Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) are U.S colleges and universities that enroll a high percentage of minority students. Because minority populations have experienced disproportionate barriers to higher education, the federal government provides financial support through various titles of the Higher Education Act. MSIs include Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), as well as colleges and universities with high enrollments of Native Americans, Asian Americans and Native American Pacific Islanders, and Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

Minority Serving Institutions (MSI)

U.S. News Ranks UNLV Among Nation’s Most Diverse Universities for Undergrads

51 percent of undergrads reported being part of a racial or ethnic minority. Of that, Hispanic students make up the largest minority undergraduate student group at UNLV at 19 percent.

Southern Nevada’s growing diverse population is reflected in UNLV’s enrollment. UNLV is dedicated to ensuring campus life programming and academic courses are geared toward cultural awareness, a vital part of our students’ college experience. Luis Valera, UNLV Vice President of Diversity Initiatives and Government Affairs

Source: UNLV News Center
The UNLV MSI Task Force

- Office of Diversity Initiatives
- Office of the Provost
- Office of the President
- Division of Student Affairs
- Academic Success Center
- Institutional Analysis & Planning
- Honors College
- Graduate College
- Multicultural Programs for Engineering, Sciences & Allied Health Sciences/Nursing
- Faculty Leadership
- Student Leadership
- Community & Industry Leadership

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) applied for and achieved designation from the Department of Education as a Title III & Title V Minority Serving Institution (MSI) in December of 2012. Qualification for this designation requires that institutions meet specific primary indicators that include diversity of the student body by race and ethnicity and students qualifying for federal assistance under Federal Pell Grant, Federal College Work Study, Federal Perkins Loan or Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant. UNLV meets the requirements as an Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI) and is an emerging Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI).

What does this mean for UNLV? We can now compete for new grants under Title III & Title V but in order to be competitive, we must be able to show institutional commitment and support for these student populations.

Campus Conversations Update
All UNLV students, staff and faculty were invited to participate in the campus conversations being held throughout March and April. These conversations were held to ensure that all stakeholders were engaged in and provided input into the development of the strategic plan to support MSI implementation and sustainability.

Title III: Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI). Institutions serving a large population of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) have also been designated as Minority Serving Institutions. The term ‘Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution’ means an institution of higher education that is an eligible institution under section 312(b); and at the time of application, has an enrollment of undergraduate students that is not less than 10 percent students who are Asian American or Native American Pacific Islander. (Ed.gov, 2011)

Title V: Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). The Higher Education Act, 20 USCA Section 1101a defines a Hispanic-serving institution as an institution of higher education that (a) is an eligible institution; (b) at the time of application, has an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic students; and (c) provides assurances that not less than 50 percent of the institution’s Hispanic students are low-income individuals” (IPEDS, 2011).of the nearly AAPI students attending these institutions across the nation.

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