

LATINO COLLEGE COMPLETION: CALIFORNIA

For the U.S. to regain the top ranking in the world for college degree attainment, Latinos will need to earn 5.5 million degrees by 2020.

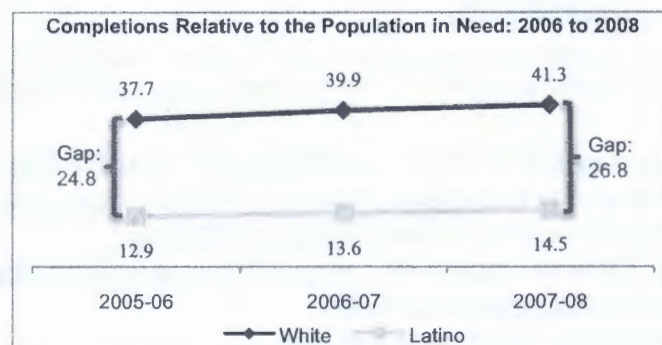
To reach the degree attainment goal by 2020, California can: 1) close the equity gap in college completion; 2) increase the number of degrees conferred; and, 3) scale up programs and initiatives that work for Latino and other students. The following is a framework for tracking Latino degree attainment in California.

Equity Gap in Degree Completion

Closing the equity gap in college completion can be tracked by the 3 measures provided 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 Latino and white cohorts in California in a single year (2007-08) and the persistence of the gap over time (2006-08).

California	2007-08		
	Latinos	Whites	Equity Gap
Graduation rates	34.8	47.4	12.6
Completions per 100 FTE students	13.7	16.8	3.1
Completions relative to the population in need	14.5	41.3	26.8

Graduation rates - Total graduation within 150% percent of program time for first-time, full-time freshman
Completions per 100 FTE students - Total undergraduate degrees and certificates awarded per 100 full-time equivalent students (incorporates part-time students)
Completions Relative to the Population in Need - Total undergraduate degrees and certificates awarded per 1,000 adults aged 18 to 44 relative to the adult population with no college degree



STATE RANKING

California had the largest Latino population in the U.S.¹

K-12 POPULATION

Half of the K-12 population in California was Latino.²

STATE POPULATION

In California, 38% of the state population was Latino.³

Projections show a continued increase.

MEDIAN AGE

The median age of Latinos in California was 27, compared to 38 for White non-Hispanics.⁴

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In California, 16% of Latino adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to 39% of all adults.⁵

¹ U.S. Census 2010, American Fact Finder, Demographic Profile Summary. <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

² U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Public Elementary/Secondary Education Survey", 2009-10, v.1b. www.nces.ed.gov/ccd

³ U.S. Census 2010: California. <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/>

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey. www.census.gov/acs

⁵ Lumina Foundation for Education. *A Stronger Nation Through Higher Education. Educational Attainment Levels for the States.* www.luminafoundation.org

Degrees Conferred

Another metric to benchmark college completion is the progress of total degrees awarded over time. This measure may be the result of an increase in overall enrollment numbers rather than an increase in rates of completion. From 2005-06 to 2007-08,

- the number of Hispanics who earned an undergraduate degree in California increased about 12% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups increased 7%.
- California had the largest increase in degrees conferred to Latinos over 3 years among the top 10 states enrolling Latinos.

For more information on these metrics, download *Benchmarking Latino College Completion to Meet National Goals: 2010 to 2020* and *Degrees Conferred to Latinos: 2006-2008* at www.EdExcelencia.org/research/EAF/Benchmarking

Examples of What Works for Latino Students

There are institutions in California showing success in enrolling, retaining, and graduating Latino students. The following are examples of institutional programs with evidence of effectiveness in serving Latino students nominated for Examples of *Excelencia*.

Puente Project – The University of California

The mission of the Puente Project is to increase the number of educationally disadvantaged students who enroll in four-year colleges and universities, earn college degrees, and return to the community as mentors and leaders of future generations. To accomplish this, counselors, teachers and mentors work together to provide students with the necessary tools to successfully transfer to four-year institutions. Through the Puente Project, Latino students persist at greater rates than other students (83% vs. 68%), transfer to four-year institutions at higher rates than other students (52% vs. 39%), and graduate at similar rates to white students (86% vs. 83.9%). (<http://www.puente.net/>)

The Enlace Program – Evergreen Valley College

Enlace has six primary program goals: 1) to successfully matriculate and retain Latino students, 2) to enable Latino students to successfully complete the Enlace Guidance courses, 3) to mainstream Latino students into the general education and transfer curricula, 4) to increase the number of Latino students who graduate with an Associate degree, 5) to increase the number of Latino students who transfer to four-year colleges and universities, 6) to create a cadre of student leaders. From Fall 2001 to Fall 2004, Enlace Latino students had a 76% course success rate and a 55% success rate in non-Enlace courses. In the Spring 2006, the overall Enlace Program success rate was 82% vs. 55% for all other students enrolled in similar courses. (<http://www.evc.edu/enlace/>)

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/examples>

Ensuring America's Future partners in California:

California Community Colleges, Chancellors Office: www.cccco.edu

California State University System: www.calstate.edu

Campaign for College Opportunity: www.collegecampaign.org

College Board: www.collegeboard.org

Hispanic Scholarship Fund: www.hsf.net

National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials: www.naleo.org

National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education: www.highereducation.org

Nexus Research and Policy Center: <http://nexusresearch.org/home>

University of California System: www.universityofcalifornia.edu

Univision: <http://vidayfamilia.univision.com/es-el-momento/>