



NASA Minority Serving Institution Determination Overview

Criteria for Inclusion on the NASA MSI List

[NASA MUREP](#) developed the NASA Minority Serving Institution (MSI) List by using a combination of two elements from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) 2021 Eligibility Matrix. Level One includes identifying which universities are eligible for Title III and Title V funding and Level Two uses the MSI demographics as defined by ED.

Level One: Eligibility Matrix

In order to qualify for a Title III or Title V grant in the Eligibility Matrix, an institution must pass a series of tests based on data self-reported by the institution the Integrated Post Education System (IPEDS), which is managed by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

To qualify for a Title III or Title V grant, the institution's self-reported data in IPEDS must be *equal to or higher* than the Pell Grant threshold and must be *equal to or lower* than the Core Expenses threshold.

The thresholds for the current year are determined by the median and averages of all reported data from the current year, and can be found [here](#). **NOTE: the current year data in IPEDS is always two (2) years old due to the length of time it takes to collect, conform and publish the data.**

If an institution passes the threshold test, they are eligible to apply for a grant.

If an institution's IPEDS data does not pass the threshold test, they may submit an application with updated data regarding the two threshold categories, as well as their "Title IV Need Assistance Percent of Degree Students." If the updated numbers and additional data get them across the thresholds, they are eligible to apply for a grant. Visit [here](#) to learn how to submit an application.

If an institution's application does not pass the threshold test, they may submit an *Exemption Request* whereby they provide supporting documentation explaining why they should be exempt from one or more of the threshold requirements. Exemption requests are limited in nature and must conform to strict criteria. Visit [here](#) to learn how to request an exemption.

Once an institution has passed the thresholds test, or their exemption request has been granted, the system then determines which grant program they may be eligible to apply for based on another set of criteria that is unique to each grant program.

Most grant programs do not allow an institution to hold more than one active grant concurrently. If an institution is not eligible to apply for a new grant in a given year because they already hold a grant in that program, or in another program that explicitly prohibits concurrent grants in that program, the results of the Eligibility Matrix can also be used to determine an institution's eligibility for a waiver of the non-federal share matching requirements.

Office of STEM Engagement
Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP)

Level Two: MSI Category Definitions

MSI Category	Category Abbreviation	Thresholds/Definitions
Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions	AANAPISI	AANAPISI UG Percentage \geq 10%
Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions	ANNH	Native American UG Percentage \geq 20% or Pacific Islander Percentage \geq 10%
Historically Black Colleges and Universities	HBCU	Historically defined formula grant program - member institutions do not change
Hispanic-Serving Institutions	HSI	Hispanic Percentage \geq 25%
Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions	NASNTI	Native American UG Percentage \geq 10%
Predominantly Black Institutions	PBI	Total Enrollment $>$ 1000 and Black Percentage \geq 40%
Tribal Colleges and Universities	TCU	Historically defined formula grant program - member institutions do not change

The NASA MSI List developed by MUREP is the only reference the agency will use to verify an institution's MSI status. MUREP will update the NASA MSI List semiannually. For more information, contact [NASA-MSIExchange@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:NASAMSIExchange@mail.nasa.gov).

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