



In partnership with Excelencia in Education

Engaging Latino Students for Transfer and College Completion

FACT SHEET

Latino Students in Higher Education

- “Latinos are a growing share of all degree recipients—13.2% among those with an associate degree and 8.5% among those who received a bachelor’s degree in 2010. Despite these gains, the Latino share among degree recipients significantly lagged their share among 18- to 24-year-old students enrolled in two-year colleges (21.7%) and four-year colleges and universities (11.7%) in 2010” (Fry & Lopez, 2012, p. 5).
- “Over the past four decades, the number of Hispanics graduating with either an associate or a bachelor’s degree has increased seven-fold, with growth outpacing that of other groups” (Fry & Lopez, 2012, p. 11).
- “While the number of Hispanics receiving a college degree has grown, the number of degrees conferred on Hispanics trails other groups. Among the 1.7 million bachelor’s degrees awarded in 2010, 71% were awarded to non-Hispanic whites, 10% to non-Hispanic blacks, and 7% to non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islanders” (Fry & Lopez, 2012, p. 12).

Latino Students in Community Colleges

- “Community colleges ... are the colleges of choice for 51 percent of all Latinos enrolled in undergraduate education today” (Santiago & Stettner, 2013, p. 4).
- “Nationally, only 20 percent of all community college students will complete a 2-year degree in 3 years. For Latino college students, the level of community college completion is lower than the general population. In 2010, the 3-year Latino degree attainment rate was 16 percent” (Santiago & Stettner, 2013, p. 6).
- In 2012, 21.3% of Latino adults had earned an associate degree or higher compared to 40.1% of all adults (U.S. Census, 2011).
- “More than any other group, they access postsecondary education through community colleges. And, nearly half of Latinos in community colleges do not transfer to a four-year institution” (College Board, 2011, p. 61).

Latino Transfer Students

- “Latinos are far more likely to begin postsecondary education in community colleges, and in fact roughly 51% are concentrated in this sector. Yet it is well documented that few manage to successfully complete the transition from a two- to a four-year college or

university, making transfer the key leakage point in the pathway to the baccalaureate” (Núñez & Elizando, 2013, p. 1).

- Over one-third (35%) of Latinos who earn bachelor’s degrees were once transfer students from two-year colleges, compared with 27% of White, 26% of Black, and 31% of Asian American baccalaureate degree recipients (Cataldi et al., 2011).
- Of Latino high school graduates who began postsecondary education at a community college, just 7% had attained a bachelor’s degree, compared with 44% of those who began at a four-year institution, within eight years of beginning college (Arbona & Nora, 2007).
- “While half (51%) of Latino students had initially expressed an intention to transfer, a very small number (14%) had earned a bachelor’s degree or were still enrolled in a four-year institution within six years” (Radford et al., 2010, p. 10).

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