

STATE RANKING

North Carolina had the 11th largest Latino population in the U.S.¹

K-12 POPULATION

In North Carolina, 11% of the K-12 population was Latino.²

STATE POPULATION

In North Carolina, 8% of the state population was Latino.³

Projections show a continued increase.

MEDIAN AGE

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

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In North Carolina, 17% of Latino adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to 38% 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, North Carolina 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 North Carolina.

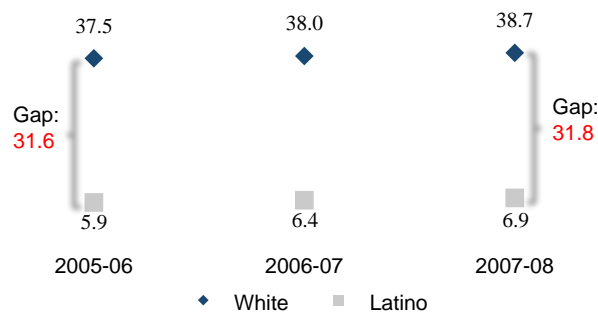
Equity Gap in Degree Completion

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

North Carolina	2007-08		
	Latinos	Whites	Equity Gap
Graduation Rates	43.3	50.1	6.8
Completions per 100 FTE Students	15.7	20.0	4.3
Completions Relative to the Population in Need	6.9	38.7	31.8

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/ccd)

³ U.S. Census 2010: North Carolina. <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 North Carolina increased about 18% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups increased 5%.
- among the 50 states, North Carolina ranked 17th 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 North Carolina 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*.

Community Spanish Facilitator Certificate – Durham Technical Community College

The Community Spanish Facilitator Certificate is an 18-credit-hour certificate that prepares its graduates as paraprofessional community interpreters and translators so that they can enhance communication and cultural understanding between the Spanish and English speaking populations. The number of Latino students admitted to the program has steadily risen since its inception. In 2008, 41% of the students admitted were Latino. This increase is important, given the total Latino population at the college is 6%. To date, 83% of Latino students have earned their Community Spanish Facilitator Certificate with an average GPA of 3.5; these figures show high retention and success rates for Latino students. Also, based on self-reports, over 50% of those who earned the certificate are employed in the translation/interpreting field. (<http://www.durhamtech.edu/html/prospective/programsofstudy/spi.htm>).

New and Enhanced Latino Programming – North Carolina State University

North Carolina State created a "cradle-to-college" model addressing access and retention of Latino students and created a full time assistant director for Hispanic Student Affairs to support this model. The program enhances students' and parents' orientation to the university, increases retention and graduation rates of incoming and continuing students, increases students' knowledge relative to scholastic and cultural contributions of people of Latino heritage, provides an increased sense of community for Latino students, improve the academic performance of sophomore and other upperclassmen that currently have less than a 2.4 GPA and increase outreach efforts among Latino families at the middle school, high school, and community college level through student recruitment and outreach. (<http://www.ncsu.edu/msa/>)

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 North Carolina:

Southern Regional Education Board: www.sreb.org