



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).¹ Among Latino residents aged 25 or over, 21.5% had earned a bachelor's degree or higher.¹ This rate is up from 14.4% in 2014, but falls short of the national rate of 36.8%.¹

ENROLLMENT

- In Fall 2024, Latino students made up 21.7% 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 2014, Latino student enrollment has increased from 3.19 million to 4.26 million, a 33.5% increase:
 - Undergraduate enrollment increased from 2.96 million to 3.87 million, a 30.7% increase.⁴
 - Graduate enrollment increased from 229,400 to 394,100, a 71.8% increase.⁴
- Latino students are much more likely to attend public versus private institutions of higher education.³
 - In Fall 2023, 80.4% of Latino students attended public institutions:
 - 48.5% attended public four-year institutions.³
 - 31.9% attended public two-year institutions.³
- 54.8% of all Hispanic undergraduates were enrolled in Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) in Fall 2022.³
 - In Fall 2022, 46.7% of students enrolled at HSIs were Hispanic.³

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.⁵
 - 49.5% of Latino students received a Pell Grant, compared to 40.2% of all students.⁵
 - 25.9% of Latino students received a federal student loan, compared to 34.5% of all students.⁵
- Among Latino students who received federal Title IV aid, the average amount received was \$7,508.⁵
 - The average Pell Grant amount for Latino students was \$4,246.⁵
 - The average federal student loan amount for Latino students was \$8,014.⁵

* 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.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 nearly two million bachelor's degrees conferred in the 2023-24 academic year, 327,600 (16.8%) went to Hispanic students.⁴

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.⁶ Ten years after graduating:
 - 53% of Latino graduates reported owning a home, compared to 63% of all graduates.²
 - 80% of Latino graduates had 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.⁵
 - 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.⁵
- 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 2019-20, a high percentage of Latino students entered college as low-income students.⁵

DATA SOURCES

¹ [American Community Survey & Current Population Survey](#). U.S. Census Bureau, August 2026.

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

³ [Digest of Education Statistics](#). National Center for Education Statistics, March 2026.

⁴ [Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System](#). National Center for Education Statistics, July 2026.

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

⁶ [Wealth Analysis FAQ](#). Urban Institute, 2021.