

STATE RANKING

Montana had the 45th largest Latino population in the U.S.¹

K-12 POPULATION

In Montana, **3%** of the K-12 population was Latino.²

STATE POPULATION

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

MEDIAN AGE

The median age of Latinos in Montana was **23**, compared to **42** for White non-Hispanics.⁴

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In Montana, **24%** of Latino adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **40%** 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, Montana 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 Montana.

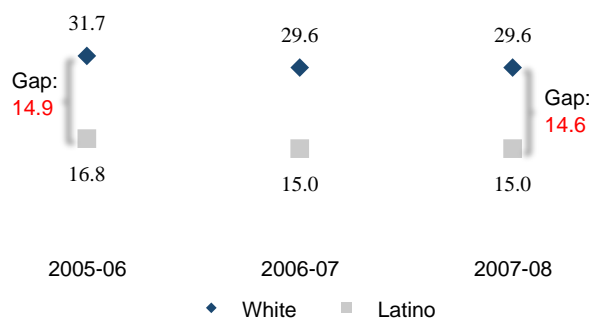
Equity Gap in Degree Completion

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

Montana	2007-08		
	Latinos	Whites	Equity Gap
Graduation Rates	31.7	42.3	10.6
Completions per 100 FTE Students	14.8	16.6	1.8
Completions Relative to the Population in Need	15.0	29.6	14.6

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

³ U.S. Census 2010: Montana. <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 Montana increased about 23% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups stayed about the same.
- among the 50 states, Montana ranked 44th 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*.

Middle College High School Program – San Bernardino Valley College

The goal of the program is to increase the college-going rate of students who are generally not college bound. The program targets populations of first generation college-going youth, English language learners, ethnic minorities, and students underperforming in the traditional high school compared to their test score abilities. The average high school GPA of students entering the program is 2.38, but by the end of the program it had risen to 3.28. The average GPA, for students in the program, for all college course work attempted was 2.5. For three consecutive years the seniors have achieved a 100% passing rate on the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE). From 2004 through 2006, the program has graduated 116 seniors who earned their high school diploma at MCHS. Of these seniors, 34 simultaneously earned an AA degree at SBVC. (<http://www.valleycollege.edu/academic-career-programs/specialized-programs/middle-college-high-school.aspx>)

Connections Program – Woodbury University

Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) and Woodbury University have developed strategies to improve student transfer from LAVC to Woodbury University. These institutions have created a three-pronged approach to improving transfer that consists of three components: intercampus processes to streamline transfer with online, student-accessible systems; intercampus programs to improve the academic success, retention, transfer, and graduation of students at both schools; and connections centers where information and services for transfer-oriented students and transferees will be centralized on each campus. Students in the Connections Program at LAVC have spring to fall retention rates 16% higher than control groups. The transfer rate from LAVC to Woodbury has increased 60% in two years, at a time when Woodbury's overall transfer rate only went up 12%. Finally, the retention rate at Woodbury for these students is 88%, compared to 72% for matched controls. (<http://www.woodbury.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 Montana:

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE): <http://wiche.edu>