

The mission of *Excelencia* in Education is to accelerate Latino student success in higher education. A critical group of institutions enrolling and graduating Latino students are Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

History and Definition

In the 1980s, leaders recognized a small set of institutions enrolled a large percentage of Latino students but had limited resources to educate these students. The classification of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) formally recognized these institutions for capacity-building and other support.

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), which is maintained by the U.S. Department of Education. The information presented below is the most recent data as of March 2021.

Overview: 2019-20

- **HSIs represent a small segment of higher education.** There are 569 HSIs, representing 18% of all colleges and universities.
- **HSIs enroll the majority of Latino undergraduates.** Two-thirds (67%) of all Latino undergraduates are enrolled at an HSI.
- **The number of HSIs is growing.** Over the last 10 years, HSIs have grown from 293 to 569 (94%).
- **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 30 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. California has the most HSIs (175), followed by Texas (100), Puerto Rico (64), and New York (35).
- **States not generally known for having large Latino populations have HSIs.** Arkansas, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island and Utah each have one HSI.
- **The majority of HSIs are located in cities or suburbs.** Over 84% of HSIs are either in the city (305) or suburbs (171) while 16% are in towns (53) or rural areas (40).

Sector

- **A majority of HSIs are four-year institutions.** Overall, 56% of HSIs are four-year institutions (public—26%; private—30%), and 44% are two-year institutions (public—41%; private—3%).
- **The majority of HSIs are public institutions.** Overall, 67% of HSIs are public and 33% are private.

Emerging HSIs (eHSIs)

- **eHSIs represent a growing subset of colleges and universities.** There are 362 Emerging HSIs (institutions with 15-24.9% undergraduate full-time equivalent Hispanic enrollment), which represents 12% of all institutions of higher education (and an increase from 352 in 2018-19).
- **The majority of states have at least one eHSI.** eHSIs are in 38 states, including Alabama, Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, and Wyoming.
- **The majority of eHSIs are four-year institutions.** Of eHSIs, 69% are either four-year private (43%), or four-year public (26%), while 28% are two-year public, and 3% are two-year private.

HSIs with Graduate Programs (gHSIs)

- **More than a third of HSIs offer graduate degrees.** Of the 569 HSIs, 237 offer graduate degrees (42%).
- **gHSIs are concentrated geographically.** Over 70% of gHSIs are in California (58), Texas (43), Puerto Rico (40), and New York (20).

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.