

The mission of *Excelencia* in Education is to accelerate Latino student success in higher education. A critical group of institutions enrolling Latino students is Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs).

Background

The classification of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) was formally recognized in federal legislation for capacity-building support to improve the access and quality of education for Latino and other low-income students. HSIs are defined as accredited, degree-granting public or private not-for-profit institutions of higher education with 25% or more total undergraduate Hispanic full-time equivalent student (FTE) enrollment.¹ To create this list, *Excelencia* uses the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and maintained by the U.S. Department of Education. The information presented below is the most recent data as of February 2023.

Overview: 2021-22

- **HSIs represent a small segment of higher education and yet enroll the majority of Latino undergraduates.** There are 571 HSIs, which represent 19% of all colleges and universities and enroll 62% of all Latino undergraduates.
- **The number of HSIs is increasing.** The number of HSIs has increased to 571 in 2021-22 up from 559 in 2020-21 (the year HSIs decreased for the first time in decades due in part to enrollment declines, institutional closings, and consolidation during the pandemic).
- **The majority of Seal of *Excelencia*-certified institutions are HSIs.** Of the 30 Seal of *Excelencia*-certified institutions, 28 are HSIs. These colleges and universities have demonstrated their commitment to intentionally serve their Latino students, and all, students.
- **Latino representation at HSIs is high.** Almost half of students enrolled at HSIs (45%) are Latino.

Location

- **HSIs are geographically concentrated.** HSIs are located in 28 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. California has the most HSIs (170), followed by Texas (101), Puerto Rico (59), and New York (37).
- **States not generally known for having large Latino populations now have HSIs.** At least 6 states, Arkansas, Indiana, Kansas, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin, each have at least one HSI.
- **The majority of HSIs are located in cities or suburbs.** Over 80% of HSIs are either in a city (296) or suburb (175) while less than 20% are in towns (58) or rural areas (42).

Sector

- **A majority of HSIs are four-year institutions.** Overall, almost 60% of HSIs are four-year institutions and over 40% are two-year institutions.
- **The majority of HSIs are public institutions.** Overall, 69% of HSIs are public and 32% are private.²

Emerging HSIs (eHSIs)

- **Emerging HSIs represent a growing subset of colleges and universities.** There are 401 eHSIs (institutions with 15-24.9% undergraduate full-time equivalent Hispanic enrollment), representing 13% of all institutions.
- **The number of eHSIs continues to increase.** The number of eHSIs has increased by 8 (from 393 to 401).
- **The majority of states have at least one eHSI.** eHSIs are in 42 states and the District of Columbia, including Alabama, Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.
- **The majority of eHSIs are four-year institutions.** Overall, 70% of eHSIs are four-year institutions. Of these, the majority are private (44%) and the remaining are public (26%).

HSIs with Graduate Programs (gHSIs)

- **More than a third of HSIs offer graduate degrees.** Of the 571 HSIs, 241 offer graduate degrees (42%).
- **gHSIs are concentrated geographically.** Two-thirds (67%) of gHSIs are in California (55), Texas (46), Puerto Rico (37), and New York (23).

¹ Summary of Title V of the Higher Education Act, as amended in 2008. To be eligible for the "Developing HSIs Program", the law further requires an HSI have a high enrollment of needy students and low core expenditures.

² Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.