

# Serving An Increasingly Diverse Virginia: Hispanic Students in the VCCS



Hispanic students are attending Virginia's Community Colleges in record numbers, achieving greater academic success and earning more transfer-oriented credentials than ever before. Virginia's Hispanic population has grown dramatically since 2000, now representing 8.6% of the state<sup>1</sup>. The VCCS has felt that growth on campuses, where Hispanic students now represent 8.1% of enrollment.

## Study Population

This snapshot focuses on Hispanic students attending the VCCS between 2009 and 2013. The analysis includes students who self-reported as Hispanic at the time of admission.

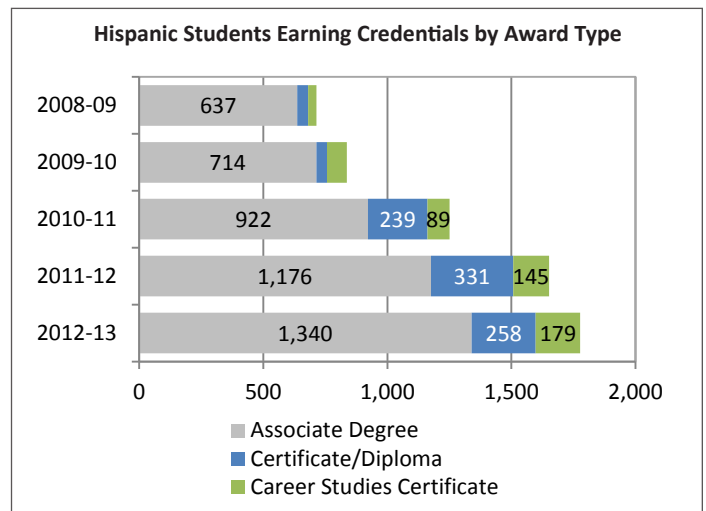
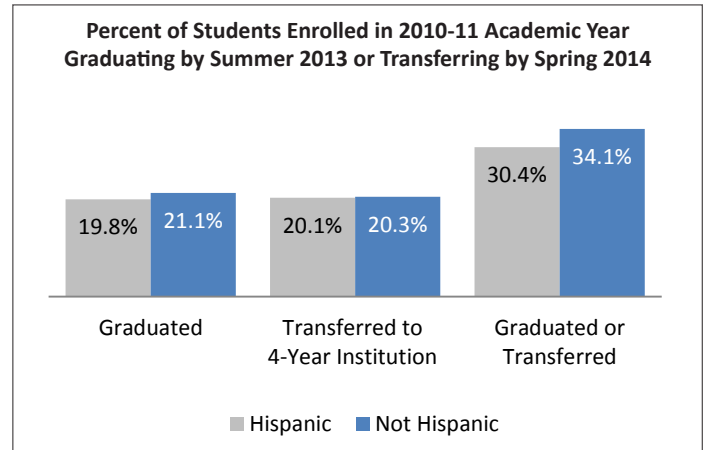
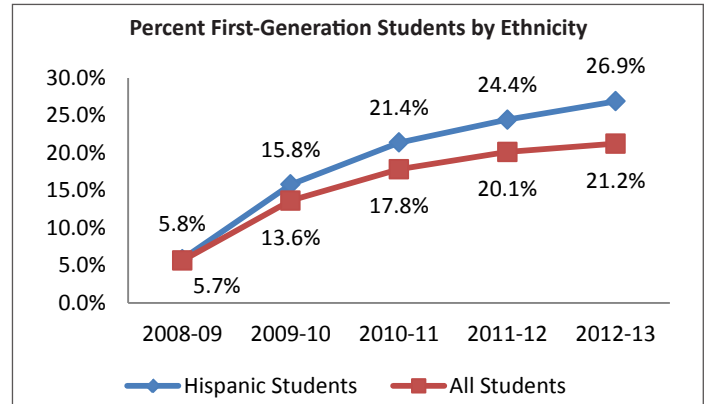
## Population Outcomes From 2008-09 to 2012-13

- Hispanic student enrollment grew nearly 58%, outpacing non-Hispanic enrollment growth.
- First generation Hispanic students increased more than six-fold, from 814 to nearly 6,000. More than a quarter (27%) of today's VCCS Hispanic students are first-generation.
- The percentage of Hispanic students receiving Pell awards has more than doubled, from 14% to 30%.
- More Hispanic students today (58%) are enrolling in transfer-oriented associate degree programs than five years ago (51%).
- The number of Hispanic students enrolled in STEM programs has doubled over the past five years. Today, more than one in six Hispanic students are enrolled in STEM.
- Hispanic student GPAs are rising. Three quarters earned a GPA of 2.0 or better in 2012-13, compared to 70% five years ago.
- Hispanic student achievement is growing. The percentage of Hispanic students earning more than 30 credits in the VCCS increased from 25.7% to 31.3%
- More Hispanic students are graduating. The number of Hispanic graduates rose from 714 to 1,777 over the past five years, an increase of 150%.

