

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.<sup>1</sup>

## FAST FACTS

### STATE RANKING:

New Mexico had the **12th largest Latino population** in the U.S.

### K-12 POPULATION:

In New Mexico, **62%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.<sup>2</sup>

### POPULATION:

In New Mexico, **50%** of the population was **Latino**.<sup>2</sup>

### MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in New Mexico was **33**, compared to **51** for **White non-Hispanics**.<sup>2</sup>



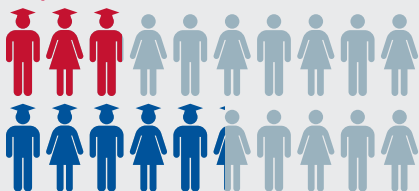
### ENROLLMENT:

In New Mexico, **18%** of **Hispanics** (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **22%** of **White non-Hispanics**.<sup>2</sup>

### DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In New Mexico, **28%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **53%** of **White non-Hispanic adults**.<sup>2</sup>

**Hispanic Adults = 2.8 of 10**



**White Adults = 5.3 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 New Mexico, 2021-22

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Central New Mexico Community College	Public, 2-year	15,275	8,236	54%
2	University of New Mexico-Main Campus	Public, 4-year	15,092	7,550	50%
3	New Mexico State University-Main Campus	Public, 4-year	10,674	6,791	64%
4	New Mexico State University-Dona Ana	Public, 2-year	4,707	3,432	73%
5	Eastern New Mexico University-Main Campus	Public, 4-year	2,861	1,237	43%

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in New Mexico, 2020-21

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Central New Mexico Community College	Public, 2-year	3,387	1,733	51%
2	New Mexico State University-Dona Ana	Public, 2-year	812	588	72%
3	San Juan College	Public, 2-year	654	135	21%
4	Santa Fe Community College	Public, 2-year	237	128	54%
5	Eastern New Mexico University-Main Campus	Public, 4-year	266	124	47%

### BACHELOR DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in New Mexico, 2020-21

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of New Mexico-Main Campus	Public, 4-year	3,880	1,880	48%
2	New Mexico State University-Main Campus	Public, 4-year	2,236	1,297	58%
3	Eastern New Mexico University-Main Campus	Public, 4-year	687	267	39%
4	New Mexico Highlands University	Public, 4-year	389	229	59%
5	Western New Mexico University	Public, 4-year	229	110	48%

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

## New Mexico 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.

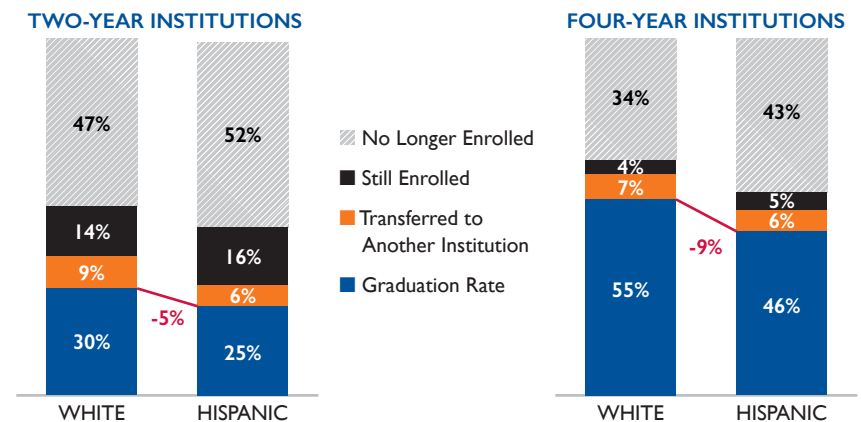
**Still Enrolled** — Percentage of students that are still enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

**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 New Mexico.

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



\*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*.

**Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) to the Postdoctorate Program** at New Mexico State University (NMSU) works to diversify the health scientist research community by furthering the Ph.D. degree completion of students who are members of groups traditionally underrepresented in biomedical and biobehavioral fields. Increasing the number of underrepresented minorities Ph.D. recipients in STEM disciplines ensures the broadest possible talent and perspectives can contribute to the task of finding treatments for diseases and disorders that affect human health, such as those associated with health disparities between populations. RISE Masters in Science and Ph.D. students are prepared for the next career step through mentored research experiences, professional development, workshops, technical skills, off-site research training internship, formal education in responsible conduct in research, and guided expansion of their social research network. Student self-efficacy and career independence are promoted through individualized development plans, professional portfolios, and submission of applications for fellowships and other independent support. Clear communication of program expectations for mentors and students, structured benchmarks,

and regular progress review with feedback keeps students on track to degree completion. Assessment and evaluation of program practices and outcomes ensure continual refinement of programmatic elements.

Over 18 years, RISE has supported 59 STEM Ph.D. students, 36 of them identifying as Latino and 54 identifying as underrepresented minority students. As of December 2017:

- RISE has had 28 Latino students and 44 underrepresented minority students earn a Ph.D.
- RISE has supported 44 Latino students and 49 underrepresented minority students to receive a Masters in STEM.
- 97% Ph.D. completion and 84% Masters degree completion compared to 70% national average.
- 8 of the 28 RISE Latino NMSU Ph.Ds hold faculty positions, a number that exceeds national estimates of 20% Ph.Ds in STEM faculty jobs.
- RISE has exceeded goals of 90% Ph.D. and 75% Masters degree completion for Latinos and underrepresented minorities.

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>