



## UCF – Becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution

### Overview

The Department of Education’s **Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program** (DHSI) assists higher education institutions in planning, developing and carrying out programs to improve and expand the institutions’ capacity to serve Hispanic students and other low-income students. When determining eligibility of an institution, the Department of Education (DOE) determines eligibility as outlined by:

#### Title III - Prevalence of Pell grant recipients and others who qualify for need-based assistance, the amount of core expenses spent on full-time students

To receive HSI designation, at least 50% of UCF students would need to be eligible to receive federal financial assistance in the form of:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Work-Study
- Federal Perkins Loan, or
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant programs

OR

The number of undergraduates receiving the Federal Pell Grant is more than the median percentage of those at comparable institutions.

AND

Core Expenses requirement – course expenses per FTE must be less than the average of comparable institutions.

#### Title V – Minority Enrollment

&

To receive HSI designation, 25% of UCF’s full-time, undergraduate population must identify as Hispanic/Latino.

### UCF’s Current HSI Qualification Status

#### Title III Requirements: *Satisfied*

2016 Eligibility Data: UCF – 39% (Comparable institutions – 38%)

Core Expenses requirement: UCF - \$16,401 (Threshold - \$28,501)

#### Title V Requirement: *Satisfied for 2018* (FY 2019)

2018 Eligibility Data: UCF – 25.03% (Minimum – 25%)

DHSI provides grants to assist HSIs to expand educational opportunities for, and improve the attainment of, Hispanic students. These grants also enable HSIs to expand and enhance their academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability.

### Types of Projects Eligible under HSI Funds

- Scientific or laboratory equipment for teaching
- Construction or renovation of instructional facilities
- Faculty development
- Purchasing of educational materials
- Academic tutoring or counseling programs
- Funds and administrative management

- Joint use of facilities
- Endowment funds
- Distance learning academic instruction
- Teacher education
- Student support services

### Duration of Grants

- HSI grants are awarded for a period of 5 years.
- Planning grants may be awarded to HSIs for a 1-year period for preparation of plans and applications for a grant under this subchapter.

### Grant Examples

In 2015, the DOE awarded 96 DHSI grants. Florida colleges and universities received ten of those grants, and almost all of those grants were for the maximum amount of \$525,000.

Barry University	Miami Dade College
Florida Atlantic University	Nova Southeastern University
Florida International University	Palm Beach State College
Hillsborough Community College	St. Thomas University
Hodges University	Valencia College

As examples, the DOE has granted awards

- to support the success of Engineering and Computing students, with an emphasis on decreasing the retention gap between Hispanic/Latino students and non-Hispanic/Latino students.
- to implement strategies focused on improving advising, development of a learning support system and implementation of constituent relationship management (CRM) software.

### What does all of this mean for UCF?

- In the last five years, the Hispanic/Latino, full-time undergraduate student population at UCF has steadily increased from 19% to 25%. UCF has the opportunity to pair this rapid growth with intentional recruitment and support of Hispanic/Latino students. HSI-designation provides the university with new prospects for federal funding.
- UCF is committed to cultivating an inclusive and diverse environment. Regardless of the timing of the designation as an HSI, UCF already serves, and will continue to grow, its Hispanic/Latino population of students, and should intentionally recruit and retain Hispanic faculty and staff. HSI designation provides an additional opportunity to serve the UCF Hispanic/Latino population and the Central Florida community.

### Resources

- Association of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators: <http://www.ahsie.org/>
- Developing HSIs Program: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/idueshsi/index.html>.
- Excelencia in Action: <http://www.edexcelencia.org/excelencia-in-action>
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU): [www.hacu.net](http://www.hacu.net)
- UCF Office of Diversity and Inclusion: [www.diversity.ucf.edu](http://www.diversity.ucf.edu)
- UCF Latino Faculty and Staff Association (LaFaSA): <http://ucflafasa.org/>
- UCF Latin American Student Association (LASA): <https://ucf.collegiatelink.net/organization/latinamericanstudentassociation>
- UCF Office of Research & Commercialization: <http://www.research.ucf.edu/index.html>