

Serving Underrepresented Students

0.5 bonus points available

Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that exceed the minimum criteria of credits in the Diversity & Affordability subcategory by having a formal dedication to serve students that have been traditionally underrepresented in higher education. The historical legacy and persistence of discrimination and exclusion based on differences such as race, ethnicity and social class makes a proactive approach to accessibility and inclusion in higher education an important component of creating an equitable society.

Criteria

Institution is formally designated as a *minority-serving institution*, historically disadvantaged institution, indigenous institution, or the equivalent.

Diversity recruitment/admissions programs and broad diversity or social justice commitments (e.g. in a mission statement) are not sufficient to earn this credit.

Scoring

An institution earns 0.5 bonus points for being formally designated as a minority-serving institution (or the equivalent). Partial points are not available.

Reporting Fields

Required

- ☐ Is the institution formally designated as a minority-serving institution, historically disadvantaged institution, indigenous institution, or the equivalent?
- ☐ Documentation affirming the institution's designation as a minority-serving institution or the equivalent (upload or website URL)

Optional

- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (an employee who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

Standards and Terms

Minority-Serving Institution

Consistent with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Civil Rights, minority-serving institutions (MSIs) are defined as "institutions of higher education that serve minority populations". Examples of designated MSIs in a U.S. context include:

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs).

- Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs).
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions

Globally, other nomenclature is used to designate minority-serving institutions, e.g. “historically disadvantaged institutions”, “indigenous colleges and universities”, and “minority status institutions”.