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Nicaragua's UCA Committed to the Response to HIV



Universidad Centroamericana's High Table during the event to adopt their HIV policy Photograph: USAID/PASCA.

Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) was the first private university established in Central America. It was founded by the Jesuits in 1960 as an autonomous education institution aimed at public service and based on Christian values. It is part of the Association of Universities Entrusted to the Society of Jesus in Latin America (AUSJAL), constituted by 31 universities in 14 countries of the region, and incorporated into the network of Jesuit Universities in Europe, Asia, and the United States. This Nicaraguan university has over 9,000 undergraduate and graduate students and 1,369 full-time or part-time faculty members and administrative personnel.

UCA was the first private university in Nicaragua and Central America to develop, adopt, and implement an HIV policy that seeks to institutionalize combined HIV prevention among students, faculty, and administrative staff and promotes zero tolerance for stigma and discrimination based on seroprevalence and sexual diversity. Its HIV policy was developed with technical assistance from the USAID|PASCA LMG Project.

The University's Governing Board has provided its support to transform this policy into guidelines, so that there is a better understanding of the epidemic and increased knowledge of its social impacts and its impacts on the labor sphere. The university has already developed a proposal to integrate HIV prevention into the academic syllabus. UCA's incorporation into HIV prevention efforts is a model for other private universities in the Central American region.



Material used in activities to promote free voluntary HIV testing at the Universidad Centroamericana –UCA–.

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