## Conclusions

Virginia's Hispanic population nearly doubled during the first decade of the 21st century. Consistently, Virginia's Community Colleges serve more than half<sup>2</sup> (55%) of all Hispanic college students in the Commonwealth. For the five years beginning in 2008, this translated into a dramatic increase in Hispanic student enrollments, more credentials earned, and greater participation in STEM fields and transfer-oriented programs. Hispanic students enrolled in the 2010-11 academic year experienced comparable rates of graduation and transfer to their non-Hispanic counterparts. Continuing that momentum will be a student services challenge, especially given the increases in first-generation students and Hispanic students receiving Pell awards. Successfully addressing these needs would position Virginia's Community Colleges as a leader in our nation, where only 13.9% of Hispanics have earned a bachelor's degree or higher<sup>3</sup>.

Ethnicity	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Hispanic	14,003	16,069	18,819	20,773	22,086
Non-Hispanic	242,516	258,613	260,920	261,705	252,198
Total	256,519	274,682	279,739	282,478	274,284



## HISPANIC STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND DEMOGRAPHICS BY COLLEGE FOR THE 2012-13 ACADEMIC YEAR

College	Total Students	Hispanic Students	Percent of Hispanic Students								
			Program Type				Gender		Received Pell	First Generation	STEM
			Transfer	Career Technical	Dual Enrolled	Unclassified	Male	Female			
			N	N	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Blue Ridge	6,291	365	56	21	18	4	44	56	48	43	8
Central Virginia	6,982	152	39	16	24	20	38	63	24	20	11
Dabney S. Lancaster	2,005	31	23	35	35	6	35	65	42	23	3
Danville	5,517	115	18	36	30	16	54	46	35	28	12
Eastern Shore	1,329	77	43	17	34	6	36	64	35	38	16
Germanna	10,044	803	51	29	11	9	38	62	28	24	11
J. Sargeant Reynolds	18,838	772	44	41	3	12	42	58	37	23	20
John Tyler	13,658	826	46	24	17	13	40	60	33	27	6
Lord Fairfax	9,509	558	42	27	23	7	41	59	34	31	13
Mountain Empire	4,075	41	41	29	22	7	46	54	59	22	15
New River	7,252	163	33	17	23	28	52	48	30	20	10
Northern Virginia	77,780	13,189	67	21	3	10	45	55	26	28	18
Patrick Henry	4,128	135	22	44	28	6	41	59	42	44	3
Paul D. Camp	2,143	47	36	32	26	6	28	72	34	32	9
Piedmont Virginia	7,721	297	46	21	21	11	39	61	28	21	13
Rappahannock	4,924	168	32	24	40	3	48	52	25	21	1
Southside Virginia	8,304	142	15	25	49	11	44	56	27	25	4
Southwest Virginia	3,974	36	17	28	36	19	61	39	22	11	11
Thomas Nelson	15,809	950	50	31	12	7	39	61	40	26	23
Tidewater	43,908	2,737	50	40	1	9	41	59	40	23	23
Virginia Highlands	3,444	52	33	35	23	10	46	54	40	17	8
Virginia Western	11,892	307	49	24	13	14	46	54	39	26	29
Wytheville	4,757	123	20	31	37	11	41	59	36	37	4
VCCS Total	274,284	22,086	58	25	7	10	43	57	30	27	17

### Student Success Snapshot Series Info

– Visit <http://www.vccs.edu/studentsuccess> to learn more about student success.

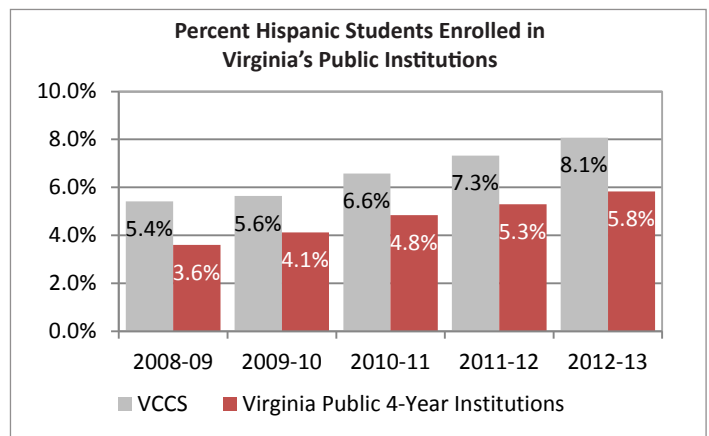
### How Were Data Generated?

CRT tables were used to produce demographic and enrollment data. Graduate files were used to determine graduation information. National Student Clearinghouse data were used to determine students' transfer status.

<sup>1</sup>Population data obtained from U.S. Census Bureau, 2000-2010.

<sup>2</sup>Data on Virginia higher education enrollments obtained from SCHEV's fall headcount data, available at: [http://research.schev.edu/enrollment/E22\\_report.asp](http://research.schev.edu/enrollment/E22_report.asp)

<sup>3</sup>Information on Hispanic population educational attainment is from Pew Research Center's Statistical Portrait of Hispanics in the United States (2012), available at: <http://www.pewhispanic.org/2014/04/29/statistical-portrait-of-hispanics-in-the-united-states-2012/>



VCCS institutions enroll a greater percentage (8.1%) of Hispanic students than Virginia's public 4-year institutions (5.8%).

*U.S. Department of Education. Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics.*