaining two doctoral candidates are set to defend their dissertations this year. As of 2021, the doctoral candidates have a 0% attrition rate which is attributed in large part to their participation in the program. Approximately 77% of fellows have full-time work, which is significantly higher than the 59% average. The most recent cohort (not in these calculations) has already received two tenure-track offers.

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>