

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:

North Carolina had the **11th largest Latino population** in the U.S.

K-12 POPULATION:

In North Carolina, **16%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.²

POPULATION:

In North Carolina, **10%** of the population was **Latino**.²

MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in North Carolina was **25**, compared to **44** for **White non-Hispanics**.²



ENROLLMENT:

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

DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In North Carolina, **26%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **50%** of **White non-Hispanic adults**.²

Hispanic Adults = 2.6 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 North Carolina, 2021-22

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Public, 4-year	23,708	3,036	13%
2	Wake Technical Community College	Public, 2-year	18,327	2,715	15%
3	Central Piedmont Community College	Public, 2-year	13,449	2,356	18%
4	University of North Carolina at Greensboro	Public, 4-year	14,889	2,161	15%
5	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Public, 4-year	19,722	1,911	10%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Wake Technical Community College	Public, 2-year	2,977	383	13%
2	Central Piedmont Community College	Public, 2-year	2,397	330	14%
3	Fayetteville Technical Community College	Public, 2-year	1,756	239	14%
4	Forsyth Technical Community College	Public, 2-year	1,151	168	15%
5	Guilford Technical Community College	Public, 2-year	1,450	160	11%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Public, 4-year	5,902	633	11%
2	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Public, 4-year	4,951	411	8%
3	North Carolina State University at Raleigh	Public, 4-year	5,973	376	6%
4	University of North Carolina at Greensboro	Public, 4-year	3,525	360	10%
5	East Carolina University	Public, 4-year	4,939	352	7%

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

North Carolina 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.

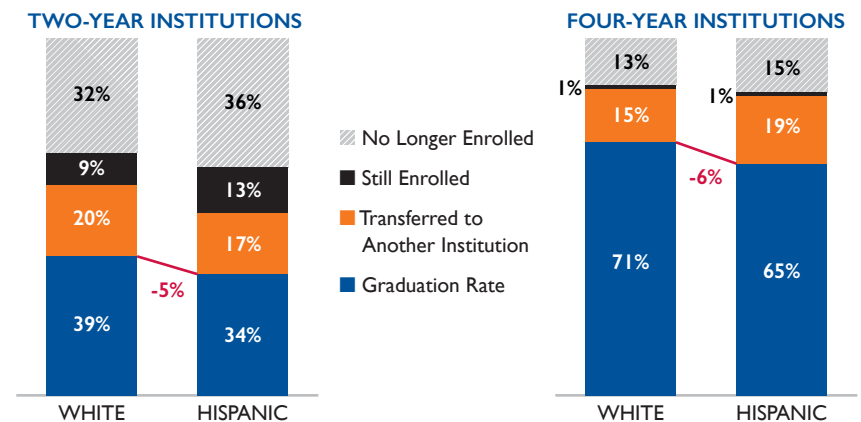
Still Enrolled — Percentage of students that are still enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

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 **5%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in North Carolina.

At four-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was **6%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in North Carolina.



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 **Crosby Scholars Program** works to assist all Forsyth County public middle and high school students in preparing themselves for successful college enrollment. Crosby offers leadership and academic programs, assists with FAFSA completion, and provides need-based Last Dollar Grants. Crosby also helps DACA students find and afford education opportunities at private institutions. Crosby Scholars began in 1992 with the goal to provide a path to college for all public Forsyth County students. Students sign a partnership agreement and commit to being drug-free, attend classes in academic skills and leadership development, and complete community service. Students who complete the program are eligible to apply for need-based Last Dollar Grants of up to \$1,200 for up to four years. Crosby's Hispanic Outreach programs are specifically for Latino students: Crosby's *Excelencia* Program helps Latina girls learn their bilingual and bicultural abilities to increase their opportunities. Crosby Scholars collaborated with the YMCA Latino Achievers program, N.C. State, and WSFCS to develop what is now *Unidos* to provide after-school tutoring and also offer parent classes. We partner with the YMCA

in *Exitosos* to introduce high school students to successful professional Latino community members. Our SHE Project introduces 8th-grade Latina and African American girls to STEM opportunities.

For the past 10 years, 100% of Crosby Scholars have graduated from high school, and 98% have reported they enrolled immediately in a 4- or 2-year college. The 2011 Crosby Scholars cohort had 70% of their students graduate in six-years, compared to the national rate of 58% for 2012, the highest national six-years graduation rate recorded (National Student Clearinghouse). From 2016 to 2017 there was a 117% increase in Hispanic students who received the Crosby Scholars' Last Dollar Grant, and a 175% increase from 2017 to 2018. In 2018:

- 96% of Hispanic Crosby Scholars took the ACT and earned an average score of 19.
- 75% of Hispanic Scholars also had a weighted GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- 96% of Hispanic Crosby Scholars enrolled in college immediately after graduation: 48% in 2-year and 47% in 4-year colleges.

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>