

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>

## EAST FACTS

### STATE RANKING:

Texas had the **2nd largest Latino population** in the U.S.

### K-12 POPULATION:

In Texas, **49%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.<sup>2</sup>

### POPULATION:

In Texas, **40%** of the population was **Latino**.<sup>3</sup>

### MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in Texas was **29**, compared to **42** for **White non-Hispanics**.<sup>4</sup>



### ENROLLMENT:

In Texas, **19%** of **Hispanics** (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **23%** of **White non-Hispanics**.<sup>5</sup>

### DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In Texas, **21%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **47%** of **White non-Hispanic adults**.<sup>6</sup>

**Hispanic Adults = 2.1 of 10**



**White Adults = 4.7 of 10**

To reach the degree attainment goal by 2030, the U.S. can: 1) close the equity gap in college completion; 2) increase the number of degrees conferred; and, 3) scale up programs and initiatives that work for Latino and other students. The following is a framework for tracking Latino degree attainment in the U.S.

### ENROLLING: Top 5 Institutions (Hispanic Undergraduates) in Texas, Fall 2018

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	South Texas College	Public, 4-year	31,949	30,419	95%
2	Lone Star College System	Public, 2-year	73,499	27,925	38%
3	El Paso Community College	Public, 2-year	28,819	24,601	85%
4	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Public, 4-year	24,678	22,281	90%
5	Houston Community College	Public, 2-year	57,200	20,067	35%

### ASSOCIATE DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in Texas, 2017-18

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	South Texas College	Public, 4-year	4,112	3,923	95%
2	El Paso Community College	Public, 2-year	3,438	2,975	87%
3	Lone Star College System	Public, 2-year	7,552	2,654	35%
4	San Antonio College	Public, 2-year	4,038	2,323	58%
5	San Jacinto Community College	Public, 2-year	4,619	2,253	49%

### BACHELOR DEGREES: Top 5 Institutions Awarding to Hispanics in Texas, 2017-18

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	Public, 4-year	4,046	3,618	89%
2	The University of Texas at El Paso	Public, 4-year	3,429	2,847	83%
3	The University of Texas at San Antonio	Public, 4-year	4,945	2,645	53%
4	Texas A & M University-College Station	Public, 4-year	12,423	2,610	21%
5	University of Houston	Public, 4-year	7,300	2,392	33%

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), 2018 Fall Enrollment, Graduation Rates Survey and Institutional Characteristics Survey.

# Texas Equity Gap in Degree Completion

Closing the equity gap in college completion can be tracked by the 4 measures shown below. Alone, none of these measures capture the entire “story” of equity in degree completion. However, in combination, they provide a useful picture of the equity 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. (Only incorporates students who have transferred out from an 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.

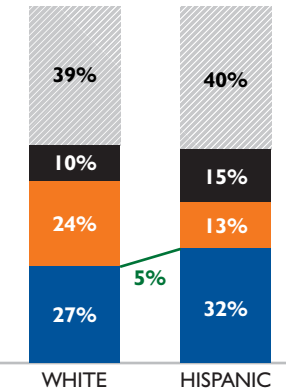
**No Longer Enrolled** — Percentage of students that are no longer enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

**DEGREE OUTCOMES**

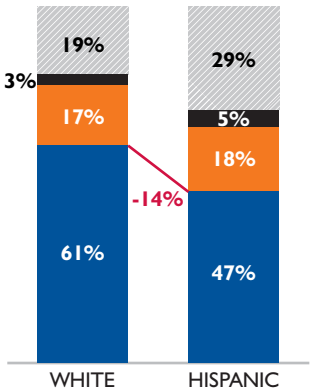
At two-year institutions, Hispanics’ graduation rate was **5%-points higher** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in Texas.

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

**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 2015, and for students at four-year institutions who started in Fall 2012.

Source: *Excelencia in Education* analysis using the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 2018 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*.

**The Believe & Achieve (B&A) Youth Development and Scholarship Program** at Trinity River Mission (TRM) was a 2019 Examples of *Excelencia* finalist. TRM seeks to increase the number of high school graduates and empower them to pursue and succeed in post-secondary enrollment. In order for students to receive access to financial support from the program, they must complete program requirements, including

10 college/career prep workshops, leadership/character development, 10 hours of social/emotional enrichment, and 20 hours of community service per year. On average, 93% of Latino TRM students in the program enroll in college and attend their first semester each year, with 100% of Latino students enrolling in 2018.

**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>**

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 K-12 Population: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

3 Population: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

4 Median Age: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

5 Enrollment: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

6 Degree Attainment: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

Nationally, Latino student enrollment and degree completion continues to increase. However, different patterns emerge within each state. For example, Texas is home to one of the largest Latino populations in the country. At two-year institutions in Texas, Latinos graduate at a higher rate than their White peers. However, Texas lags in Latinos' degree completion and overall degree attainment.

### ***Population overview***

Texas has a large and young Latino population. The state is home to the second largest Latino population in the country—about 40 percent of the overall population is Latino. The Latino population is young and will continue to grow. About half of students in K-12 education are Latino. Furthermore, the median age for Latinos is 29, compared to 42 for White non-Hispanics. As more Latino students enter higher education, policymakers at the state and institutional level should keep in mind that they'll have an increasingly young, Latino, first-generation population.

### ***Where Texas leads***

Significantly more Latinos are enrolling in institutions awarding associate degrees in Texas. All but one of the top five institutions enrolling Latino undergraduates are primarily associate degree-granting institutions. Each institution enrolls at least 20,000 Latino students, much higher than enrollment numbers at two-year institutions in other states. At two-year institutions, Latinos are graduating at a higher rate than their White peers—32 percent and 27 percent, respectively, one of the few states in the country where this happens.

### ***Where Texas lags***

In Texas, equity gaps exist in degree attainment overall among adults. Many of Texas' Latino students who begin higher education do not complete. Statewide, only 21 percent of Latino adults have an associate degree or higher, compared to 47 percent of White non-Hispanic adults. Moreover, at four-year institutions, Latino students have a graduation rate 14 percentage points lower than White students—47 percent and 61 percent, respectively. Closing the degree attainment gap in Texas will require policies that help the many Latino students entering higher education on their path to completion.

### ***What comes next?***

State policies to increase Latino student success should keep in mind the profile of Latino students and adjust to meet their needs. Texas has a young and growing Latino population that is significantly more likely to enroll in a two-year institution. While some public, two-year institutions are contributing to the success of Latinos in Texas, degree attainment is not reflective of their enrollment. Opportunities exist for institutions in Texas to help more Latino students attain a postsecondary degree.

Examples of institutional efforts to meet students' needs can be seen within the Seal of *Excelencia*. The Seal is a national certification for institutions intentionally SERVING Latino students through data, practice, and leadership. Texas is home to four Seal certified institutions; two are public two-year institutions, and all four are among the top five awarding associate and bachelor's degrees to Latino students.