



Exploring Hispanic Serving Institutions and Historically Black Colleges

By Edwin Roman, Academic and Transfer Resources Coordinator

Choosing a college is a highly personal decision. Determining whether a Hispanic Serving Institution or a Historically Black College is right for you involves many of the same considerations that choosing any type of school would. Start by exploring the reasons you want to go to continue your education after graduating from BCC. Consider your specific life circumstances. Reflect on your strengths and weaknesses as well as those academic interests you are developing at BCC. Consider your career goals. Above all, start transfer planning early and do it often!

Hispanic Serving Institutions

When researching colleges, students should explore an array of institutions and explore size, location and price. Hispanic students might want to also investigate Hispanic-serving institutions. Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) are defined in the Title V of the Higher Education Act as not-for-profit institutions of higher learning with a full-time equivalent undergraduate student enrollment that is at least 25 percent Hispanic.

According to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, in 2014, 435 institutions met the federal enrollment criteria, enrolling 1,836,870 Hispanics. Of the 435 HSIs in 2014, 202 (46%) were public two-year institutions, 93 public four-year institutions, 123 private four-year institutions, and 17 private two-year institutions. The number of HSIs is rapidly growing, from 137 institutions in 1990 to 189 in 1994, to 229 in 2000, to 245 in 2005, to 311 in 2010, and 435 in 2014.

Hispanic-serving institutions are popular because they often have reasonably priced tuition and are able to address the needs of the rising number of Hispanic college students. In addition to the libraries, labs and facilities you'd expect at all accredited colleges, HSIs can also leverage Title V federal funding to offer a complement of enhanced student support services such as:

- Tutoring, counseling and student services programs geared at helping students achieve academic success
- Scholarship opportunities
- Child care
- Job and college placement programs
- Labs to help students strengthen their skills in English, reading and math.

Another advantage of HSIs is their understanding of Hispanic students. They are experienced in addressing the needs and concerns of their student body, many of whom are first-generation college students. And, like all colleges, they help prepare students for the challenges of the professional world.

The following is a list of HSIs in New York City:

- Boricua College
- College of Mount Saint Vincent
- City College
- Hunter College

- John Jay College
- Lehman College
- Queens College
- Mercy College
- Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology

For more information, please visit the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) website: <http://www.hacu.net/>

Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), as defined by the Higher Education Act of 1965, are the 105 accredited colleges and universities established prior to 1964 whose mission was and continues to be the education of African American students. Most HBCUs are over 100 years old, and at one time provided the only higher education opportunities to African Americans. These higher education institutions have been the cornerstone of education in African American communities, educating those who would become the founders of other important institutions in African American communities and in American society as a whole.

According to the United Negro College Fund: "HBCUs, because of their unique sensibility to the special needs of young African American minds, remain the institutions that demonstrate the most effective ability to graduate African American students...poised to be competitive in the corporate, research, academic, governmental and military arenas." Although HBCUs were originally founded to educate African American students, they have historically enrolled students regardless of their race. According to the *Digest of Education Statistics*, in 2013, non-Black students made up 20 percent of enrollment at HBCUs. Furthermore, enrollment at HBCUs in 2013 was 61 percent female.

The *Digest of Education Statistics* also noted that in 2012-13, most of the 48,500 degrees conferred by HBCUs were bachelor's degrees (70 percent) and master's degrees (16 percent). African American students earned 84 percent of the 33,700 bachelor's degrees conferred by HBCUs in that year. At the master's level in 2012-13, African American HBCU students earned 73 percent of the

degrees conferred at these institutions. In addition, at both levels, a majority of these degrees were awarded to females.

Interesting Facts on HBCUs

- The first HBCU to be established was Cheyney University in 1837.
- The first HBCU owned and operated by African-Americans was Wilberforce University in Ohio, which was founded in 1856. It was named for William Wilberforce who first led efforts to abolish slavery.
- There are four HBCU medical schools: Meharry Medical College (TN), Morehouse School of Medicine (GA), Charles R. Drew School of Medicine and Science (CA) and Howard University School of Medicine (DC). Xavier University of Louisiana is number one nationally in placing African-Americans into medical school.
- Most HBCUs play in one of 4 athletic conferences SWAC/MEAC/CIAA/SIAC. The big games are called black college classics such as Bayou Classic, Florida Classic, Turkey Day Classic, Circle City Classic and other events that showcase outstanding bands, Greek Step Shows and celebrations.
- More than 50% of the nation's African American public school teachers and 70% of African American dentists earned degrees at HBCUs.
- A number of famous people have graduated from HBCUs including Booker T. Washington (Hampton University), Dr. Martin Luther King (Morehouse College), Common (Florida A&M University), Spike Lee (Morehouse College), Phylicia Rashad (Howard University), and Tom Joyner (Tuskegee University).

NEW YORK CITY HBCU COLLEGE FAIR

November 11, 2017 | Riverbank State Park
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Free. Registration required at
<http://www.hbcu-cfnj.com/events/new-york-college-fair-2017>