

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:

Florida had the **3rd largest Latino population** in the U.S.

K-12 POPULATION:

In Florida, **31%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.²

POPULATION:

In Florida, **27%** of the population was **Latino**.²

MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in Florida was **37**, compared to **51** for **White non-Hispanics**.²



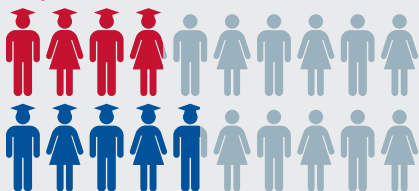
ENROLLMENT:

In Florida, **23%** of **Hispanics** (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **22%** of **White non-Hispanics**.²

DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In Florida, **38%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **47%** of **White non-Hispanic adults**.²

Hispanic Adults = 3.8 of 10



White Adults = 4.7 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 Florida, 2021-22

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Miami Dade College	Public, 4-year	39,727	28,583	72%
2	Florida International University	Public, 4-year	39,936	26,890	67%
3	University of Central Florida	Public, 4-year	59,710	17,533	29%
4	Valencia College	Public, 4-year	36,131	14,744	41%
5	Broward College	Public, 4-year	25,570	9,583	37%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Miami Dade College	Public, 4-year	11,361	8,043	71%
2	Valencia College	Public, 4-year	9,137	3,170	35%
3	Broward College	Public, 4-year	6,672	2,416	36%
4	Palm Beach State College	Public, 4-year	4,813	1,459	30%
5	Hillsborough Community College	Public, 2-year	4,112	1,391	34%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Florida International University	Public, 4-year	12,608	8,365	66%
2	University of Central Florida	Public, 4-year	14,901	4,158	28%
3	University of Florida	Public, 4-year	9,034	2,123	24%
4	University of South Florida	Public, 4-year	10,069	2,080	21%
5	Florida State University	Public, 4-year	8,624	1,802	21%

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

Florida 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.

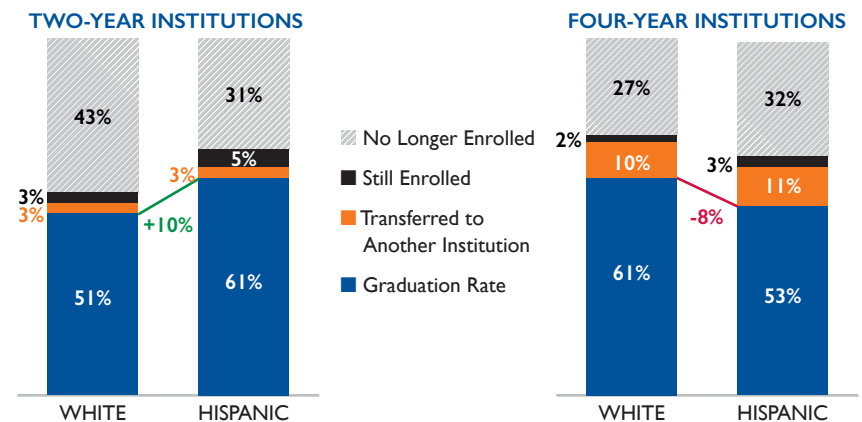
Still Enrolled — Percentage of students that are still enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

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 **10%-points higher** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Florida.

At four-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was **8%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Florida.



*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*.

Miami Dade College (MDC) and Florida International University (FIU) have collaborated to create the **Connect4Success (C4S) program**. The mission of the program is to establish a guided transfer pathway that facilitates the admission of MDC Associates of Arts (AA) degree graduates to FIU baccalaureate programs. The C4S program has two overarching goals: 1) Providing students with access to postsecondary educational opportunities, and 2) Develop support mechanisms for timely degree completion. From its original conception in 2006 as a Dual Degree Program, C4S has evolved while building on Florida’s 2+2 framework. Approximately 70% of MDC Associates of Arts completers transfer to FIU with the goal of completing a baccalaureate program, which was the main catalyst in creating a structured, seamless process for students to transfer to a partner institution. The program offers wraparound services beginning with

a comprehensive onboarding. After applying to the program, students are assigned an MDC Pre-College advisor who guides them from application through enrollment. Advisors serve as the liaisons to key holistic support services such as Learning Resources, Student Life, Single Stop, and Mental Health Counseling. Students benefit from appreciative advising, extensive co-curricular opportunities, and career and transfer workshops.

Over 70% of C4S graduates who complete an AA at MDC within 3 years matriculate at a partner university. 80% of C4S program participants are Hispanic. Of the C4S students who graduate within 3 years, Hispanics represent 80%. Of the almost 17,000 degrees and certificates awarded in the past academic year, 76% of those credentials were awarded to Hispanic students.

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>