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, New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Hampshire</th>
<th>2007-08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latinos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Rates</td>
<td>51.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completions per 100 FTE Students</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completions Relative to the Population in Need</td>
<td>24.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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**

**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 New Hampshire increased about 4% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups increased 2%.
- among the 50 states, New Hampshire ranked 49\textsuperscript{th} for the increase in degrees conferred to Latinos over 3 years.


**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.

*Hispanic Student Success Initiative – Texas A&M International University & Laredo Community College*

The Hispanic Student Success Initiative is an initiative that places special emphasis on developing and implementing an effective advisement and retention system at TAMIU and LCC by implementing Freshmen Interest Groups (FIGs). FIGs are clusters of courses that are bound together by a common thread. Through HSSI, students also have access to the Learning Activity Center (LAC), which provides teacher-guided lessons to students in need of tutoring. The LAC has 10 tutors who are evaluated on a weekly basis. The number of students accepted into the College of Education has increased by 26% from the TAMIU and LCC transfers. The retention rate for the students from TAMIU is 96%, and for LCC students, 88%. The Learning Activity Centers (LACs) at both sites have assisted students in various content areas as well as with effective instructional pedagogy. ([http://www.tamiu.edu/coedu/titlev/index.shtml](http://www.tamiu.edu/coedu/titlev/index.shtml))

*Academic Achievers Program (AAP) – University of Houston & Austin High School*

The Academic Achievers Program (AAP) is part of the Center for Mexican American Studies efforts to increase the number of Latino students who graduate from college. The Academic Achievers Program at Austin High School recruits sophomores and works with them throughout their remaining three years of high school. During those three years, the program helps the students prepare for college both academically and financially. Once enrolled at the University of Houston, the students are incorporated into the U of H - Academic Achievers Program where they continue to receive the support services that help them succeed. The AAP provides a $10,000 four year scholarship and mandatory tutoring, counseling, skills workshops and leadership training. The average graduation rate of AAP students is 77%. This is higher than other Latino students (36%), higher than the University as a whole (39%), higher than the state (48%) and higher than the nation (60%). ([http://www.class.uh.edu/CMAS/AAP_austin.asp](http://www.class.uh.edu/CMAS/AAP_austin.asp))

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](http://www.edexcelencia.org/examples).