

Graduate Programs In Relation to Hispanic Serving Institution Designation (HSI)

A Metro State team visited California State University-Los Angeles and California State University-Fullerton during the Fall 2008 term. The specific focus of the visits was to look at the relationship between HSIs and master's programs.

Key points emphasized by the staff and faculty at both institutions were:

- Approximately 33% of their graduate students are alumni of their institutions. The interviewees indicated they believe they have a higher enrollment of students of color in their graduate programs due to the high number of students of color in their undergraduate programs and HSI status.
- Having graduate programs was very beneficial in attracting and retaining faculty. Both state universities felt it gave them an additional benefit in the recruitment of faculty and some faculty may not have applied to a baccalaureate-only institution. The teaching load at the institutions was equivalent to Metro's 4-4 teaching load.
- Most of the current and prospective master's students were working full-time and preferred to be enrolled as part-time students. Some programs offered classes exclusively after 4:00 p.m. to coordinate with work schedules.
- In programs that have clear ties to industry, it appears as though there was financial support, including sponsorship of curriculum developed and tuition reimbursement programs as an employee benefit.
- The California State University system, which includes both the Los Angeles and Fullerton campuses, has "system" requirements for admissions to the University that must be met before a prospective student can apply to a specific graduate program. The specific requirements are that students must:
 - have completed a four-year course of study and hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution or shall have completed equivalent academic preparation as determined by appropriate campus authority
 - be in good academic standing at the last college or university attended
 - have attained a grade point average of at least 2.5 (A = 4.0) in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units attempted
 - have satisfactorily met the professional, personal, scholastic, and other standards for graduate study, including qualifying examinations and specific course and/or grade prerequisites, as appropriate campus authorities may prescribe. Individual graduate programs have the option to increase standards and add requirements (for example, graduate record examinations).

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