National Higher Education

Enrollment

• There are approximately 16.6 million students enrolled in postsecondary institutions, of which 3.4 million (or 20%) are Latino and by 2050, Latinos are projected to comprise 30% of the nation’s workforce, doubled from their share in 2010.¹
• Latino enrollment in postsecondary programs increased by 337% between 1990 and 2016.²

• 48% of Latinos attend public two-year colleges and 52% of Latinos attend all four-year schools.³

• Latino enrollment slightly surpassed White enrollment (72% vs 70%) in 2016.⁴
• Many Latinos are under-enrolled, with 25% of Latino students who scored in the top quartile of the SAT attending public two-year institutions.⁵
Completion

- Despite record enrollment numbers in postsecondary education, Latino students still complete college at rates lower than their White counterparts—four-year colleges 54% (compared to 63%) and two-year colleges 19% (compared to 25%).
- Only 21% of Latinos enrolled in two-year public institutions graduate.

Source: \[\text{http://publications.unidosus.org/bitstream/handle/123456789/1954/unidosus_highereducationact_collegecompletiongap.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y}\]
- 70% of Latino students are first-generation college-goers.
- In 2016, 48% of Latino students had a zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC).
- Only 54% of Latino students complete their degree at a four-year colleges within six years, while 64% of White students complete over that same period.
- 17% of Latinos are still enrolled after six years.
- Only 13% of Latino students who start at a two-year school end up receiving a bachelor’s degree.
- Most Latinos persist through college with a mix of full-time and part-time enrollment status.
Student Loans and Debt

- Latino borrowers are more likely than their White peers to fall behind on their loans, with nearly three in 10 already in delinquency and 15% of those in default and the COVID-19 pandemic is severely exacerbating an already bleak student loan outlook.\textsuperscript{14}
- As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, 36% of Latino students are having trouble covering food costs and 18% have struggled with housing expenses, and to cope with these challenges, 36% of students are taking on additional debt.\textsuperscript{15}
- Latino students take out similar loan amounts as their White counterparts (58% and 57%, respectively), but Black and Latino students were much more likely to take on additional debt (48%) to deal with the COVID-19 crisis than their White peers (29%).\textsuperscript{16}
- Among full-time, full-year undergrads, 82% of Latino students received grants compared to 74% of White students.\textsuperscript{17}

For-Profit Institutions

- Latino students comprise 25% of those enrolled in for-profit institutions, while only 11% of white students attend for-profit institutions.\textsuperscript{18}
- More than 76% of Latino students attending a for-profit institution took out a loan, and students attending for-profit institutions were nearly four times as likely to default within 12 years compared to Latinos who did not attend a for-profit institution.\textsuperscript{19}
- Only 29% of Latinos enrolled in four-year for-profit colleges graduate.\textsuperscript{20}

COVID-19’s Impact on Latino Higher Education

- 37% of Latinos are considering not enrolling in college or taking a year off from school.

Endnotes


4 UnidosUS, *Enrollment and Completion*.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.


8 UnidosUS, *Enrollment and Completion*.


11 Ibid.

12 UnidosUS, *Widening College Completion Gap*.


19 UnidosUS, *For-Profit Colleges are Harmful to Latino Students*.

