

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:

Connecticut had the **18th largest Latino population** in the U.S.

### K-12 POPULATION:

In Connecticut, **25%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.<sup>2</sup>

### POPULATION:

In Connecticut, **18%** of the population was **Latino**.<sup>2</sup>

### MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in Connecticut was **30**, compared to **48** for **White non-Hispanics**.<sup>2</sup>



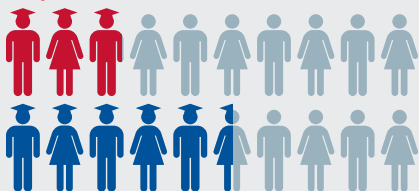
### ENROLLMENT:

In Connecticut, **26%** of **Hispanics** (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **28%** of **White non-Hispanics**.<sup>2</sup>

### DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In Connecticut, **28%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **55%** of **White non-Hispanic adults**.<sup>2</sup>

**Hispanic Adults = 2.8 of 10**



**White Adults = 5.5 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 Connecticut, 2021-22

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of Connecticut	Public, 4-year	18,362	2,650	14%
2	Gateway Community College	Public, 2-year	5,194	1,574	30%
3	Norwalk Community College	Public, 2-year	3,557	1,530	43%
4	Naugatuck Valley Community College	Public, 2-year	4,297	1,392	32%
5	Central Connecticut State University	Public, 4-year	7,616	1,299	17%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Norwalk Community College	Public, 2-year	542	169	31%
2	Naugatuck Valley Community College	Public, 2-year	604	136	23%
3	Gateway Community College	Public, 2-year	566	135	24%
4	Housatonic Community College	Public, 2-year	357	130	36%
5	Manchester Community College	Public, 2-year	591	104	18%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of Connecticut	Public, 4-year	5,433	632	12%
2	Central Connecticut State University	Public, 4-year	1,838	273	15%
3	Southern Connecticut State University	Public, 4-year	1,613	202	13%
4	Western Connecticut State University	Public, 4-year	1,035	196	19%
5	Quinnipiac University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	1,787	175	10%

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.

<sup>1</sup> Projections to 2030: *Excelencia in Education*. (2020). Ensuring America's Future: Benchmarking Latino College Completion to 2030. *Excelencia in Education*. Washington, D.C.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

## Connecticut 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.

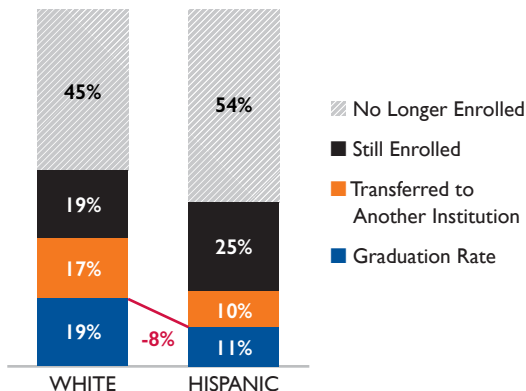
**No Longer Enrolled** — Percentage of students that are no longer enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

**DEGREE OUTCOMES**

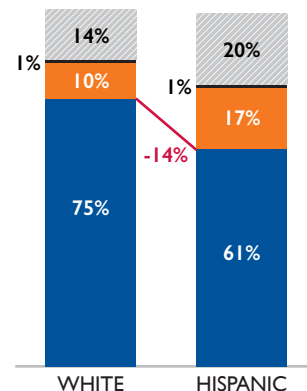
At two-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was **8%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Connecticut.

At four-year institutions, Hispanics' graduation rate was **14%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Connecticut.

**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: *Excellencia* 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 *Excellencia*.

The **UAlbany Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)** at the State University of New York at Albany provides disadvantaged undergraduate students, a significant number who are Latino, college access; academic support; and financial assistance to successfully persist and graduate. EOP's goal is to ensure high retention, graduation rates, and academic performance for underrepresented students at UAlbany. UAlbany EOP offers participants its Summer Bridge Program, a 5-week intensive experience that provides college readiness instruction (basic writing, reading, mathematics) and support services to participants, including ongoing academic counseling. Being aware that strong parental engagement is vital to Latino student success, EOP provides a variety of services to ensure families of Latino students understand the services their students receive. Letters to parents of EOP freshmen and all EOP meetings, events, and presentations are made available

in English and Spanish. EOP also receives numerous calls from Latino parents, of which 85% are from parents who want to ensure their child is well and adjusting. Three Latino EOP staffers receive and return 95% of calls to parents and even go as far as escorting participants to medical appointments when ill. In collaboration with campus Psychological and Counseling Services, Latino participants are also afforded bilingual mental health services in the EOP complex.

Across 2018 - 2019, 97% of Latino program participants were retained in their first year compared to the institutional average of 79%. Of EOP's Fall 2013 cohort, 68% of Latino program participants graduated in six years compared to 61% of Latino non-program participants. As of Spring 2019, Latino program participants achieved an average 2.8 GPA compared to 2.7 for Latino non-program participants.

For more information on institutional programs improving Latino student success in higher education, access *Excellencia* in Education's Growing What Works database at <http://www.edexcellencia.org/growing-what-works>