

THE HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HACU)
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RULES AND REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING HSACU
PROVISIONS IN THE REAUTHORIZED FARM BILL
OCTOBER 27, 2008

Definition of Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACUs)

This is a new group of educational institutions established in the Farm Bill reauthorization. The legislation states that HSACUs will be defined as: 1) colleges or universities that qualify as Hispanic-Serving Institutions and 2) that offer associate, bachelors, or other accredited degree programs in agriculture-related fields.

This definition clearly states that HSACUs should be institutions of higher education that offer degrees in agriculture-related fields. While we believe that there should be some flexibility in the determination of what constitutes an “agriculture-related field,” we also believe that the criteria should adhere to the spirit of the law and be restricted to those fields that will address the mission of USDA and the United States agricultural community.

If every HSI is deemed eligible to become an HSACU, the potential impact of limited federal resources through these grant opportunities will be diminished. Moreover, the legislation rightly seeks to ensure a true connection between these funding opportunities and the goal of increasing the number of Hispanics in agriculture-related careers.

However, we would also caution against limiting in advance the number of institutions that could be eligible for designation as HSACUs. We must guard against the creation of “haves and have-nots” for these funding opportunities within the HSI community. HSIs will continue to develop and become effective and productive partners with USDA and the U.S. agriculture community if provided adequate funding and guidance. Consequently, the criteria should not preclude current and emerging HSIs from having the opportunity to become HSACUs in the future.

Therefore, we propose that the USDA rules and regulations development panel draft specific criteria that coincide with USDA’s current and future strategic goals that HSIs would need to meet in order to be HSACUs and eligible for HSACU funding opportunities. Such a process will also provide a clear roadmap for HSIs to follow to become HSACUs.

The competitive grants section of the Farm Bill identifies the following academic fields as critical to the USDA: agriculture, human nutrition, food science, bio-energy, and environmental science. However, this list should not exclude degrees and areas that will ultimately prove to be beneficial to USDA and agriculture-related fields. According to the IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) listing of agriculture and related fields degrees and programs compiled by the U.S. Department of Education, over 80 degree areas could serve to define “agriculture-related fields” and be used as a basis for identifying HSACUs. This list of majors based on the IPEDS categories is enclosed.

This list may not include every relevant degree program, especially as agricultural technology continues to develop, but it does provide a starting point. Other degrees important to the U.S. agricultural community and the USDA should also be considered: earth science, geology, natural sciences, bio-technology, dietetics, etc.

Attached is an IPEDS based list of HSIs that provide either associate or baccalaureate degrees in these fields as examples of institutions that could be considered HSACUs and active partners with USDA in meeting the agriculture, energy and nutritional needs of the nation.

It is also important to include special emphasis on transfer and articulation programs between 2- and 4-year institutions in the grant awarding process since the overall goal of HSACU designation is to increase the number of Hispanics that attain degrees in agriculture-related fields and are engaged in the U.S. agriculture industry.

Finally, the selection process for HSACU designation should follow a methodology that will ensure equitable representation between 2- and 4-year HSI institutions and among all regions of the country with significant Hispanic populations and that encourages HSIs to pursue HSACU designation, both today and in the future.

HACU's comments on the five new HSACU programs in the Farm Bill legislation

The HSACU Endowment Fund -- This program, on October 1 of each fiscal year, will distribute 60 percent of the interest accrued in the fund among HSACUs prorated on the basis of their Hispanic enrollment. The other 40 percent will be equally distributed among HSACUs. This fund will be partially enrollment-driven to ensure that, regardless of the institution's total enrollment of Hispanic students, the institution will be able to provide an education experience in agriculture and related fields. HACU strongly supports this new program and encourages the Secretary of Agriculture to seek funding for this endowment in the next budget cycle so that the interest will begin to accrue for HSACU distribution in future budget cycles.

