

STATE RANKING

Kansas had the 26th largest Latino population in the U.S.¹

K-12 POPULATION

In Kansas, **16%** of the K-12 population was Latino.²

STATE POPULATION

In Kansas, **16%** of the state population was Latino.³ Projections show a continued increase.

MEDIAN AGE

The median age of Latinos in Kansas was **23**, compared to **38** for White non-Hispanics.⁴

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In Kansas, **17%** of Latino adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **41%** of all adults.⁵

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, Kansas 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 Kansas.

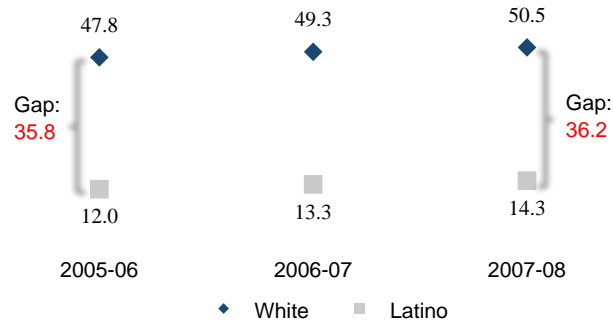
Equity Gap in Degree Completion

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 Kansas in a single year (2007-08) and the persistence of the gap over time (2006-08).

Kansas	2007-08		
	Latinos	Whites	Equity Gap
Graduation Rates	35.6	47.4	11.8
Completions per 100 FTE Students	16.4	18.6	2.2
Completions Relative to the Population in Need	14.3	50.5	36.2

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

Completions Relative to the Population in Need: 2006 to 2008



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](http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/data/)

³ U.S. Census 2010: Kansas. <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 to track 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 Kansas increased about 19% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups increased 3%.
- among the 50 states, Kansas ranked 19th for the increase in degrees conferred to Latinos over 3 years.

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 Kansas 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*.

Developing Scholars Program – Kansas State University

The Developing Scholars Program (DSP) is an undergraduate research opportunity program for underrepresented students. The program is making a major impact on Latino/a graduations at Kansas State University, especially in the biomedical sciences, as we recruit, support, retain, and graduate first-generation, Latino/a students from immigrant families from southwest Kansas and the meatpacking industry and from our urban centers. Latinos/as in our program have a 93% success rate (74 students) when success means graduation from our four-year institution or matriculation into a professional program. The program serves 60 students per year, and students can remain in the program up to three years. By year four, the students are moving on to other opportunities such as study abroad or internships-or their professors are willing to provide research funds from their own grants. (<http://www.k-state.edu/scholars/>)

Semillas de Excelencia Program – Kansas State University

The *Semillas de Excelencia* Program is an expansion of current minority enrollment and retention programs at the College of Arts and Science and Business Administration, including targeted Latino/a freshman events and learning communities. Overall retention rate of the *Semillas de Excelencia* program was 86%. Thirty percent of the participants earned GPAs of 3.0 or better, and 74% of the participants maintained a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above. The cohort of Business Administration students was smaller which allowed for more personal contact and relationship building between mentors and students. The result was that 93% of the participants earned cumulative GPAs of 2.0 or above and 46% ended with cumulative GPAs of 3.0 or better. (<http://www.cba.k-state.edu/>)

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 Kansas:

Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC): www.mhec.org