HSI Fast Facts 2025-26:
MSU Denver as a Hispanic-Serving Institution



HSI Designation Definition

A Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) is a college or university federally designated by the U.S. Department of Education with:

- 25% or more total undergraduate Latino full-time equivalent (FTE) student enrollment,
- 50% or more of students received federal need-based aid and
- Core expenses per FTE are lower than the average institutional group.

MSU Denver's Journey to HSI Designation

1965 — MSU Denver doors opened as an access institution.

1970 — The **Chicana/o Studies program** was started at MSU Denver.

1996 — The **first Latino Graduation** was held for seven graduating students.

1997 — The **Richard T. Castro Distinguished Visiting Professorship** was initiated.

2006 — A committee studied the feasibility of becoming a Hispanic-Serving Institution. President Stephen Jordan initiated a **goal for MSU Denver to become an HSI.**

2007 — The **HSI Task Force was established** over the summer.

2008 — A report was presented with 55 recommendations and 16 were prioritized.

2012 — A special **tuition rate for Colorado's undocumented students** was approved by MSU Denver's trustees.

2013 — The **ASSET Bill** was pass and signed into law at MSU Denver

2016 — MSU Denver's HSI Task Force released the report **Connecting the Dots: Report and Recommendations**.

2018 — MSU Denver's opened the **Center for Multicultural Engagement and Inclusion**.

2019 — On February 19, MSU Denver was **federally designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution.**

2021 — MSU Denver was recognized as **Outstanding HACU Member Institution**.

2022 — MSU Denver led the founding of the **Colorado HSI Consortium**.

2023 — MSU Denver earns the **Seal of *Excelencia*** 3-year Certification. U.S. Department of State named MSU Denver a **Fulbright HSI Leader**.

2024 — First statewide **Colorado HSI Summit** host by MSU Denver. MSU Denver was honored with The **CLLARO Alianza Award**.

2025 — MSU Denver hosted the **American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education's 20th National Conference.**



Seal of Excelencia

The Seal of Excelencia is a national certification by Excelencia in Education that is given to Hispanic-Serving Institutions that have demonstrated a commitment to intentionally serve Latinx Students.

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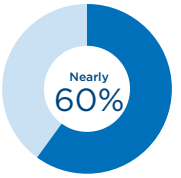
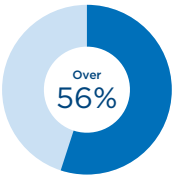
Fall 2024 Statistics
(Undergraduate Students)

16,600
Undergraduate Students



First-Generation Undergraduate Students

Nearly
37%
Latinx Undergraduate Students



Students of Color

Source: MSU Denver Fall 2024 Census

HSI Initiatives

ESCALA Faculty Development
Supported a cohort faculty to complete the Certificate in College Teaching & Learning in Hispanic Serving Institutions.

HSI Week Activities
A full week of University programming geared towards celebrating and honoring the ongoing work of MSU Denver as an HSI.

Colorado HSI Consortium
MSU Denver-led consortium of current and emerging HSIs to proving collaboration between colleges and universities to build organizational capacity and intentionally serve Colorado's Latino students.

HSI Grants and Funding Since 2019

$19,778,932 Total HSI/MSI Funding

Award Amount	Year	Award Title
$2,005,792	2019	US Dept. of Education: Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans Program (POHA)
$5,620,634	2020	US Dept. of Education: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) -Minority Serving Institutions
$149,570	2020	National Security Agency: Cybersecurity Statewide Educational Initiative (CEDI)
$299,999	2021	National Science Foundation: HSI Pilot Project: Learning Assistant Transfer Pathway: Fostering STEM Connections
$2,931,456	2021	US Dept. of Education: SpaceTech Scholars: Aerospace and Engineering Entry-level Technicians Workforce Development Program (DHSI)
$60,000	2022	National Endowment for the Humanities: Novalis's Philosophical Fictions: An Important Chapter in the History of German Romantic Philosophy and Poetry
$999,167	2022	National Science Foundation: HSI Implementation and Evaluation Project: Building Identity Leading to Diversity (BUILD)
$1,571,926	2023	US Dept. of Education: Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence Program Grant
$274,899	2023	National Science Foundation: Collaborative Research: Navigating change in intergenerational family relationships: Cohort, age, and family role and social marginalization
$4,526,721	2024	US Dept. of Education: I'M HEALTHY: Innovative Model of Higher Education and Learning Communities Teaming up for Healthy Youth
$139,404	2024	US Dept. of Defense: Department of Defense Building Cybersecurity Capacity in Colorado (BCCC)
$1,199,364	2024	US Dept. of Agriculture: A Building Culturally Aware Leaders (BCAL) Scholars Program To Develop Future Leaders And Role Models In Nutrition And Dietetics

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