

STATE RANKING

Florida had the 3rd largest Latino population in the U.S.¹

K-12 POPULATION

In Florida, 26% of the K-12 population was Latino.²

STATE POPULATION

In Florida, 23% of the state population was Latino.³ Projections show a continued increase.

MEDIAN AGE

The median age of Latinos in Florida was 33, compared to 44 for White non-Hispanics.⁴

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In Florida, 31% of Latino adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to 37% 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, Florida 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 Florida.

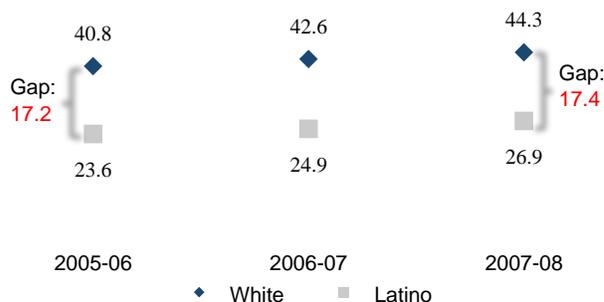
Equity Gap in Degree Completion

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

Florida	2007-08		
	Latinos	Whites	Equity Gap
Graduation rates	43.5	51.3	7.8
Completions per 100 FTE students	19.9	23.2	3.2
Completions relative to the population in need	26.9	44.3	17.4

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: Florida. <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 Florida increased about 13% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups increased 7%.
- Florida had one of the largest increases in degrees conferred to Latinos over 3 years among the top 10 states enrolling Latinos.

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 Florida 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*.

Tools for Success – Miami Dade College

Tools for Success is a five-year program (2007-08 to 2011-12) funded by the National Science Foundation to increase graduation rates of minority students who are interested in the high demand fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Each cohort of students in the *Tools for Success* program- 60 students per year- receives academic and financial support to complete an associate degree in a STEM-related field within a two-year period. The overall retention rate for *Tools for Success* thus far (2007-2009) is 77%, compared to the average retention rate of 19% for all STEM majors while also reflecting a 75% graduation rate in two years, which is especially impressive considering that the average two-year graduation rate for all STEM majors is 27%. (www.toolsforsuccess.org)

The Foreign-Educated Physician-to-BSN Program – Florida International University

The FEP-BSN is a specialized nursing program where unemployed or underemployed foreign-educated physicians (FEPs) in the U.S. complete an accelerated curriculum towards the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and become employed as registered nurses (RNs). Students are awarded credits for courses completed in medical school and matriculate for 63 credits of nursing courses. To allow FEPs to attend nursing school and work, classes are held weekday evenings and clinics are held on weekends. The program's student body ranges from 70-80% Latino at any given semester with the majority from Cuba and Latin America. Of the students enrolled to date, 85% successfully graduated from the program. (<http://fep.fiu.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 Florida:

Florida College Access Network: www.floridacollegeaccess.com

Florida International University: <http://www.fiu.edu/>

Miami Dade College: <http://www.mdc.edu/main/>

Southern Regional Education Board: www.sreb.org

Univision: <http://vidayfamilia.univision.com/es-el-momento/>