

STATE RANKING

South Carolina had the 29th largest Latino population in the U.S.¹

K-12 POPULATION

In South Carolina, 5% of the K-12 population was Latino.²

STATE POPULATION

In South Carolina, 5% of the state population was Latino.³

Projections show a continued increase.

MEDIAN AGE

The median age of Latinos in South Carolina was 26, compared to 40 for White non-Hispanics.⁴

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In South Carolina, 16% of Latino adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to 35% 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, South 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 South Carolina.

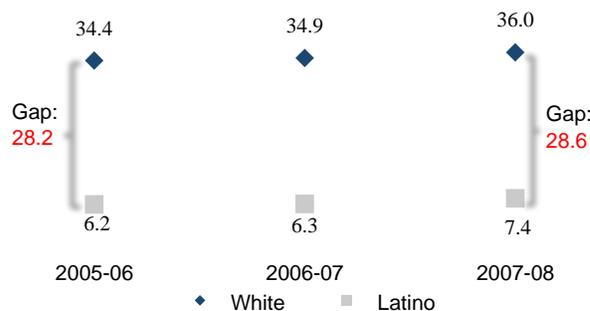
Equity Gap in Degree Completion

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

South Carolina	2007-08		
	Latinos	Whites	Equity Gap
Graduation Rates	37.8	45.4	7.6
Completions per 100 FTE Students	14.6	19.0	4.4
Completions Relative to the Population in Need	7.4	36.0	28.6

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: South 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 South Carolina increased about 16% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups decreased 2%.
- among the 50 states, South Carolina ranked 39th 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*.

Opening the Pipeline/Closing the Gaps – Texas A&M Corpus Christi / Del Mar College

The chief mission of the Opening the Pipeline/Closing the Gaps program is to provide academic support services to predominantly low income, first generation, academically at risk, and predominantly Hispanic or minority students. At all three academic levels: high school, 2-year and 4-year institutions, it provides various level-appropriate menus of mentoring, tutoring, advising, counseling, workshops, summer bridge programs, travel to universities, parental information, and assistance with college admissions and college financial aid. The high school graduation rate from 2000 to 2005 has been 100%. The college admission rate during this same time period averaged between 93 and 100%. From 2001 to 2005, retention rates for student support services have averaged between 85 and 99%. Out of The TAMUCC SSS freshmen class that started in 2001, 79% graduated in 2005 with a baccalaureate degree. (<http://www.delmar.edu/titlev/cooperative.htm>)

Valley Scholars Program – South Texas College

The Valley Scholars Program was established to provide financial support, encouragement, mentoring, and campus-based work that helps academically talented and highly motivated students be successful in college. The purpose of the Valley Scholars Program is to help STC students navigate the college-going process while building their aptitude, confidence-level, and experience. The retention rate in 2003 was 73%, in 2005 it was 77%, and in 2006 it was 97%. These rates reflect a high level of success among an underserved and highly underrepresented Latino student population. (<http://academicaffairs.southtexascollege.edu/academicexcellence/valleyscholars/>)

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 South Carolina:

Southern Regional Education Board: www.sreb.org