Latinos and Latinas Rising
The Future of Latinos at Texas A&M

Latinos represent the engine of population growth in the state of Texas but will these numbers be reflected at Texas A&M?

Hispanic Student Enrollment at Texas A&M
Fall 2002, 4,542 Latino students (10%)
Fall 2003, 4,941 Latino students (12%)
Fall 2004, 5,256 Latino students (14%)

Major shifts are already underway in the racial/ethnic composition of students enrolled in K-12 public schools. Between the academic years (AYs) of 1990-1991 and 2000-2001, Latinos replaced Anglos as the largest racial/ethnic group in the state’s K-12 public schools. The relative size of Latinos increased from 34 percent in the 1990-1991 AY to 45 percent in the 2003-2004 AY, while the relative size of Anglos fell from 49 percent to 38 percent during this time period. African Americans comprised 14 percent of all K-12 students in public schools throughout the period.

Population projections indicate that the state’s youth will become increasingly Latino.

Figure 1. Percentage of Texas A&M University Students that are Latino by Level, Fall 2005

Figure 2. Percentage of Full-Time Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty that are Latino by Rank, Fall 2004

Figure 3. Percentage Distribution of Students Enrolled in K-12 Public Schools by Race/Ethnicity 1991-1992 to 2004-2005

Figure 4. Percentage Distribution of Students Graduating from Texas Schools by Race/Ethnicity 1991-1992 to 2004-2005

Figure 5. Population Projections for the Texas Population, 0 to 17 Years of Age by Race/Ethnicity, 2000-2004

While Latinos made up two-fifths of persons less than 18 years of age in the state in 2000, they are projected to account for more than two-thirds by 2040.

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The future of TAMU will be increasingly bonded to the Latino population. The generation of state funds to support TAMU and its ambitious goals will increasingly originate from Latinos, a group that has been disproportionately underrepresented at TAMU. Latinos and their political representatives will demand greater Latino access to TAMU.

— Rogelio Saenz, Ph.D., Sociology

Source: “Latinos and Latinas Rising,” essay by Rogelio Saenz, Ph.D., Sociology at siempre.tamu.edu.