

STATE RANKING

Mississippi had the 40th largest Latino population in the U.S.¹

K-12 POPULATION

In Mississippi, 2% of the K-12 population was Latino.²

STATE POPULATION

In Mississippi, 3% of the state population was Latino.³

Projections show a continued increase.

MEDIAN AGE

The median age of Latinos in Mississippi was 25, compared to 40 for White non-Hispanics.⁴

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In Mississippi, 18% of Latino adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to 30% 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, Mississippi 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 Mississippi.

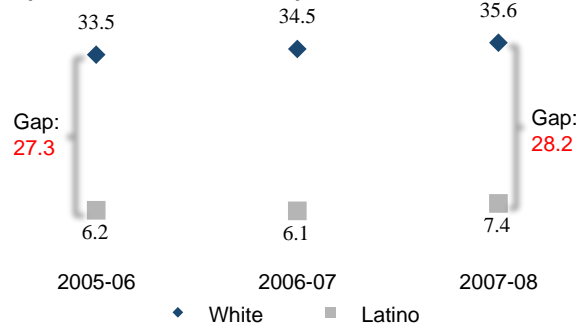
Equity Gap in Degree Completion

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

Mississippi	2007-08		
	Latinos	Whites	Equity Gap
Graduation Rates	23.9	36.5	12.6
Completions per 100 FTE Students	14.8	17.4	2.6
Completions Relative to the Population in Need	7.4	35.6	28.2

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

³ U.S. Census 2010: Mississippi. <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 Mississippi increased about 34% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups increased 5%.
- among the 50 states, Mississippi ranked 41st 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 that are showing success in enrolling, retaining, and graduating Latino students. The following are examples of institutional programs across the country with evidence of effectiveness in serving Latino students nominated for Examples of *Excelencia*.

Strategies for Success – San Antonio College

San Antonio College's Strategies for Success program is an intensive counseling/classroom intervention designed to assist students in academic difficulty. The program includes eight weeks of classroom instruction in personal responsibility, learning styles, study skills, life skills, critical thinking skills, motivation and concentration, goal setting, research skills, career exploration, and managing personal issues. By the end of Fall 2005, Strategies for Success participants had grown to 632 students a semester, and the program had served a total of 4,974 students, 65% of whom were Hispanic. From 2001-2005, Hispanic completers of the program increased their average GPA from 1.4 to 1.8. The semester-to-semester retention for this high-risk group from was over 60%, compared to the 45% semester-to-semester retention rate for all scholastic withdrawal students before this program was initiated.

(<http://www.alamo.edu/main.aspx?id=7238>)

Department of Mathematics – University of Texas at Austin

The efforts of the Mathematics Department at The University of Texas at Austin has been successful in creating a cadre of Hispanic mathematics teachers and professors, which, in turn, are enriching the educational experience and inspiring so many other students. This is accomplished by: 1) integrating their research and institutional programs through the Emerging Scholars Program (ESP); 2) having a Mexican American professor and department head who has remained committed to educating Hispanics in mathematics; and 3) developing a teacher certification program that integrates students' learning and teaching experiences with the school of education through the UTeach program. According to data from the U.S. Department of Education, the Department of Mathematics at UT Austin ranked 3rd among all U.S. universities in the production of minority Mathematics and Statistics undergraduate degrees granted in 2003-04, and ranked 1st in graduating Hispanics in mathematics. (<http://www.ma.utexas.edu/about/>)

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 Mississippi:

Southern Regional Education Board: www.sreb.org