

The Florida College System Transparency, Accountability, Progress, and Performance

How does the racial/ethnic composition of students enrolled in the Florida College System compare to the state's racial/ethnic composition?

Generally, the Florida College System (FCS) credit program student population is slightly more diverse than the state's overall population. In 2011-12, racial/ethnic background information was available for over 411,000 students enrolled in credit programs at one of the 28 FCS institutions. Students who self-reported their race as being Black/African American, Hispanic, Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or two or more races made up 47 percent (or 257,421) of all credit enrollments in 2011-12 (compared to 45.5 percent or 249,586 for white students). **The FCS meets the education needs of 82 percent of freshman and sophomore minority students in public higher education and serves as a key entry point to higher education for many Floridians.**

Table 1 contains the racial and ethnic composition of FCS credit students (2011-12) with the demographics of the state. The state's demographics reflect 2012 Florida population estimates from the [U.S. Census Bureau](#). As shown, nearly 8 in 10 Floridians identify themselves as white compared to 6 in 10 FCS credit students. Approximately 17 percent of Floridians identify themselves as being Black or African American (one in six) which is lower than their representation in the FCS where nearly one in four (24.1 percent) students enrolled in credit programs self-identified as Black or African American.

Category	FCS Number (2011-12)	FCS Percent	State Number (2012)	State Percent
White	249,586	60.7%	15,125,656	78.3%
Black/African American	99,278	24.1%	3,206,716	16.6%
Asian	12,535	3.0%	521,574	2.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1,828	0.4%	96,588	0.5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	972	0.2%	19,318	0.1%
Two or More Races	6,202	1.1%	367,034	1.9%
Non-Resident Alien	7,763	1.9%	--	--
Unknown Race/Ethnicity	33,242	8.1%	--	--
Overall Total	411,406	100.0%	19,336,886	100.0%
Hispanic (of any race listed above)*	136,606	24.9%	4,481,676	23.2%

*Individuals of Hispanic descent can be of any race. Some individuals only identify themselves as Hispanic. Others identify as Hispanic and also select a racial/ethnic category.
Source: Florida College System 2013 Fact Book and US Census Bureau

Hispanic/Latino representation was similar in the general population and among FCS credit program enrollments. Twenty-three percent of Floridians identify themselves as being Hispanic compared to one quarter of FCS credit program students. Note that in the current national data collection process, Hispanic/Latino is a separate question from race. There are two ethnic categories, which are "Hispanic/Latino" and "Not Hispanic/Latino"; therefore, Hispanic figures are not included in the overall totals.

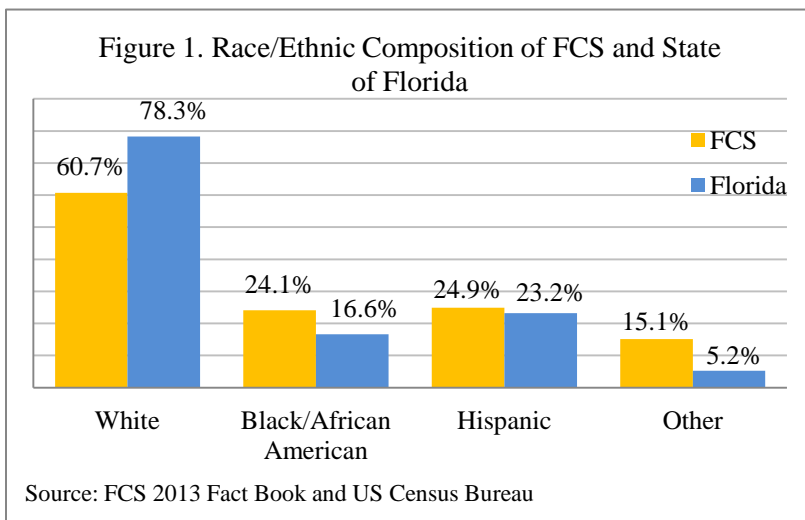


Figure 1 provides a graphic representation of FCS demographics compared to the state. As shown, in 2011-12, the majority of students enrolled in credit programs were white. A **higher proportion of Black/African American and Hispanic individuals enrolled in credit programs than their proportional representation in the state's general population.** Students in the "other" category (Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, two or more races, and non-resident aliens) represented 15.1 percent of credit enrollments, compared to 5.2 percent in the state population. These figures demonstrate that the FCS serves a diverse student population. The Florida College System is committed to providing higher education

opportunities to all Floridians. To find a college near you, please visit the Florida College System [directory](#).