



# Postsecondary National Policy Institute

## Latino Students in Higher Education\*

### CENSUS OVERVIEW

In 2024, 20% of the total U.S. population identified as Hispanic or Latino (of any race).<sup>1</sup> Among Latino residents aged 25 or over, 21.5% had earned a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>1</sup> This rate is up from 14.4% in 2014, but falls short of the national rate of 36.8%.<sup>1</sup>

### ENROLLMENT

- In Fall 2023, Latino students made up 20.1% of all postsecondary enrollment.<sup>3</sup>
- 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.<sup>3</sup>
- Since Fall 2013, Latino student enrollment has increased from 2.93 million to 3.83 million, a 30.7% increase:
  - Undergraduate enrollment increased from 2.73 million to 3.48 million, a 27.5% increase.<sup>4</sup>
  - Graduate enrollment increased from 200,900 to 346,400, a 72.4% increase.<sup>4</sup>
- Latino students are much more likely to attend public versus private institutions of higher education.<sup>3</sup>
  - In Fall 2023, 80.4% of Latino students attended public institutions:
    - 48.5% attended public four-year institutions.<sup>3</sup>
    - 31.9% attended public two-year institutions.<sup>3</sup>
- 54.8% of all Hispanic undergraduates were enrolled in Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) in Fall 2022.<sup>3</sup>
  - 46.7% of students enrolled at HSIs in Fall 2022 were Hispanic.<sup>3</sup>

### FINANCIAL AID

- In 2019-20, 57.8% of Latino students received some form of federal Title IV financial aid, compared to 54.9% of all students.<sup>5</sup>
  - 49.5% of Latino students received a Pell Grant, compared to 40.2% of all students.<sup>5</sup>
  - 25.9% of Latino students received a federal student loan, compared to 34.5% of all students.<sup>5</sup>
- Among Latino students who received federal Title IV aid, the average amount received was \$7,508.<sup>5</sup>
  - The average Pell Grant amount for Latino students was \$4,246.<sup>5</sup>
  - The average federal student loan amount for Latino students was \$8,014.<sup>5</sup>

\* Terms used in this report (Latino, Hispanic) reflect the terms found in the data source material, defaulting to "Latino."

## COMPLETION/DEGREE ATTAINMENT

- 58.6% of first-time, full-time Hispanic students attending four-year institutions beginning in 2017 graduated within six years, compared to 64.5% for all students.<sup>3</sup>
- 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.<sup>3</sup>
- Of the nearly two million bachelor's degrees conferred in the 2023-24 academic year, 327,200 (16.8%) went to Hispanic students.<sup>4</sup>

## 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.<sup>2</sup>
- Wealth accumulation can be measured differently from income.<sup>6</sup> Ten years after graduating:
  - 53% of Latino graduates reported owning a home, compared to 63% of all graduates.<sup>2</sup>
  - 80% of Latino graduates had a retirement account, compared to 87% of all graduates.<sup>2</sup>

## POPULATION-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

- Latinos are much more likely to be first-generation college students than other racial/ethnic groups.<sup>5</sup>
  - In 2019–20, 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.<sup>5</sup>
- 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.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2019-20, a high percentage of Latino students entered college as low-income students.<sup>5</sup>

## DATA SOURCES

<sup>1</sup> [American Community Survey & Current Population Survey](#). U.S. Census Bureau, January 2026.

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

<sup>3</sup> [Digest of Education Statistics](#). National Center for Education Statistics, December 2025.

<sup>4</sup> [Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System](#). National Center for Education Statistics, January 2026.

<sup>5</sup> [National Postsecondary Student Aid Study](#). National Center for Education Statistics, November 2023.

<sup>6</sup> [Wealth Analysis FAQ](#). Urban Institute, 2021.