



Postsecondary National Policy Institute

Latino Students in Higher Education

CENSUS OVERVIEW

In 2023 19.4% of the total U.S. population identified as Hispanic or Latino (of any race).^{*1} Among Latino residents aged 25 or over, 20.8% had earned a bachelor's degree or higher.¹ This rate is up from 14.0% in 2013, but falls short of the national rate of 36.2%.¹

ENROLLMENT

- In Fall 2022, Latino students made up 20.3% of all postsecondary enrollment.³
- In 2022, 32.8% of the 18–24-year-old Latino population were enrolled in college compared to 39.0% of the overall U.S. population.³
- Since Fall 2012, Latino student enrollment has increased from 2.98 million to 3.78 million, a 27% increase:
 - Undergraduate enrollment increased from 2.77 million to 3.42 million, a 23% increase.³
 - Graduate enrollment increased from 212,600 to 358,300, an 69% increase.³
- Latino students are much more likely to attend public versus private institutions of higher education.³
 - In Fall 2022, 80.4% of Latino students attended public institutions:
 - 48.1% attended public four-year institutions.³
 - 32.3% attended public two-year institutions.³
- 54.8% of all Hispanic undergraduates were enrolled in Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) in Fall 2022.³
- 46.7% of the Fall 2022 enrollment at HSIs were Hispanic students.³

FINANCIAL AID

- In the 2019-20 academic year, 57.8% of Latino students received some form of federal Title IV financial aid, compared to 54.9% of all students.⁴
 - 49.5% of Latino students received a Pell Grant, compared to 40.2% of all students.⁴
 - 25.9% of Latino students received a federal student loan, compared to 34.5% of all students.⁴
- Among Latino students who received federal Title IV aid, the average amount received was \$7,508.⁴
 - The average Pell Grant amount for Latino students was \$4,246.⁴
 - The average federal student loan amount for Latino students was \$8,014.⁴

^{*} Terms used in this report (Latino, Hispanic) reflect the terms found in the data source material, defaulting to “Latino.”

COMPLETION/DEGREE ATTAINMENT

- 59.3% of first-time, full-time Hispanic students attending four-year institutions beginning in 2016 graduated within six years, compared to 64.6% for all students.³
- At two-year institutions, among first-time, full-time students beginning in 2019, 31.3% of Hispanic students graduated within three years, compared to 34.1% overall.³
- Of the more than two million bachelor's degrees conferred in the 2021-22 academic year, 324,901 (15.7%) went to Hispanic students.³

EARNINGS AND WEALTH

- Ten years after receiving a bachelor's degree, Latino graduates who reported having an income averaged a gross income of \$66,830, compared to the national average of \$76,370.²
- Wealth accumulation can be measured differently from income.⁵ Ten years after graduating:
 - 53% of Latino graduates reported owning a home, compared to 63% of all graduates.²
 - 80% of Latino graduates had some form of a retirement account, compared to 87% of all graduates.²

POPULATION-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

- Latinos are much more likely to be first-generation college students than other racial/ethnic groups.⁴
 - In the 2019–20 academic year, more than half of Latinos (51%) were the first in their family to attend college, compared to Black (38%), Asian (30%), and White (22%) students.⁴
- In 2022, 22.3% of Hispanic children under age 18 lived in households where no parent had completed high school, a higher rate than other racial/ethnic groups.³
- In the 2019-20 academic year, a significant percentage of Latino students entered college as low-income students.⁴
- Despite increased completion rates for Latino people overall, foreign-born Latino people are less likely to have earned a bachelor's degree or higher than Latino people born in the United States.¹
 - As of 2022, 17.3% of the immigrant Latino population aged 25 or higher had earned a bachelor's degree or higher compared with 17.6% of U.S.-born Latino people.¹
 - 9% of Mexican immigrants have a bachelor's degree or higher.¹
 - 11.6% of immigrants from other Central American countries have a bachelor's degree or higher.¹
 - 24.3% of Caribbean immigrants have a bachelor's degree or higher.¹
 - 37.2% of South American immigrants have a bachelor's degree or higher.¹

DATA SOURCES

¹ [American Community Survey & Current Population Survey](#). U.S. Census Bureau, April 2025.

² [Baccalaureate & Beyond Longitudinal Study](#). National Center for Education Statistics, November 2023.

³ [Digest of Education Statistics](#). National Center for Education Statistics, April 2025.

⁴ [National Postsecondary Student Aid Study](#). National Center for Education Statistics, November 2023.

⁵ [Wealth Analysis FAQ](#). Urban Institute, 2021.