

# LATINO COLLEGE COMPLETION: NEW JERSEY

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:

New Jersey had the **7th largest Latino population** in the U.S.

### K-12 POPULATION:

In New Jersey, **27%** of the K-12 population was **Latino**.<sup>2</sup>

### POPULATION:

In New Jersey, **21%** of the population was **Latino**.<sup>3</sup>

### MEDIAN AGE:

The median age of **Hispanics** in New Jersey was **32**, compared to **47** for **White non-Hispanics**.<sup>4</sup>



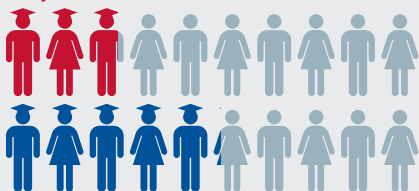
### ENROLLMENT:

In New Jersey, **21%** of **Hispanics** (ages 18 to 34) were enrolled in higher education, compared to **27%** of **White non-Hispanics**.<sup>5</sup>

### DEGREE ATTAINMENT:

In New Jersey, **27%** of **Hispanic adults** (25 and older) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **52%** of **White non-Hispanic adults**.<sup>6</sup>

**Hispanic Adults = 2.7 of 10**



**White Adults = 5.2 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 New Jersey, Fall 2018

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Montclair State University	Public, 4-year	16,988	4,951	29%
2	Rutgers University-New Brunswick	Public, 4-year	36,039	4,722	13%
3	Hudson County Community College	Public, 2-year	8,408	4,578	54%
4	Bergen Community College	Public, 2-year	13,352	3,876	29%
5	Middlesex County College	Public, 2-year	10,894	3,692	34%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Union County College	Public, 2-year	1,584	558	35%
2	Hudson County Community College	Public, 2-year	981	535	55%
3	Bergen Community College	Public, 2-year	2,173	509	23%
4	Middlesex County College	Public, 2-year	1,485	406	27%
5	Essex County College	Public, 2-year	1,229	338	28%

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

	Institution	Sector	Grand Total	Hispanic Total	% Hispanic
1	Rutgers University-New Brunswick	Public, 4-year	8,570	1,080	13%
2	Montclair State University	Public, 4-year	3,662	898	25%
3	Kean University	Public, 4-year	2,578	620	24%
4	William Paterson University of New Jersey	Public, 4-year	2,032	586	29%
5	New Jersey City University	Public, 4-year	1,392	473	34%

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.

# New Jersey 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.

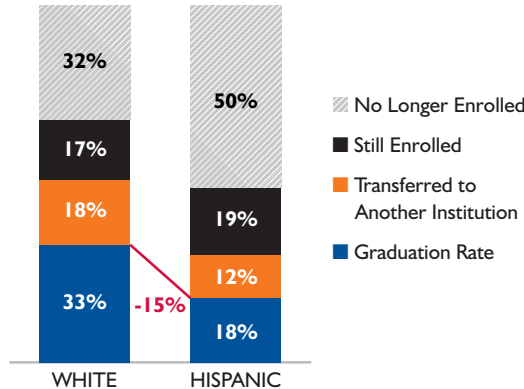
**No Longer Enrolled** — Percentage of students that are no longer enrolled at the point of 150% normal time to completion.

**DEGREE OUTCOMES**

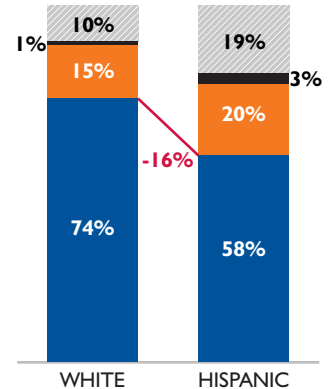
At two-year institutions, Hispanics’ graduation rate was **15%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in New Jersey.

At four-year institutions, Hispanics’ graduation rate was **16%-points lower** than that of their White non-Hispanic peers in New Jersey.

**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 Center for English Language Acquisition and Culture (CELAC)** at Saint Peter’s University in New Jersey, was a 2017 Examples of *Excelencia* finalist. CELAC aims to increase the retention and academic performance of Hispanic and other low-income or minority undergraduate students. CELAC helps give students the confidence they need to reverse any stigmas the students might have about being bilingual. Students in the CELAC program take first-year writing courses and are offered tutoring

and mentoring through the rest of their college career. During the summer term, the program offers free college preparatory classes and in the spring, there is a multicultural symposium where students present research papers. Since the program’s inception in 2011, there has been an increase in undergraduate enrollment of Latino students, increases in Latino students’ first-year retention rates from 71% to 85%, and increases in Latino students’ six-year graduation rates, from 41% to 48%.

**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, at four-year institutions, Latino students in New Jersey graduate at a rate higher than Latinos nationally. However, New Jersey lags in Latinos' degree completion and overall degree attainment.

### ***Population overview***

New Jersey has the seventh largest Latino population in the country and growing. In New Jersey, 21 percent of the population is Latino, compared to 27 percent of the K-12 population. The median age for Latinos is 32, compared to 47 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 New Jersey leads***

The top five institutions enrolling Latinos in New Jersey are all public institutions. These institutions enroll between 3,600 and 5,000 Latino students. Moreover, the top two institutions enrolling Latinos are public, four-year institutions and are also the top two awarding bachelor's degrees to Latinos in the state. At four-year institutions, Latinos are graduating at higher rate than Latinos nationally—58 percent and 51 percent, respectively.

### ***Where New Jersey lags***

In New Jersey, equity gaps exist in degree attainment overall among adults. Statewide, only 27 percent of Latino adults have an associate degree or higher, compared to 52 percent of White non-Hispanic adults. Stark gaps in graduation rates also exist between Latino and White students, especially at two-year institutions, where many Latino students enroll. At two-year institutions that gap is 15 percentage points. Half of Latinos who begin higher education at a two-year institution do not complete. Given that three of the top five institutions enrolling Latinos in New Jersey are two-year institutions, ensuring students at two-year institutions have the support they need to complete is key to Latino student success. Finally, despite having graduation rates above the national average at four-year institutions, Latinos are graduating at a rate sixteen percentage points lower than their White peers—58 percent and 74 percent, respectively.

### ***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. New Jersey has a young and growing Latino population that is significantly more likely to enroll in a public, two-year institution. While some public institutions are contributing to the success of Latinos in New Jersey, degree attainment is not reflective of their enrollment. Opportunities exist for institutions in New Jersey to help more Latino students complete 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.