

Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU) Certification Process

A Rule by the [National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#) on 06/07/2019

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Printed version:

[PDF](#)

Publication Date:

[06/07/2019](#)

Agencies:

[National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#)

Dates:

This rule is effective June 7, 2019 and applicable from October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019.

Effective Date:

06/07/2019

Document Type:

Rule

Document Citation:

84 FR 26544

Page:

26544-26546 (3 pages)

CFR:

7 CFR 3434

RIN:

[0524-AA39](#)

Document Number:

2019-12021

DOCUMENT DETAILS

DOCUMENT STATISTICS

Page views:

120

as of 06/10/2019 at 2:15 pm EDT

DOCUMENT STATISTICS

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PUBLISHED DOCUMENT

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, 2018, and ending September 30, 2019.

DATES:

This rule is effective June 7, 2019 and applicable from October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

HSACU Institutions for Fiscal Year 2019

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, 2018, and ending September 30, 2019.

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 Start Printed Page 26545(completion data) during the 2016-17 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 2015-16 and 2016-17 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/SAM/pages/public/searchRecords/search.jsf>).

The updated list of HSACUs is based on (1) completions data from 2015-16 and 2016-17, and (2) enrollment data from Fall 2017. NIFA identified 158 institutions that met the eligibility criteria to receive HSACU certification for FY 2019 (October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019).

Section 7102 of the Agriculture Act of 2018 ([Pub. L. 115-334](#)) amended Section 1404(14) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 ([7 U.S.C. 3103](#)(14)) to remove the opt-in, opt-out language for Hispanic Serving Agricultural Colleges

and Universities (HSACU) in order to apply for Non Land-Grant College of Agriculture (NLGCA) designation.

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

Title 7 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 read as follows:

Appendix B to Part 3434—List of HSACU institutions, 2018-2019

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, 2018, and ending September 30, 2019. Institutions are listed alphabetically under the state of the school's location, with the campus indicated where applicable.

Arizona (4)

Arizona Western College

Cochise County Community College

Mesa Community College

Pima Community College