



**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**

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This rule updates the list of institutions that  
are granted Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and  
Universities (HSACU) certification by the Secretary and are  
eligible for HSACU programs for the period starting October  
1, 2016, and ending September 30, 2017.

**DATES:** This rule is effective [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION]  
and applicable beginning October 1, 2016.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lisa Read; Policy Analyst;  
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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## **HSACU Institutions for Fiscal Year 2017**

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, 2016, and ending September 30, 2017.

### **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 2014-15 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 2013-14 and 2014-15 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 on the exclusions listing in the System for Award Management (<https://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/##11>).

The updated list of HSACUs is based on 1) completions data from 2013-14 and 2014-15, and 2) enrollment data from Fall 2015. NIFA identified 104 institutions that met the eligibility criteria to receive HSACU certification for FY 2017 (October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017).

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

As set forth in Section 7101 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 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 FYs 2015, 2016 and 2017 five institutions opted out of their HSACU designation and received NLGCA designation, hence they are excluded from the FY 2017 HSACU list.

### **Appeal Process**

As set forth in 7 CFR 3434.8, NIFA will permit HSIs 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.

Accordingly, part 3434 of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended 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, 2016-2017.**

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, 2016, and ending September 30, 2017. Institutions are listed alphabetically under the state of the school's location, with the campus indicated where applicable.

**Arizona (5)**

Arizona Western College  
Central Arizona College  
Cochise County Community College  
Phoenix College  
Pima Community College

**California (40)**

Allan Hancock College  
Antioch University- Los Angeles  
Bakersfield College  
California Baptist University  
California Lutheran University

Chaffey College  
College of the Desert  
College of the Sequoias  
Cuyamaca College  
El Camino Community College District  
Fullerton College  
Golden West College  
Hartnell College  
Imperial Valley College  
Long Beach City College  
Los Angeles Pierce College  
Merced College  
MiraCosta College  
Modesto Junior College  
Mt San Antonio College  
Mt San Jacinto Community College District  
National University  
Orange Coast College  
Pacific Union College  
Porterville College  
Reedley College  
Santa Ana College

San Bernardino Valley College  
San Diego City College  
San Diego Mesa College  
San Diego State University  
San Francisco State University  
San Jose State University  
Saint Mary's College of California  
Southwestern College  
University of La Verne  
Victor Valley College  
West Hills College- Coalinga  
Whittier College  
Woodland Community College

**Colorado (2)**

Community College of Denver  
Trinidad State Junior College

**Florida (3)**

Broward College  
Florida International University  
Miami Dade College

**Illinois (1)**

Dominican University

**Kansas (2)**

Dodge City Community College

Seward County Community College and Area Technical School

**Massachusetts (1)**

Springfield Technical Community College

**Nevada (1)**

Truckee Meadows Community College

**New Jersey (3)**

Essex County College

Montclair State University

Saint Peter's University

**New Mexico (10)**

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

Santa Fe Community College

Western New Mexico University

University of New Mexico - Los Alamos Campus

**New York (4)**

CUNY City College

CUNY LaGuardia Community College

Mercy College

SUNY Westchester Community College

**Oregon (1)**

Chemeketa Community College

**Puerto Rico (10)**

Instituto Tecnologico de Puerto Rico- Recinto de 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 - San German

Inter American University of Puerto Rico - Ponce

Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico - Ponce

Universidad Del Este

Universidad Del Turabo

Universidad Metropolitana

**Texas (18)**

Houston Community College

Palo Alto College

Saint Edwards's University

San Antonio College  
Southwest Texas Junior College  
St. Mary's University  
Texas State Technical College  
Texas State University  
The University of Texas- Pan American  
The University of Texas at Brownsville  
The University of Texas at El Paso  
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
The University of Texas at San Antonio  
University of Houston  
University of Houston - Clear Lake  
University of the Incarnate Word  
University of St. Thomas  
Western Texas College

**Washington (3)**

Heritage University

Wenatchee Valley College

Yakima Valley Community College

Done in Washington, DC, this 1st day of May, 2017.

Sonny Ramaswamy,

Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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