CALIFORNIA LATINO STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

ENROLLMENT

42% of Latino students at community colleges earn a certificate, diploma or transfer to a four-year university or college school compared to 54% of Whites.¹

Only 2% of Latino students transfer in two years from community college to a four-year university or college.²

Latinos account for 45% of students enrolled at two-year colleges.³

There are more than 1.3M Latino students enrolled in California’s public colleges and universities, a 91% increase since 2000-2001.⁴

WHERE ARE LATINO FIRST YEAR STUDENTS GOING?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For Profit Colleges</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California State University</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Community Colleges</td>
<td>65%⁵</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Prop 209
a 1996 ballot proposition that barred state governmental institutions from considering race, sex, or ethnicity in public education, employment, or contracting, which California voters ruled against overturning in 2020, resulted in significantly decreased Latino admission rates to UCLA and UC Berkeley.⁶

From 1999 to 2006, Latino student enrollment at UC Berkeley decreased by 5%.⁷

In 2020, CA voters failed to pass Prop 16, which would have repealed Prop 209. 43.8% of Californians voted YES and 57.2% voted NO on the measure.⁸

Less than 25% of Latinos who earn a certificate/degree transfer into four-year colleges or universities.⁹

However, Latino student transfer rates into the CSU system increased by 10 percentage points between Fall 2010 (57%) and Fall 2016 (67%). The Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT), which was established in 2012, may be attributed to this increase.¹⁰

(ADT) is a degree offered through the California community colleges that gives students the opportunity to earn a guaranteed saved spot at participating four-year universities, both throughout California and outside the state.¹¹

For the first time
Latinos represented the largest group of prospective first-year students accepted into the UC system for Fall 2020, making up 36% of California students admitted. Despite this historic milestone, Latinos are still underrepresented in the top schools in the UC system relative to the population.¹²
In the California State University system, 21 of 23 universities are identified as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI).\(^{13}\)

### Graduation Rates at the Five Largest HSIs*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Total #</th>
<th>Latino</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSU Fullerton</td>
<td>39,948</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSU Long Beach</td>
<td>37,446</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSU Northridge</td>
<td>34,911</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego State U</td>
<td>34,254</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSU Sacramento</td>
<td>28,439</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Access/Preparedness

The California DREAM Act, which offers undocumented students in-state tuition and state financial aid, has increased college access for Latino students.\(^{21}\)

Undocumented Latino male student attendance at public colleges and universities increased by 4.7 percentage points after the introduction of the California DREAM Act in 2013.\(^{12}\)

80% of students entering community college and 38% of those entering the CSU system are deemed in need of remediation in one or more subjects. Rates for Latinos students are nearly 10 percentage points higher than White students.\(^{23}\)

Financial Aid

Annually, one-third of California’s more than 400,000 high school graduates do not complete the FAFSA. This leaves more than $250 million in Pell Grants on the table. Students who do not complete it are ineligible for state or federal student financial aid.\(^{24}\)

75% of California’s Latino college students receive Pell Grants.\(^{25}\)

62% receive Cal Grants.\(^{26}\)

Note: Cal Grants are state-funded, need-based, cash grants awarded to California college students to help pay for college expenses. U.S. citizens, eligible noncitizens, and all 540-eligible California residents at the time of high school graduation are eligible to receive a Cal Grant.

COVID-19’s Impact

37% of California’s Latino college students reported dropping out of college for part or all of the semester or quarter.\(^{27}\) 40% had to take out emergency loans.\(^{28}\)

Endnotes


7. Ibid.


13. Note: A Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) is defined as an institution of higher education that is an eligible institution, and has an enrollment of at least 25% Hispanic students at the end of the award year immediately preceding the date of application.


25, 26, 27, 28. Ibid.

29. Note: Cal Grants are state-funded, need-based, cash grants awarded to California college students to help pay for college expenses. U.S. citizens, eligible noncitizens, and all 540-eligible California residents at the time of high school graduation are eligible to receive a Cal Grant.

30. 13% of Latinos have a four-year college degree compared to 43% of Whites; despite being the largest ethnic group in California.\(^{29}\)