



**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) Certification Process**

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment to NIFA regulations 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, 2017, and ending September 30, 2018.

**DATES:** This rule is effective [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER] and applicable October 1, 2017.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**HSACU Institutions for Fiscal Year 2018**

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, 2017, and ending September 30, 2018.

**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 2015-16 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 2014-15 and 2015-16 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 2014-15 and 2015-16, and 2) enrollment data from Fall 2016. NIFA identified 147 institutions that met the eligibility criteria to receive HSACU certification for FY 2018 (October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018).

**Declaration of Intent to Opt out of HSACU Designation and Apply for Non Land-Grant College of Agriculture (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. 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 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. 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 2016 and 2017, one institution opted out of HSACU designation and received NLGCA designation, hence that institution is excluded from the FY 2018 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 document.

**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 read as follows:

**Appendix B to Part 3434—List of HSACU institutions, 2017-2018**

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, 2017, and ending September 30, 2018. Institutions are listed alphabetically under the state of the school's location, with the campus indicated where applicable.

**Arizona (6)**

Arizona Western College

Central Arizona College  
Cochise County Community College  
Phoenix College  
Pima Community College  
University of Arizona

**California (63)**

Allan Hancock College  
Antioch University-Los Angeles  
Bakersfield College  
Cabrillo College  
California Baptist University  
California State University-San Bernardino  
California State University-Dominguez Hills  
California State University-Long Beach  
California State University-Los Angeles  
California State University-East Bay  
University of California-Irvine  
University of California-Riverside  
University of California-Santa Barbara  
University of California-Santa Cruz  
California Lutheran University  
Chaffey College

Craft Hills College  
College of the Desert  
College of the Sequoias  
Cosumnes River College  
Cuesta College  
Cuyamaca College  
El Camino Community College District  
Foothill College  
Fresno Pacific University  
Fullerton College  
Golden West College  
Hartnell College  
Imperial Valley College  
Las Positas College  
Long Beach City College  
Los Angeles Pierce College  
Mendocino College  
Merced College  
Mills College  
MiraCosta College  
Modesto Junior College  
Mt. San Antonio College

Mt. San Jacinto Community College District  
Napa Valley College  
National University  
Orange Coast College  
Pacific Union College  
Porterville College  
Reedley College  
Santa Ana College  
Santa Barbara City College  
Santa Monica College  
San Bernardino Valley College  
San Diego City College  
San Diego Mesa College  
San Diego State University  
San Jose State University  
Saint Mary's College of California  
Southwestern College  
University of California-Irvine  
University of California-Riverside  
University of California-Santa Cruz  
Victor Valley College  
West Hills College-Coalinga

Whittier College

Woodland Community College

Yuba College

**Colorado (2)**

Aims Community College

Community College of Denver

**Florida (5)**

Broward College

Florida International University

Miami Dade College

Palm Beach State College

Valencia College

**Illinois (1)**

Dominican University

**Kansas (3)**

Dodge City Community College

Garden City Community College

Seward County Community College and Area Technical School

**Massachusetts (1)**

Springfield Technical Community College

**Nevada (2)**

College of Southern Nevada

Truckee Meadows Community College

**New Jersey (5)**

Essex County College

Kern 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

Northern New Mexico College

Santa Fe Community College

Western New Mexico University

University of New Mexico-Los Alamos Campus

University of New Mexico-Main Campus

**New York (5)**

CUNY City College

CUNY Hunter College

CUNY LaGuardia Community College

Mercy College

SUNY Westchester Community College

**Oregon (1)**

Chemeketa Community College

**Puerto Rico (15)**

Instituto Tecnológico de Puerto Rico-Recinto de Manatí

Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Aguadilla

Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Bayamón

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 Turabo

Universidad Metropolitana

University of Puerto Rico-Arecibo

University of Puerto Rico-Humacao

University of Puerto Rico-Utuado

University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences

University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras

University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez

**Texas (24)**

Concordia University-Texas

Houston Community College

McLennan Community College  
Odessa College  
Palo Alto College  
Saint Edwards's University  
San Antonio College  
Southwest Texas Junior College  
South Plains College  
St. Mary's University  
Tarrant County College District  
Texas State Technical College  
Texas A & M International University  
Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi  
The University of Texas at El Paso  
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
The University of Texas at San Antonio  
The University of Texas at Brownsville  
University of Houston  
University of Houston-Clear Lake  
University of the Incarnate Word  
University of St. Thomas  
Western Texas College  
Wayland Baptist University

**Washington (4)**

Columbia Basin College

Heritage University

Wenatchee Valley College

Yakima Valley Community College

Done in Washington, DC, this 8th day of March, 2018.

Sonny Ramaswamy,

Director,

National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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