The HSACU Equity Grants Program -- This new formula-based grant program (\$80,000 by number of HSACUs) promises to be valuable for HSACUs that need resources to build capacity for faculty training and infrastructure in order to compete for grants open to 1862, 1890 and 1994 land grant institutions. HACU strongly supports this new program and encourages the development of regulations that allow for maximum utilization of these funds with the opportunity to reapply without a wait-out period upon completion of a given grant.

The HSACU Institutional Capacity-Building Grants Program -- This new competitive grant program for institutional capacity-building (not including alteration, repair, renovation, or construction of buildings) should be flexible enough to allow HSACUs to best determine how these funds could increase their capacity. Nonetheless, any grant funded under this program should have a direct relationship to the long-term needs of the USDA. Lastly, we recommend that the USDA assure broad and equitable distribution of these funds, given the significant number of HSACUs anticipated, and that grants should be limited to three fiscal years.

The HSACU Fundamental and Applied Research Grants Program -- This new competitive grant program will fund fundamental and applied research in agriculture, human nutrition, food science, bio-energy and environmental science. To allow for maximum equity in the awarding of grants, given the large number of HSACUs expected, grants should be restricted to three years unless a specialized research project requires an additional two years to allow for sufficient time to collect, analyze and record research findings. In addition, regulations should provide some flexibility so that not only research-intensive institutions, but also less research-oriented institutions will have the opportunity to compete for these grants. This flexibility will allow non-

research-intensive institutions to develop capacity and better serve the needs of the USDA. This is especially true for two-year community colleges. Emphasis on transfer and articulation between 2- and 4-year institutions, as well as collaborations to allow for joint research opportunities, would be especially important for this program.

The HSACU Extension Grants Program

1. HSACUs will now have access to two major Extension Grants Programs (406 and AFRI), which combined provide over \$200 million a year in grants, but are authorized to receive up to \$700 million in potential appropriations. HACU recommends that this program ensure that HSACUs have equitable access based on their fiscal capacity and that grants be equitably distributed between 2- and 4-year institutions, as well as traditional research and less research-intensive institutions.
2. A special HSACU competitive grant program will assist institutions in developing capacity to compete in 406 and AFRI programs. Specifically, HSACUs without the research and outreach capacity of 1862 and 1994 institutions will have access to funding for cooperative extension work through a special competitive grant program. HACU recommends that regulations should provide flexibility to ensure an equitable distribution of grants between 2- and 4-year institutions and research-intensive and non-research-intensive institutions. Flexibility allows non-research-intensive institutions to develop capacity to better meet the mission and goals of the USDA.

Cost Sharing – Mandatory cost sharing is sometimes considered in awarding competitive grants. However, HACU strongly opposes a mandatory cost sharing requirement for any of the competitive HSACU grant programs. Such a measure would negatively impact the poorer institutions, including many community colleges, which are the ones that most need infrastructure development grants. Mandatory cost sharing favors wealthy institutions and decreases access (“discretionary” support), and HSACUs and HSIs would be disproportionately impacted as they have lower endowments, fewer state and federal resources, fewer partnerships with private industry and often very tight operating budgets.

Of specific concern is the *HSACU Institutional Capacity Building Grant Program*. Under Section 1456, Subsection (d)(2)(C) “Payment of Non-Federal Share,” the statute gives the Secretary of Agriculture the discretion to determine what amount is to be specified, or even waived, based on institutional needs. HACU recommends that HSACUs be exempt from the non-federal share requirement and would urge the Secretary of Agriculture to waive this requirement based on the negative impact this requirement would have on HSACU participation rates.

HACU strongly recommends that USDA eliminate obstacles for Hispanics to pursue careers in agriculture-related fields. Mandatory cost sharing would also diminish any incentives for HSIs to become HSACUs and pursue USDA funding opportunities, which in turn would impact the number of Hispanics in agriculture-related fields.

HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

ACADEMIC MAJORS IN AGRICULTURE AREAS



Agriculture, General	Animal Nutrition
Agricultural Business and Management, General	Dairy Science
Agribusiness/Agricultural Business Operations	Livestock Management
Agricultural Economics	Poultry Science
Farm/Farm and Ranch Management	Animal Sciences, Other
Agricultural/Farm Supplies Retailing and Wholesaling	Food Science
Agricultural Business Technology	Food Technology and Processing
Agricultural Business and Management, Other	Food Science and Technology, Other
Agricultural Mechanization, General	Plant Sciences, General
Agricultural Power Machinery Operation	Agronomy and Crop Science
Agricultural Mechanics and Equipment/Machine Technology	Horticultural Science
Agricultural Mechanization, Other	Agricultural and Horticultural Plant Breeding
Agricultural Production Operations, General	Plant Protection and Integrated Pest Management
Animal/Livestock Husbandry and Production	Range Science and Management
Aquaculture	Plant Sciences, Other
Crop Production	Soil Science and Agronomy, General
Dairy Husbandry and Production	Soil Sciences, Other
Horse Husbandry/Equine Science and Management	Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, & Related Sciences, Other
Agricultural Production Operations, Other	Natural Resources/Conservation, General
Agricultural and Food Products Processing	Environmental Studies
Dog/Pet/Animal Grooming	Environmental Science
Animal Training	Natural Resources Conservation & Research, Other
Equestrian/Equine Studies	Natural Resources Management and Policy
Taxidermy/Taxidermist	Natural Resource Economics
Agricultural and Domestic Animal Services, Other	Water, Wetlands, & Marine Resources Management
Applied Horticulture/Horticulture Operations, General	Land Use Planning & Management/Development
Ornamental Horticulture	Natural Resources Management & Policy, Other
Greenhouse Operations and Management	Fishing and Fisheries Sciences & Management
Landscaping and Groundskeeping	Forestry, General
Plant Nursery Operations and Management	Forest Sciences and Biology
Turf and Turfgrass Management	Forest Management/Forest Resources Management
Floriculture/Floristry Operations and Management	Urban Forestry
Applied Horticulture/Horticultural Business Services, Other	Wood Science and Wood Products/Pulp & Paper Technology
International Agriculture	Forest Resources Production and Management
Agricultural and Extension Education Services	Forest Technology/Technician
Agricultural Communication/Journalism	Forestry, Other
Agricultural Public Services, Other	Wildlife and Wildlands Science & Management
Animal Sciences, General	Natural Resources and Conservation, Other
Agricultural Animal Breeding	

Source: IPEDS 2006, U.S. Department of Education

Compiled by HACU

HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

HSIS AWARDING ASSOCIATE, BACHELORS, MASTERS AND
DOCTORATE DEGREES IN AGRICULTURE

Institution	City	State	Highest Agriculture Degree Offered
Arizona Western College	Yuma	AZ	Associate's
Central Arizona College	Coolidge	AZ	Associate's
Cochise College	Douglas	AZ	Associate's
Southwestern College	Phoenix	AZ	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Allan Hancock College	Santa Maria	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Antelope Valley College	Lancaster	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Bakersfield College	Bakersfield	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
California State University-Bakersfield	Bakersfield	CA	Bachelor's
California State University-Stanislaus	Turlock	CA	Bachelor's
California State University-San Bernardino	San Bernardino	CA	Bachelor's
California State Polytechnic University-Pomona	Pomona	CA	Master's
California State University-Fresno	Fresno	CA	Master's
California State University-Fullerton	Fullerton	CA	Master's
California State University-Long Beach	Long Beach	CA	Bachelor's
Cerritos College	Norwalk	CA	Associate's
Citrus College	Glendora	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
College of the Desert	Palm Desert	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Fresno City College	Fresno	CA	Award of less than 1 academic year
Fresno Pacific University	Fresno	CA	Bachelor's
Fullerton College	Fullerton	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Hartnell College	Salinas	CA	Associate's
Imperial Valley College	Imperial	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Reedley College	Reedley	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Long Beach City College	Long Beach	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Los Angeles Pierce College	Woodland Hills	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Merced College	Merced	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Modesto Junior College	Modesto	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Mt San Antonio College	Walnut	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Porterville College	Porterville	CA	Associate's
San Joaquin Delta College	Stockton	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
College of the Sequoias	Visalia	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Southwestern College	Chula Vista	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Ventura College	Ventura	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Whittier College	Whittier	CA	Bachelor's
Yuba College	Marysville	CA	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
Otero Junior College	La Junta	CO	Award of less than 1 academic year
Trinidad State Junior College	Trinidad	CO	Associate's
Barry University	Miami	FL	Bachelor's
Florida International University	Miami	FL	Master's
Miami Dade College	Miami	FL	Associate's
Nova Southeastern University	Fort Lauderdale	FL	Master's
Northeastern Illinois University	Chicago	IL	Bachelor's
Seward County Community College	Liberal	KS	Associate's
Southwestern College	Winfield	KS	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years
University of St Thomas	Saint Paul	MN	Bachelor's

