



**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 (NIFA),  
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, 2015, and ending September 30, 2016.

**DATES:** This rule is effective [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION] and applicable October 1, 2015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lisa DePaolo; Policy Analyst; 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: [ldepaolo@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:ldepaolo@nifa.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**HSACU Institutions for Fiscal Year 2016**

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, 2015, and ending September 30, 2016.

**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 System (EPLS), (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 (completion data) during the 2013-14 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 2012-13 and 2013-14 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 were not listed in the System for Award Management (<https://www.sam.gov>) with exclusions.

The updated list of HSACUs is based on 1) completions data from 2012-13 and 2013-14, and 2) enrollment data from Fall 2014. NIFA identified 101 institutions that met the eligibility criteria to receive HSACU certification for FY 2016 (October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016).

**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 request NLGCA designation is available at <http://nifa.usda.gov/webform/request-non-land-grant-college-agriculture-designation>.

In FY 2014 and FY 2015, six institutions opted out of their HSACU designation and received NLGCA designation, hence they are excluded from the FY 2016 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, part 3434, 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 part 3434 Appendix B to read as follows:

**Appendix B to Part 3434—List of HSACU institutions, 2015-2016.**

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, 2015, and ending September 30, 2016. Institutions are listed alphabetically under the state of the school's location, with the campus indicated where applicable.

**Arizona (3)**

Arizona Western College

Cochise College

Phoenix College

**California (39)**

Allan Hancock College

Antelope Valley College

Antioch University-Los Angeles

Bakersfield College

California Baptist University

California Lutheran University

California State University - Dominguez Hills

California State University-East Bay

California State University - Long Beach  
California State University-San Bernardino  
College of San Mateo  
College of the Desert  
College of the Sequoias  
El Camino Community College District  
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  
Pacific Union College

Porterville College  
Reedley College  
Saddleback College  
Saint Mary's College of California  
San Diego City College  
San Diego Mesa College  
San Diego State University  
San Francisco State University  
San Jose State University  
Santa Ana College  
University of California-Riverside  
University of La Verne  
West Hills College Coalinga  
Whittier College

**Colorado (1)**

Trinidad State Junior College

**Florida (5)**

Broward College  
Florida International University  
Miami Dade College  
Nova Southeastern University  
Valencia College

**Nevada (2)**

College of Southern Nevada

Truckee Meadows Community College

**New Jersey (2)**

Saint Peter's University

William Paterson University of New Jersey

**New Mexico (9)**

Central New Mexico Community College

Eastern New Mexico University-Main Campus

Eastern New Mexico University - Ruidoso Campus

Mesalands Community College

New Mexico Highlands University

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Northern New Mexico College

University of New Mexico-Main Campus

Western New Mexico University

**New York (2)**

CUNY Bronx Community College

CUNY LaGuardia Community College

**Puerto Rico (15)**

Bayamon Central University

Instituto Tecnológico 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 (22)**

Houston Community College  
Lee College  
Palo Alto College  
Richland College  
San Antonio College  
Saint Edward's University  
St. Mary's University  
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 Houston  
University of Houston - Clear Lake  
University of St. Thomas  
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 Rio Grande Valley  
University of the Incarnate Word

**Washington (3)**

Columbia Basin College  
Wenatchee Valley College  
Yakima Valley Community College

Done in Washington, DC, this 21st day of January, 2016.

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