



3410-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

7 CFR Part 3434

RIN 0524-AA39

Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities  
(HSACU)

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This rule updates the list of institutions that are granted HSACU certification by the Secretary and are eligible for HSACU programs for the period starting October 1, 2014, and ending September 30, 2015.

**DATES:** This rule is effective [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER] and applicable October 1, 2014.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lisa DePaolo; Policy Specialist; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2272; 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.; Washington, D.C. 20250-2272; Voice: 202-401-5061; Fax: 202-401-7752; E-mail:

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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## **HSACU Institutions for Fiscal Year 2015**

This rule makes changes to the existing list of institutions in Appendix B of 7 CFR part 3434. The list of institutions is amended to reflect the institutions that are granted HSACU certification by the Secretary and are eligible for HSACU programs for the period starting October 1, 2014, and ending September 30, 2015.

### **Certification Process**

As stated in 7 CFR 3434.4, an institution must meet the following criteria to receive HSACU certification: (1) be a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), (2) offer agriculture-related degrees, (3) not appear on the Excluded Parties List, (4) be accredited, and (5) award at least 15% of agriculture-related degrees to Hispanic students over the two most recent academic years.

NIFA obtained the latest report from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics that lists all HSIs and the degrees conferred by these institutions (completions data) during the 2012-13 academic year. NIFA used this report to identify HSIs that conferred a degree in an instructional program that appears in Appendix A of 7 CFR part 3434 and to confirm that over

the 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years at least 15% of the degrees in agriculture-related fields were awarded to Hispanic students. NIFA further confirmed that these institutions were nationally accredited and did not have any exclusions listed in the System for Award Management (<https://www.sam.gov>).

The updated list of HSACUs is based on 1) completions data from 2011-12 and 2012-13, and 2) enrollment data from Fall 2013. NIFA identified 101 institutions that met the eligibility criteria to receive HSACU certification for FY 2015 (October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015).

#### **Declaration of Intent to Apply for NLGCA Designation**

As set forth in Section 7101 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79), which amends 7 U.S.C. 3103, an institution that is eligible to be designated as an HSACU may notify the Secretary of its intent not to be considered an HSACU. To opt out of designation as an HSACU, an authorized official at the institution must submit a declaration of intent not to be considered an HSACU to NIFA by email at [NLGCA.status@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:NLGCA.status@nifa.usda.gov). In accordance with Section 7101, a declaration by an institution not to be considered an HSACU shall remain in effect until September

30, 2018. Institutions that opt out of HSACU designation will have the option to apply for designation as a Non-Land Grant College of Agriculture (NLGCA) institution. To be eligible for NLGCA designation, institutions must be public colleges or universities offering baccalaureate or higher degrees in the study of food and agricultural sciences, as defined in 7 U.S.C. 3103. An online form to apply for NLGCA designation is available at [www.nifa.usda.gov/form/form.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/form/form.html).

In FY 2014, three institutions opted out of their HSACU designation and received NLGCA designation, hence they are excluded from the FY 2015 HSACU list.

#### **Appeal Process**

As set forth in 7 CFR 3434.8, NIFA will permit HSIIs that are not granted HSACU certification to submit an appeal within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

#### **Classification**

This rule relates to internal agency management. Accordingly, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, notice of proposed rulemaking and opportunity for comment are not required, and this rule may be made effective less than 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. This rule also is

exempt from the provisions of Executive Order 12866. This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act, as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, 5 U.S.C. 601 et seq., or the Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 et seq., and thus is exempt from the provisions of those Acts. This rule contains no information collection or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.).

**List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 3434**

Administrative practice and procedure; Agricultural research, education, extension; Hispanic-Serving Institutions; Federal assistance.

Title 7, chapter XXXIV of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended accordingly as set forth below:

**PART 3434 - HISPANIC-SERVING AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES CERTIFICATION PROCESS**

1. The authority citation for Part 3434 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 3103.

2. Revise Appendix B to Part 3434 to read as follows:

**Appendix B to Part 3434—List of HSACU institutions, 2014-2015.**

The institutions listed in this appendix are granted HSACU certification by the Secretary and are eligible for HSACU programs for the period starting October 1, 2014, and ending September 30, 2015. Institutions are listed alphabetically under the state of the school's location, with the campus indicated where applicable.

**Arizona (4)**

Cochise College

Glendale Community College

Phoenix College

Pima Community College

**California (39)**

Allan Hancock College

Antioch University-Los Angeles

Bakersfield College

California State University-Channel Islands

California State University-East Bay

California State University-Fresno

California State University-San Bernardino

Chaffey College

College of San Mateo  
College of the Desert  
College of the Sequoias  
Fullerton College  
Golden West College  
Hartnell College  
Imperial Valley College  
Long Beach City College  
Los Angeles City College  
Los Angeles Pierce College  
Mendocino College  
Merced College  
MiraCosta College  
Modesto Junior College  
Monterey Peninsula College  
Mt. San Antonio College  
Mt. San Jacinto Community College District  
National University  
Orange Coast College  
Pacific Union College  
Porterville College  
Reedley College

San Diego Mesa College

San Joaquin Delta College

Santa Ana College

Santa Barbara City College

Southwestern College

University of California-Riverside

Victor Valley College

West Hills College Coalinga

Whittier College

**Colorado (1)**

Trinidad State Junior College

**Florida (3)**

Florida International University

Miami Dade College

Nova Southeastern University

**Illinois (2)**

City Colleges of Chicago-Harold Washington College

Dominican University

**Nevada (1)**

College of Southern Nevada

**New Mexico (8)**

Eastern New Mexico University-Main Campus

Mesalands Community College

New Mexico Highlands University

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Northern New Mexico College

Santa Fe Community College

University of New Mexico-Main Campus

Western New Mexico University

**New York (4)**

CUNY Bronx Community College

CUNY LaGuardia Community College

CUNY Lehman College

SUNY Westchester Community College

**Puerto Rico (15)**

Bayamon Central University

Instituto Tecnologico de Puerto Rico-Manati

Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Aguadilla

Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Bayamon

Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Metro

Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Ponce

Inter American University of Puerto Rico-San German

Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico-Ponce

Universidad Del Turabo

Universidad Metropolitana

University of Puerto Rico-Arecibo

University of Puerto Rico-Humacao

University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus

University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras Campus

University of Puerto Rico-Utuado

**Texas (21)**

Houston Community College

Lee College

Midland College

Palo Alto College

Richland College

Saint Edward's University

St. Mary's University

San Antonio College

Southwest Texas Junior College

Texas A&M International University

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Texas State Technical College-Harlingen

Texas State University

University of Texas at Arlington

University of Texas at Brownsville

University of Texas at El Paso

University of Texas at San Antonio

University of Texas - Pan American

University of Houston

University of the Incarnate Word

**Washington (3)**

Big Bend Community College

Columbia Basin College

Wenatchee Valley College

Done in Washington, DC, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of \_\_\_\_\_ January,  
2015.

Sonny Ramaswamy,  
Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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