



U.S. UNIVERSITY PROFILES: Historically Black Colleges & Universities

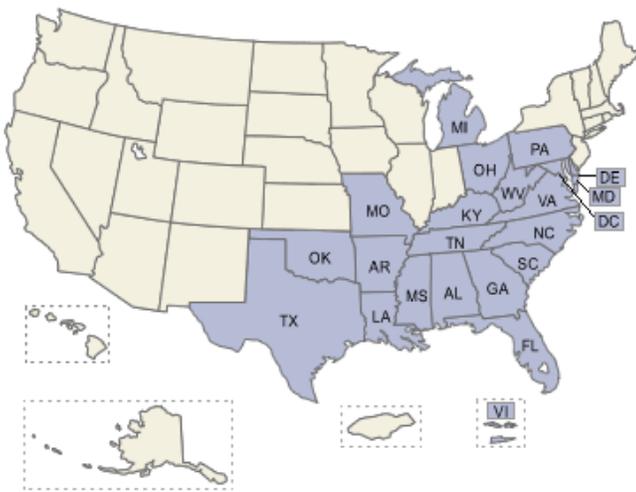
(Information from [What is an HBCU and is it Right for You?, by Sally Rubenstone](#))

The United States education system offers an unrivaled choice of institutions, academic and social environments, degree programs, and courses of study. There are over 4,800 accredited colleges and universities in the U.S. Some institutions cater to specific groups of students.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) were created to provide college educations to African-Americans at a time when many United States institutions did not welcome them. Today, HBCUs are interested in students with diverse backgrounds, including non-black students and students from other countries.

Many international students are looking for multicultural offerings within the context of traditional course offerings and programs and are attracted by the diversity at the larger HBCUs. The College Board International Student Handbook for 2010 indicates that international students attend 39 HBCUs. Well-known HBCUs that attract international students include [Howard University](#); [Morehouse College](#); [Fisk University](#); and [Grambling State University](#).

The U.S. government has designated 105 accredited colleges and universities as HBCUs - just 2 percent of the nation's higher-education institutions. These schools are located in 20 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The [U.S. Department of Education](#) provides a list of HBCUs and links to each school.



HBCUs are an option for both undergraduate and graduate students. Eighty-three HBCUs offer a bachelor's degree (4-year program) and 38 offer associate's degrees (2-year program). Twenty-seven offer doctoral programs and 52 offer master's degree programs. [American School Search](#).

Reasons why attending a HBCU may be a good option for international students:

- Easier adjustment to life in the U.S. - Greater presence and appreciation for cultural diversity. The student may not stand out due to skin color.
- Cost is well below that of other colleges – The average cost of a U.S. higher education is between \$15,000 and

1. White House Initiative on HBCUs

\$50,000 per year. The average tuition at HBCUs with international students is \$12,950. (However, HBCUs are less likely to offer much financial aid to international students.)

- Admission standards are more flexible - HBCUs have a tradition of enrolling applicants who may not have had the benefits of wealth and privilege.
- HBCUs have been commended for doing a better job at giving disadvantaged students the tutoring and extra help they may need to remain in school.

For more information on studying in the U.S., please contact your EducationUSA Advisor at YaoundeEdu@state.gov or 2220-1500 ext. 4009, or visit <http://www.educationusa.info/>.