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Infographic: Academic and Social Barriers to Black and Latino Male Collegians' Success in Engineering and Related STEM Fields

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### Participants

- **African Americans** participated in one-on-one interviews: 27
- **Latino Americans** participated in one-on-one interviews: 22

### Statistics

- **Increase in U.S. college enrollment rates over the past 3 decades**: 64%
- **Underrepresented minority students continue to lag behind their White counterparts in U.S. college graduation rates**

### 4 Academic and Social Barriers

1. **Feel alone and invisible**
   - Recommendation: Increase outreach efforts that target AA and LA students to improve the representation of these URMs

2. **Lack same race peers and faculty**
   - Recommendation: Make intentional efforts to pair AA and LA students with same-race peer/mentors

3. **Have difficulty applying theory to practice**
   - Recommendation: Work with industry partners to create real-world design projects and to help faculty understand what skills and competencies are most important for graduates

4. **Lack the pre-college preparation necessary to succeed in STEM fields**
   - Recommendation: Partner with local K-12 schools to increase student exposure to and interest in STEM-related content, and to improve counselor/parent awareness of needed pre-college STEM coursework

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**NOTE:** This study is part of a larger, longitudinal study titled “Investigating the Critical Barriers: Strategies that Broaden Minority Participation in STEM Fields,” funded by the National Science Foundation. “The abbreviation “AA” means African American or Black and “LA” means Latino American or Hispanic.