

# Venezuela

## National Higher Education Equity Policy

### Governance

The Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology (MPPEUCT) is the governmental body responsible for formulating, promoting, adopting and evaluating public policies on higher education.

The National Council of Universities (CNU) is the agency in charge of ensuring compliance to the law regulating higher education institutions. It is also responsible for coordinating teaching, and cultural and scientific plans according to the needs of the country.

The Office of Planning of the University Sector (OPSU) is an auxiliary technical office of the National Council of Universities.

### Higher Education Policy Documents

- Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela 1999
- Law on Higher Education Institutions.
- Plan de la Patria 2013-2019 of Venezuela PP2019
- Extraordinary Plan Antonio José de Sucre, called "Mission Sucre", is an initiative of the Venezuelan State and the Bolivarian Government, created by Presidential Decree No. 2,601, of September 8, 2003.

### Equity Policy Documents

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

- To facilitate the incorporation and continuation of studies in higher education of all high school graduates.
- To design and implement a University Initiation Program (PIU), which favors the transition of high school graduates into higher education.
- To encourage the development of an open, flexible, dynamic, and innovative curriculum and programs such as distance education, non-conventional education, and the recognition of experience, among others.
- University Villages (Aldeas Universitarias in remote areas): These are educational spaces coordinated by the *Misión Sucre* Foundation, together

with HEIs, promoting centers in isolated areas to offer higher education programs.

**The following equity target groups are identified in the policy documents**

- Low income students
- Young people located in remote regions
- Indigenous minority groups
- Students with disabilities
- Single mothers

**Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups?**

- There are no quantifiable goals.

**Is there a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education?**

- Venezuela does not have a standalone higher education equity policy.

**Venezuela has a specific anti-discrimination provisions embedded in the following pieces of legislation:**

- Organic Law Against Racial Discrimination, 2011

**The Government of Venezuela uses a series of financial and non-monetary instruments to promote equity.**

***Financial Policy Instruments***

- Free tuition in public higher education institutions up to the undergraduate level.
- Ayacucho Foundation Scholarships “*Motores Productivos*”.
- Scholarship programs through Fundación Misión Sucre and Fundación Ayacucho (FUNDAAYACUCHO).
- In the state of Zulia, a scholarship program has been developed by the local government to finance students going to private universities.

### ***Non-Monetary Policy Instruments***

- Flexible and free admission process.
- In 2015, the Office of Planning of the University Sector OPSU carried out a restructuring with respect to the admissions process, giving greater weight to socio-economic conditions.
- Guidance and tutoring programs: Sports - Includes the study of Performance, Stimulation of neurons and Development of Skills; Nutrition- Includes Workshops, Therapies, Food courses, healthy cooking.
- Student Welfare that includes grants, comprehensive psychosocial support, sports and care for people with disabilities.
- Student Services: Dining rooms, student residences, transportation, health services and insurances.
- Vocational and career guidance.

### **Financial Resources**

What financial resources does the country devote to equity promotion measures?

- Information not available

### **Quality Assurance**

The quality assurance criteria do not take equity elements into consideration.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Not available

### **Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency**

Venezuela does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

### **Key Equity Indicators**

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### **Net Enrollment Rate by Gender, Income Quintile and Area**

Year	Total	Gender		Quintiles of Income					Area	
		Female	Male	1	2	3	4	5	Rural	Urban
2003	<b>20.0</b>	25.1	14.3	7.9	11.7	14.0	23.2	44.6		
2004	<b>21.2</b>	37.3	15.0	9.3	11.0	13.4	23.2	45.3		
2005	<b>25.1</b>	31.6	19.0	13.9	15.6	20.8	28.3	46.2		
2006	<b>29.1</b>	36.2	22.2	16.9	18.6	21.6	33.4	52.8		

Source: SEDLAC (CEDLAS y Banco Mundial) Versión Mayo 2018

## Sources

<http://www.opsu.gob.ve/portal/principal.html?ir=cnu>

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