Source: IPEDS 2006, U.S. Department of Education

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Eastern New Mexico University-Main Campus	Portales	NM		Bachelor's
Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell Campus	Roswell	NM	Award of at least 1 but less than 2 academic years	
New Mexico Highlands University	Las Vegas	NM		Bachelor's
New Mexico Junior College	Hobbs	NM		Associate's
University of New Mexico-Main Campus	Albuquerque	NM		Bachelor's
New Mexico State University-Main Campus	Las Cruces	NM		Doctor's
Northern New Mexico College	Espanola	NM		Associate's
Southwestern College	Santa Fe	NM	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years	
Mesalands Community College	Tucumcari	NM		Associate's
Western New Mexico University	Silver City	NM		Bachelor's
CUNY Bronx Community College	Bronx	NY	Award of at least 1 but less than 2 academic years	
Mercy College-Main Campus	Dobbs Ferry	NY		Bachelor's
Southwestern College	Franklin	OH	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years	
Southwestern College	Cincinnati	OH	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years	
Southwestern College	Dayton	OH	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years	
Coastal Bend College	Beeville	TX		Associate's
Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi	TX		Master's
Houston Community College System	Houston	TX		Associate's
Howard College	Big Spring	TX		Associate's
Texas A & M International University	Laredo	TX		Bachelor's
Odessa College	Odessa	TX		Associate's
Saint Edward's University	Austin	TX		Bachelor's
University of St Thomas	Houston	TX		Bachelor's
South Plains College	Levelland	TX		Associate's
Southwest Texas Junior College	Uvalde	TX		Associate's
Sul Ross State University	Alpine	TX		Master's
Texas A & M University-Kingsville	Kingsville	TX		Doctor's
The University of Texas at El Paso	El Paso	TX		Master's
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin	Odessa	TX		Bachelor's
The University of Texas at San Antonio	San Antonio	TX		Master's
Texas State Technical College-Harlingen	Harlingen	TX		Associate's
Heritage University	Toppenish	WA		Bachelor's
Yakima Valley Community College	Yakima	WA		Associate's
Bayamon Central University	Bayamon	PR		Bachelor's
Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico-Ponce	Ponce	PR		Bachelor's
Universidad Metropolitana	Cupey	PR		Master's
Inter American University of Puerto Rico-San German	San German	PR		Master's
Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Barranquitas	Barranquitas	PR	Award of less than 1 academic year	
Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Metro	San Juan	PR		Master's
Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Ponce	Mercedita	PR		Bachelor's
University of Puerto Rico-Arecibo	Arecibo	PR		Associate's
University of Puerto Rico-Humacao	Humacao	PR		Bachelor's
University of Puerto Rico-Utuado	Utuado	PR		Associate's
University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez	Mayaguez	PR		Master's
University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras Campus	Rio Piedras	PR		Bachelor's
Universidad Del Turabo	Gurabo	PR		Master's
Southwestern College	Florence	KY	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years	
Palo Alto College	San Antonio	TX	Award of at least 2 but less than 4 academic years	
California State University-Monterey Bay	Seaside	CA		Bachelor's