

STATE RANKING

Oklahoma had the 25th largest Latino population in the U.S.¹

K-12 POPULATION

In Oklahoma, **11%** of the K-12 population was Latino.²

STATE POPULATION

In Oklahoma, **9%** of the state population was Latino.³

Projections show a continued increase.

MEDIAN AGE

The median age of Latinos in Oklahoma was **23**, compared to **40** for White non-Hispanics.⁴

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

In Oklahoma, **15%** of Latino adults (25 to 64 years old) had earned an associate degree or higher, compared to **32%** 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, Oklahoma 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 Oklahoma.

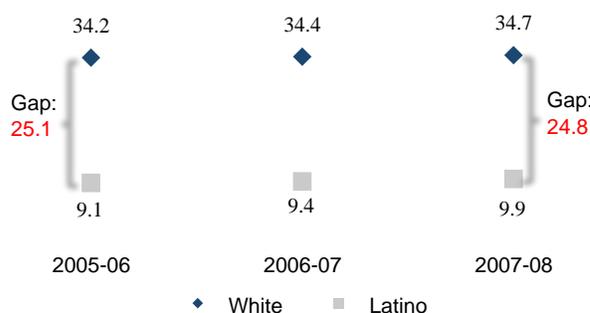
Equity Gap in Degree Completion

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

Oklahoma	2007-08		
	Latinos	Whites	Equity Gap
Graduation Rates	37.1	42.8	5.7
Completions per 100 FTE Students	14.8	17.8	3.0
Completions Relative to the Population in Need	9.9	34.7	24.8

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

³ U.S. Census 2010: Oklahoma. <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 Oklahoma increased about 13% from 2006-08, while all other race/ethnic groups increased less than 1%.
- among the 50 states, Oklahoma ranked 25th 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*.

STEP 2 (Successful Transition to Educator Preparation) – Texas Tech University

STEP 2 is a student support services program that assists transfer students who have completed their Associates of Arts in Teaching at South Plains College, and desire to obtain their certification to teach from a 4-year institution. STEP 1 is to complete the AAT (Associate of Arts in Teaching) at SPC and STEP 2 is to transfer to Texas Tech University. Since 2005, STEP 2 has assisted 124 transfer students, of which about 35% have been Latino. This program has retained 100% of their transfer students and graduated 100% of their program participants. This success has been attributed to the support services provided to students, such as workshops to prepare students for certification exams, workshops to address time management, financial planning, stress management, tutoring as needed, and financial support through stipends. (<http://www.educ.ttu.edu/research/step-2>)

Medical Professions Institute – University of Texas at El Paso

In 2002, UTEP created the Medical Professions Institute (MPI) to work with students who are interested in pursuing a postgraduate degree in medical, dental, veterinarian, optometry, or physician assistant school. As a Texas border institution, UTEP realizes the challenges and opportunities in educating the Latino population across all majors and colleges, as well as the need for Latino health care professionals to serve the growing numbers of Hispanic residents, and addressing the growing disparity of health care for Hispanics. By 2007, UTEP had become the 2nd largest undergraduate institution in the United States preparing Mexican American applicants to U.S. medical schools. The following figures represent results for one year (2009-2010): 62 applicants (of which 73% are Latino), 26 acceptances to date (of which 77% are Latino). (<http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=10959>)

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 Oklahoma:

Southern Regional Education Board: www.sreb.org