

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

History and Definition

In the 1980s, leaders recognized a small set of institutions enrolled a large percentage of Latino students but had limited resources to educate these students. The classification of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) formally recognized these institutions for capacity-building and other support.

Federal law defines HSIs as accredited, degree-granting public or private not-for-profit institutions of higher education with 25 percent 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), which is maintained by the U.S. Department of Education. The information presented below is the most recent data as of March 2020.²

Overview: 2018-19

- **HSIs represent a small segment of higher education.** There are 539 HSIs, representing 17% of all colleges and universities.
- **HSIs enroll the majority of Latino undergraduates.** Two-thirds (67%) of all Latino full-time and part-time undergraduates are enrolled at HSIs.
- **The number of HSIs is growing.** Over the last 10 years, HSIs have grown from 280 to 539 (93%).
- **Latino representation at HSIs is high.** Almost half of students enrolled at HSIs (46%) are Latino.

Location

- **HSIs are geographically concentrated.** HSIs are located in 25 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. California has the most HSIs (176), followed by Texas (96), Puerto Rico (60), and New York (34).
- **States not generally known for having large Latino populations have HSIs.** Arkansas, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Ohio, and Wisconsin each have one HSI.
- **The majority of HSIs are located in cities or suburbs.** Over 84% of HSIs are either in the city (278) or suburbs (175) while 16% are in towns (49) or rural areas (37).

Sector

- **A majority of HSIs are four-year institutions.** Overall, 54% of HSIs are four-year institutions (public—26%; private—28%), and 46% are two-year institutions (public—43%; private—3%).
- **The majority of HSIs are public institutions.** Overall, 69% of HSIs are public and 32% are private.

Emerging HSIs

- **Emerging HSIs represent a growing subset of colleges and universities.** There are 352 Emerging HSIs (institutions with 15-24.9% undergraduate full-time equivalent Hispanic enrollment).
- **Over half of states have at least one Emerging HSI.** Thirty-five states, including Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Utah have Emerging HSIs.
- **The majority of Emerging HSIs are four-year institutions.** Seventy percent are either four-year private (44%), or four-year public (26%), while 27% are two-year public, and 3% are two-year private.

HSIs with Graduate Programs

- **More than a third of HSIs offer graduate degrees.** Of the 539 HSIs, 215 offer graduate degrees (40%).
- **HSIs offering graduate degrees are concentrated geographically.** About 72% of HSIs with graduate programs are in California (58), Texas (40), Puerto Rico (38), and New York (19).

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 **Suggested Citation:** *Excelencia* in Education. (2020). Hispanic-Serving Institutions: 2018 -19 Fact Sheet. *Excelencia in Education*. Washington, D.C.