

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:

Iowa had the 36th largest Latino population in the U.S.

K-12 POPULATION:

In Iowa, 11% of the K-12 population was Latino.²

POPULATION:

In Iowa, 7% of the population was Latino.²

MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of Hispanics in Iowa was 23, compared to 41 for White non-Hispanics.²



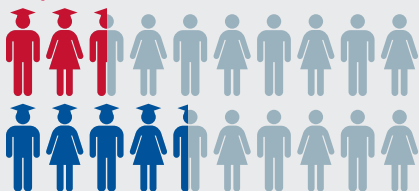
ENROLLMENT:

In Iowa, 21% of Hispanics (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to 25% of White non-Hispanics.²

DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In Iowa, 26% of Hispanic adults (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to 44% of White non-Hispanic adults.²

Hispanic Adults = 2.6 of 10



White Adults = 4.4 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 Iowa, 2021-22

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of Iowa	Public, 4-year	21,198	1,811	9%
2	Iowa State University	Public, 4-year	25,537	1,790	7%
3	Des Moines Area Community College	Public, 2-year	10,175	852	8%
4	Western Iowa Tech Community College	Public, 2-year	2,657	587	22%
5	Kirkwood Community College	Public, 2-year	7,778	548	7%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Des Moines Area Community College	Public, 2-year	1,996	125	6%
2	Kirkwood Community College	Public, 2-year	1,625	110	7%
3	Eastern Iowa Community College District	Public, 2-year	835	94	11%
4	Western Iowa Tech Community College	Public, 2-year	417	59	14%
5	Iowa Central Community College	Public, 2-year	732	48	7%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	University of Iowa	Public, 4-year	5,283	408	8%
2	Iowa State University	Public, 4-year	6,405	345	5%
3	University of Northern Iowa	Public, 4-year	2,227	92	4%
4	Upper Iowa University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	933	74	8%
5	Drake University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	628	49	8%

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

Iowa 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.

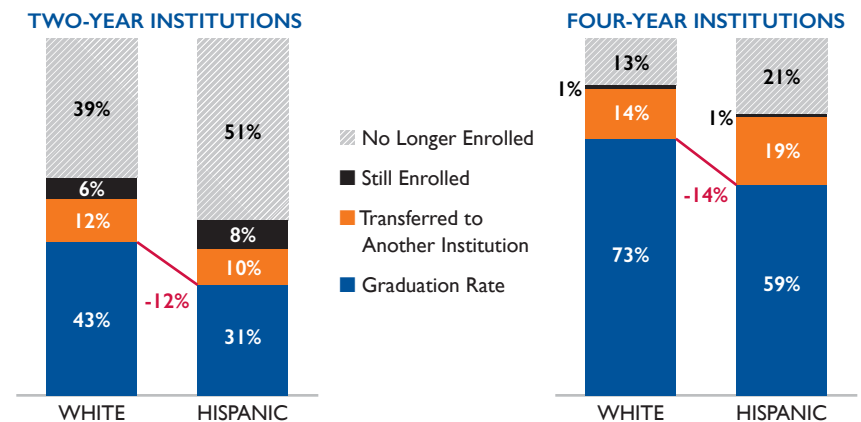
Still Enrolled — Percentage of students that are still enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

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 **12%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Iowa.

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



*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*.

Science Bound (SB) at Iowa State University works with underrepresented youth & families (8th grade through college) toward their preparation and pursuit of Education, Agriculture, and STEM degrees. They aim to increase the number of students enrolling in and completing degrees in higher education. Science Bound identifies middle school students with a propensity for math/science and supports them through their earning of a bachelor’s degree in STEM. SB engages high school seniors/parents in college enrollment workshops. After high school, SB offers four-year tuition scholarships for students and has dedicated bilingual and bicultural staff trained in STEM student development. They host a college onboarding retreat focused on academic support and peer mentoring, a weekly seminar connecting first-year students to university resources, develop college study skills, and acclimate them to

predominantly white institutions. Science Bound is intentionally inclusive in making sure Latino students’ cultural assets are incorporated and resources are provided regarding immigration status. Additionally, inclusive language is used when interacting with Latino students/families (i.e. parent letters in Spanish and English, and interpreters for Spanish-speaking families).

More than 2,000 students have benefitted from Science Bound and nearly 700 students have earned four-year STEM tuition scholarships. From 2019-2020, 65 high school graduates (98%) are pursuing higher education degrees (80% at Iowa State University). During 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 there has been an increase in high school student retention of 91%. The six-year graduation rate for Latino students in the program was 70%, higher than the university’s overall graduation rate of 60%.

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>