

## FAQs in Minority Serving Institution (MSI) and Title III status at UNCG

### What is MSI status?

MSI is a descriptive term that allows universities to concisely indicate that they enroll at least 25% of a specific minority group, typically limited to undergraduates. The 25% threshold is consistent with the definition used in a report on MSIs that was issued by the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) at the U.S. Department of Education (DOED):

“Black-serving non-HBCUs: institutions that are not HBCUs/TCUs but in which Black students constitute at least 25 percent of the total undergraduate enrollment, while students of all other individual minority groups each constitute less than 25 percent of the total undergraduate enrollment” (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008156.pdf>)

### What is Title III status?

Institutions meeting specific criteria, as set forth in Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (as amended), are designated by DOED as having Title III status. Title III is broken down into Parts A through G (<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/20/chapter-28/subchapter-III>). Most relevant to UNCG, Part A of Title III applies to universities with a substantial percentage of students receiving need-based federal financial aid, such as Pell Grants.

### Does UNCG have MSI status? Title III status?

Yes, UNCG is a Minority Serving Institution for African-American Students, with 32.1% (n=5,062) of the undergraduate enrollment for Fall 2016.

Yes, UNCG is a Title III Part A institution, based on the significant enrollment of students that are eligible for need-based federal grants (e.g., Pell Grant eligible is 51.3%, n=8097, as of Fall 2016).

### What are some ways to describe MSI status and Title III status in publications, grants, and the media?

The use of MSI will depend on the context. In general, you may wish to describe MSI status based on the following example:

“UNCG is a Minority Serving Institution, with a student body in Fall 2016 consisting of 15,783 undergraduates, among which, approximately 32.1% (n=5,062) identify as African American and 8.2% (n=1,298) identify as Hispanic or Latino. UNCG also serves a significant proportion of students with financial need, with approximately 51.3% (n=8097) of UNCG students eligible for need-based Pell Grants, resulting in the U.S. Department of Education officially recognizing UNCG as a Title III Part A institution.”

You may also wish to highlight that UNCG goes beyond enrolling a diverse student body. UNCG also excels in retention and graduation of all students, with the following example:

Beyond these significant enrollment numbers, UNCG is one of just 13 public four-year institutions nationwide to be recognized in a 2016 report released by the U.S. Department of Education for “excelling in access and success” in enrolling and graduating Pell Grant recipients. (<https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/advancing-college-opportunity.pdf>)

In addition, you may wish to highlight UNCG's research excellence with regard to community engagement of diverse groups, with the following example:

UNCG serves Greensboro, North Carolina, and the Nation, through a variety of programs and research projects aimed at disparities. The TRIAD-2 Center for Health Disparities Research is a multidisciplinary effort with training, research and outreach to the community, and has been a funded program project award from National Institutes of Minority Health Disparities since 2012 for a total of \$5.3 million. Other significant externally funded service and research efforts for diverse and underserved populations span the university; these include innovative educational enrichment programs for K-12 schools, research and programs to address "food deserts", initiatives for education opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness, programs on safe and affordable housing, National Institutes for Child Health and Development funded research on early child development, state contracts for childcare certifications, improved recovery of wounded warriors from traumatic brain injuries, and National Science Foundation funding (S-STEM) for underrepresented minority student support programs at UNCG. Accordingly, UNCG is classified by The Carnegie Foundation as a Research University with "Higher Research Activity-R2" and a "Community-Engaged Institution", one of only 50 such institutions in the country to have both.

**Does MSI status and Title III Part A designation allow UNCG faculty to apply for additional grant funding opportunities?**

Yes, MSI status will open up additional avenues to fund academic programs, research and scholarly activities; however, it is advisable to read the guidelines of the funding agency and the specific funding opportunity very carefully.

For example, some funding mechanisms from the DOED allow all Title III eligible institutions to apply, while other mechanisms from DOED might exclude institutions with Part A of Title III from eligibility. As with DOED, NIH criteria varies from one funding mechanism to another. In general, most "Minority Institution" funding from NASA and NSF will exclude UNCG's MSI status, instead using a very specific definition (<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst-list.html>). In some examples, funding announcements have not been very clear, and we have written to the program officer (typically a couple of months in advance of the application deadline), to confirm eligibility. The Office of Sponsored Programs continues to make a concerted effort to identify appropriate funding opportunities, and is available to help evaluate eligibility for any specific funding announcements that you find.

**What are some specific examples of funding opportunities that UNCG has been or will likely be eligible for based on MSI and/or Title III Part A status?**

1. Dept of Education: Title III Part A, "Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP)"
  - a. The program helps eligible IHEs to become self-sufficient and expand their capacity to serve low-income students.
  - b. <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/iduestitle3a/index.html>
  - c. NOTE: We have a current SIP grant at UNCG.
2. Dept of Education: Curriculum Development Stipends

- a. Through funding from the U.S. Dept. of Ed., six Title VI National Resource Centers award stipends to faculty at community colleges and minority-serving institutions to develop and incorporate greater content about Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia into the curricula of the institutions at which they teach.
  - b. <https://slaviccenter.osu.edu/curriculum-development-stipends>
- 3. Dept of Education: National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) FIELD-INITIATED PROJECTS
  - a. Topics include employment, independent living, medical rehabilitation and development of new technologies, and address all disability populations.
  - b. <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/fip/applicant.html>
- 4. Dept of Defense: Research and Education Program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions (HBCU/MI)
  - a. Basic research proposals are requested in areas of scientific interest to the Agencies. Information about these areas is available in the funding announcement above.
  - b. [https://www.arl.army.mil/www/pages/8/fy%202017%20dod%20hbcu%20mi%20baa\\_fi nal%20June%2023%202016.pdf](https://www.arl.army.mil/www/pages/8/fy%202017%20dod%20hbcu%20mi%20baa_fi nal%20June%2023%202016.pdf)
- 5. National Institutes of Health: Support of Competitive Research (SCORE) Research Advancement Award (SC1, SC2, and SC3)
  - a. The SCORE Program is a developmental program designed to increase the research competitiveness of faculty and research base of institutions with a historical mission or demonstrated commitment to training students from backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical research. See Aubrey Turner for assistance with applying to NIH SCORE.
    - i. SC1: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-16-439.html>
    - ii. SC2: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-16-438.html>
    - iii. SC3: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-16-437.html>

**Will UNCG continue to maintain MSI status?**

As of Fall 2016, 32.1% of all enrolled undergraduate students at UNCG self-report an African-American background. Given UNCG’s commitment to recruiting, retaining, and graduating a diverse student body, and a university commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, it is anticipated that UNCG will continue to maintain MSI status.

**Does a federal agency provide a list of MSIs? Title III schools?**

There is no federal list of MSIs. DOED does not officially designate any institutions of higher education as an MSI. The term MSI is used in reports/criteria issued by the DOED (e.g., <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008156.pdf>), and other funding agencies. DOED does maintain a list of Minority Institutions (MI), Historically Black Colleges or Universities (HBCU), and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) (<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst.html>).

Yes, the DOED maintains a list of universities that have Title III/V status: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/dues/eligibility.html#el-inst>

**Who may I contact with additional questions?**

For questions about grant applications in which you wish to mention MSI status, or if you want to discuss grant eligibility, please contact Aubrey Turner, Ph.D. (336-334-4920 or [aubrey.turner@uncg.edu](mailto:aubrey.turner@uncg.edu)). For general questions about MSI status or Campus Climate, please contact Julia Mendez Smith, Ph.D. (336-334-4927 or [jlmendez@uncg.edu](mailto:jlmendez@uncg.edu)).