

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:

Utah had the **23rd largest Latino population** in the U.S.

K-12 POPULATION:

In Utah, **18%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.²

POPULATION:

In Utah, **15%** of the population was **Latino**.²

MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in Utah was **26**, compared to **33** for **White non-Hispanics**.²



ENROLLMENT:

In Utah, **19%** of **Hispanics** (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **27%** of **White non-Hispanics**.²

DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In Utah, **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 Utah, 2021-22

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Western Governors University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	107,952	12,955	12%
2	Salt Lake Community College	Public, 2-year	18,373	4,218	23%
3	University of Utah	Public, 4-year	24,850	3,554	14%
4	Utah Valley University	Public, 4-year	27,489	3,429	12%
5	Brigham Young University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	31,642	2,353	7%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Utah Valley University	Public, 4-year	5,422	584	11%
2	Salt Lake Community College	Public, 2-year	3,184	580	18%
3	Weber State University	Public, 4-year	2,986	287	10%
4	Dixie State University	Public, 4-year	779	95	12%
5	Ensign College	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	437	73	17%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Western Governors University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	26,612	2,338	9%
2	University of Utah	Public, 4-year	5,027	641	13%
3	Brigham Young University	Private not-for-profit, 4-year	6,685	441	7%
4	Utah Valley University	Public, 4-year	3,975	393	10%
5	Weber State University	Public, 4-year	2,641	258	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.

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

Utah Gap in Degree Completion

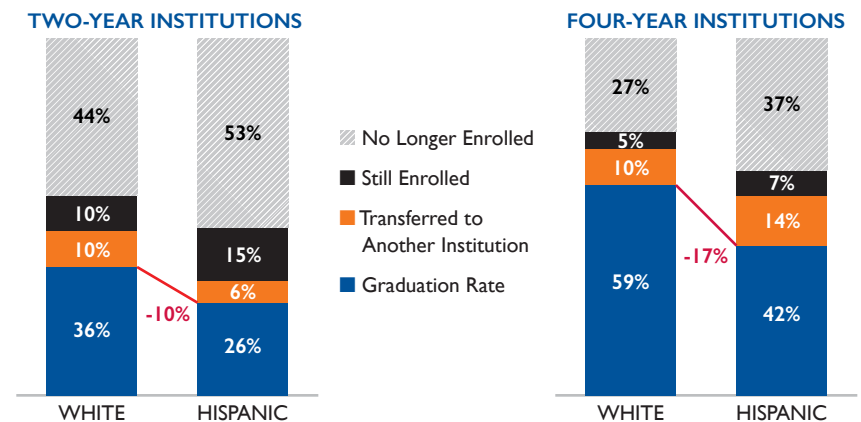
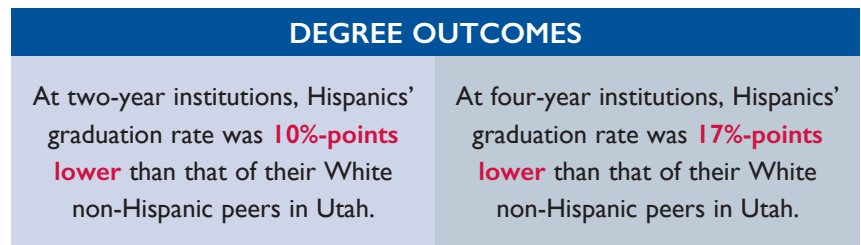
Closing the degree completion gap can be tracked by the 4 measures shown below. Alone, none of these measures capture the entire “story” of degree completion. However, in combination, they provide a useful picture of the gap in degree attainment between Hispanic and White non-Hispanic cohorts in a single 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.



*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 **Latino Initiative Program** at Utah Valley University (UVU) was established in 2007 to provide access and equitable opportunities for Latino students to enroll and graduate with a college degree. Their goal is to close the achievement gap in Utah by engaging students, parents, educators, and community leaders in dialogues, programs, resources, and services to provide college access and graduation opportunities for Latina/o youth and their families. Additionally, they work towards increasing the number of Latina/o students who enroll in and complete their college education and create and foster K-16 and community partnerships to increase academic opportunities for Latina/o students. The Latino Initiative started in 2007 to fulfill an institutional need to provide access and equitable opportunities to increase the number of Latino students who graduate from Utah Valley University. They have established strong K-16 and community partnerships that have allowed them to work with thousands of students and their families. They provide 14-20 Latino parent open houses in a year, free summer bridge programs for high students where over 850 students have received 5-6 college credits, Latino student conferences, and events where the experiences of Latino students are validated. Their practices

include advocating for services, resources, and Latino student leadership participation. They advocate and influence institutional practices to lower barriers for all Latina/o students, particularly those who are low income, first-generation, and undocumented. Also, through their K-12 collaboration, they have been able to impact many of the school cultures on Latino parental engagement and Latino student academic excellence. One of those examples is the Rising Wolverine award, where they recognize over 112 Latino middle school students during their annual Latin American Celebration dinner, where they host 1,100 students, parents, community members, leaders, faculty, and staff.

UVU has had the largest Latino student population as a four-year higher education institution since 2008. In 2019, the UVU Latino enrollment was 4,911 students which accounted for 12% of student population. In 2019, the UVU Latino graduation headcount was 609 students. The Latino Initiative reaches out to approximately 6,000 - 7,000 Latino students and their parents per year. Since inception, the Latino Initiative has increased Latino student enrollment by 361% and Latino graduation headcount by 425%.

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>