

Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) are defined in federal law as accredited and degree-granting public or private nonprofit institutions of higher education with 25 percent or more total undergraduate Hispanic full-time equivalent student enrollment.¹

- In 2006-07, 265 institutions met the basic legislative definition of a Hispanic-Serving Institution. HSIs represented 7% of all degree-granting institutions of higher education. [NCES, IPEDS, Enrollment Surveys, 2006-07]
- The number of HSIs is increasing. In one year (2005-06 to 2006-07), 13 additional institutions met the HSI criteria (from 252 to 265). Between 1995-96 and 2006-07, the number of institutions meeting the HSI criteria doubled (from 131 to 265). [NCES, IPEDS, Enrollment Surveys, 1995-96 and 2006-07]

Location

- The location of HSIs is highly concentrated. In 2006-07, almost 70% of HSIs were located in two states and Puerto Rico. California had 33% of HSIs (84), Puerto Rico had 20% (51), and Texas had 16% (43). [NCES, IPEDS, Enrollment Surveys, 2006-07]
- HSIs are also concentrated in highly urbanized locations. In 2006-07, over half of HSIs (54%) were located in large cities, about 25% were in large suburbs, 11% were in town fringes, and 10% were in rural fringes. [NCES, IPEDS, Enrollment Surveys, 2006-07]
- Over half of HSIs are two-year institutions. In 2006-07, about 48% were community colleges and 4% were private, not-for-profit institutions. [NCES, IPEDS, Enrollment Surveys, 2006-07]

Students

- HSIs enrolled a majority of Hispanics in higher education. Over half of all Hispanic undergraduates in public or private degree-granting institutions of higher education (54%) were enrolled at HSIs in 2006-07. [NCES, IPEDS, Enrollment Surveys, 2006-07]
- HSIs have diverse student enrollment. In the aggregate for 2006-07, 46% of students enrolled were Hispanic, about 27% were white, 10% were black, 9% were Asian/Pacific Islanders, 1% were American Indian/Alaska Natives, and 7% were nonresident aliens or unknown. [NCES, IPEDS, Enrollment Surveys, 2006-07]
- Students enrolled at HSIs are slightly more likely to be enrolled part-time. [NCES, IPEDS, Enrollment Surveys, 2006-07]

Emerging HSIs

- Some institutions are close to meeting the HSI enrollment criteria. In 2006-07, 67 institutions had Hispanic full-time equivalent enrollment between 20-24% and are considered emerging HSIs. [NCES, IPEDS, Enrollment Surveys, 2006-07]

HSIs with graduate programs

- The majority of HSIs do not offer graduate programs. In 2006-07, only one-third of HSIs (88 institutions) offered master's or doctor's degrees as their highest degrees offered. [NCES, IPEDS, Enrollment Surveys, 2006-07]

¹ Basic definition of HSIs in Title V of the Higher Education Opportunity Act, as amended in 2008.