

The mission of *Excelencia* in Education is to accelerate Latino student success in higher education. A critical set 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 January 2022.

Overview: 2020-21

- **HSIs represent a small segment of higher education and yet enroll the majority of Latino undergraduates.** There are 559 HSIs, which represent 18% of all colleges and universities and enroll 66% of all Latino undergraduates.
- **For the first time in two decades, the number of HSIs has decreased.** The number of HSIs has decreased (from 569 in 2019-20), due in part to enrollment declines, institutional closings, and consolidation during the pandemic.
- **The majority of Seal of *Excelencia*-certified institutions are now HSIs.** Of the 24 Seal of *Excelencia*-certified institutions, 23 are now 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 (46%) are Latino.

Location

- **HSIs are geographically concentrated.** HSIs are located in 29 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. California has the most HSIs (174), followed by Texas (97), Puerto Rico (61), and New York (32).
- **Locations not generally known for having large Latino populations have HSIs.** District of Columbia, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Ohio, Tennessee, and Virginia each have one HSI.
- **The majority of HSIs are located in cities or suburbs.** Over 80% of HSIs are either in the city (295) or suburbs (166) while less than 20% are in towns (58) or rural areas (40).

Sector

- **A majority of HSIs are four-year institutions.** Overall, almost 60% of HSIs are four-year institutions (public—28%; private—31%), and over 40% are two-year institutions (public—40%; private—1%).
- **The majority of HSIs are public institutions.** Overall, 68% of HSIs are public and 32% are private.

Emerging HSIs (eHSIs)

- **Emerging HSIs represent a growing subset of colleges and universities.** There are 393 eHSIs (institutions with 15-24.9% undergraduate full-time equivalent Hispanic enrollment), which represents 13% of all institutions of higher education.
- **There are 31 more eHSIs than last year.** The number of eHSIs has increased by 31 (from 362 to 393).
- **The majority of states have at least one eHSI.** eHSIs are in 40 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 (private—45%; public—25%), and 30% are two-year institutions (public—27%; private—3%).

HSIs with Graduate Programs (gHSIs)

- **More than a third of HSIs offer graduate degrees.** Of the 559 HSIs, 238 offer graduate degrees (43%).
- **gHSIs are concentrated geographically.** Almost 70% of gHSIs are in California (59), Texas (46), Puerto Rico (39), 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.