


## Time Line of Major Events Impacting Historically Black Colleges and Universities

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- 1799 John Chavis became the first black to attend an American college or university, Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. There is no record of his receiving a degree.
- 1823 Alexander Lucius Twilight became the first African American to graduate from a college in the United States, Middlebury College in Vermont.
- 1833 Oberlin College was founded in Ohio as Oberlin Collegiate Institute. The predominantly white college was the first in the nation to admit African Americans.
- 1834 African Free Schools were incorporated into the New York Public School system.
- 1834 David Ruggles, abolitionist activist, opened the first African American bookstore in the nation, in New York City.
- 1837 Cheyney State University, founded in Cheyney, Pennsylvania, was the first HBCU. It was originally founded as the African Institute and is now called Cheyney University of Pennsylvania.
- 1844 Oberlin College graduated its black student, George B. Vashton, who later became one of the founding professors at Howard University.
- 1845 Frederick Douglass published his autobiography, *The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*.
- 1847 David Jones Peck was the first African American graduate of a U.S. medical school, Rush Medical College in Chicago, Illinois.
- 1849 Avery College was founded in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by Charles Avery as the Allegheny Institute and Mission Church of Pittsburgh. The school closed in 1873.
- 1849 Harriett Tubman escaped from slavery and began the Underground Railroad.
- 1850 Lucy Stanton, of Cleveland, became the first African American woman to graduate from an American college or university, Oberlin Collegiate Institute (now Oberlin College).



# HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES and UNIVERSITIES

AN ENCYCLOPEDIA



F. ERIK BROOKS AND GLENN L. STARKS

- 1851 The University of the District of Columbia was founded. It was originally founded as Miner Normal School.
- 1854 Lincoln University, the nation's first degree-granting HBCU, was founded in Chester County, Pennsylvania. It was founded as Ashmun Institute.
- 1855 Berea College was founded in Kentucky. It was the first interracial and co-educational institution in the South.
- 1856 Wilberforce University was founded by the Methodist Episcopal Church, becoming the first private HBCU in the United States. It was named for abolitionist William Wilberforce.
- 1856 Martin Henry Freeman became the first black president at Avery College.
- 1857 Harris-Stowe State University was founded from a white teacher's college in St. Louis, Missouri. The college merged with a black normal school in 1954 to establish Harris-Stowe State University.
- 1860 Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States.
- 1861 The Civil War began.
- 1862 Slavery was abolished in Washington, D.C.
- 1862 Mary Jane Patterson became the first African American woman to earn a bachelor's degree, from Oberlin College.
- 1863 Daniel Alexander Payne became the second president of Wilberforce University, and the first black president of any college in the United States.
- 1863 Wilberforce University was transferred to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, becoming the nation's first college owned and operated by African Americans.
- 1863 President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation that freed slaves in Confederate States.
- 1864 Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler, of Boston, became the first African American woman to earn a medical degree, from the New England Female Medical College in Boston.
- 1865 Abraham Lincoln signed the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution outlawing slavery throughout the United States.
- 1865 Congress passed the Freedman's Bureau Bill, which established the Freedman's Bureau to provide education, health care, and technical assistance to freed slaves.
- 1865 The Civil War ended when Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.
- 1865 Bowie State University was founded. It was originally founded as Baltimore Normal School.

- 1865 John Sweat Rock became the first African American to practice law before the Supreme Court and the first to speak before the U.S. House of Representatives.
- 1865 Virginia Union University was founded in Richmond, Virginia. It was originally called the Wayland Seminary.
- 1865 Shaw University was founded in Raleigh, North Carolina.
- 1865 Atlanta University was founded by the American Missionary Association. It merged with Clark College in 1988 to establish Clark Atlanta University.
- 1865 President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in Washington, D.C.
- 1866 Fisk University was founded in Nashville, Tennessee. It was named for Clinton Bowen Fisk.
- 1866 Congress overrode President Andrew Johnson's veto to enact the Civil Rights Act of 1866, conferring citizenship upon black Americans and guaranteeing them equal rights with whites.
- 1866 Rust College was founded in Holly Springs, Mississippi. The school was known as Shaw University until 1882.
- 1866 Lincoln University of Missouri was founded in Jefferson City, Missouri. It was founded as Lincoln Institute.
- 1866 Edward Waters College was founded in Jacksonville, Florida. It was originally called the Brown Theological Institute.
- 1867 Alabama State University was founded in Marion, Alabama, as the Lincoln Normal School.
- 1867 Morehouse College was founded in Augusta, Georgia, as the Augusta Institute. Later it was moved to Atlanta, Georgia. It was named after Henry L. Morehouse.
- 1867 Fayetteville State University was founded in Fayetteville, North Carolina. It was originally named the Howard School.
- 1867 Howard University was founded in Washington, D.C., as the Howard Normal and Theological Institute for the Education of Preachers and Teachers.
- 1867 Talladega College was founded in Talladega, Alabama. It was known as the Swayne School until 1869.
- 1867 Morgan State University was founded in Baltimore, Maryland. It was originally named Centenary Biblical Institute.
- 1867 Johnson C. Smith College was founded in Charlotte, North Carolina. It was originally named Biddle Memorial Institute and is now called Johnson C. Smith University.
- 1867 St. Augustine's College was founded in Raleigh, North Carolina. It was originally named the St. Augustine Normal School and Collegiate Institute.

- 1867 Barber-Scotia College was founded in Concord, North Carolina. It was originally founded as Scotia Seminary.
- 1868 The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing due process and equal protection under the law to all citizens, and citizenship to African Americans.
- 1868 Howard University Medical School, the first medical program for blacks, opened on November 9.
- 1868 Hampton University was founded in Hampton, Virginia. Originally, the school was named Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute.
- 1869 Claflin University was founded in Orangeburg, South Carolina. It was founded by Massachusetts Governor William Claflin and named after his father, Lee Claflin.
- 1869 Clark College was founded in Georgia by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It merged with Atlanta University in 1988 to establish Clark Atlanta University.
- 1869 Dillard University was founded New Orleans, Louisiana. Two schools preceded Dillard's opening, Straight University and Union Normal School.
- 1869 Tougaloo College was founded in Hinds, Mississippi.
- 1870 John Mercer Langston became the founding Dean of the Howard University Law School.
- 1870 The Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing African American males the right to vote.
- 1870 Allen University was founded in Columbia, South Carolina. The school was founded as Payne Institute.
- 1870 Benedict College was founded in Columbia, South Carolina. The school was originally named Benedict Institute.
- 1870 LeMoyne-Owen College was established in Memphis, Tennessee. It was founded as LeMoyne Normal and Commercial School in 1862 and was an elementary school until the college was established in 1870.
- 1871 Fisk University's Jubilee Singers began its first national tour.
- 1871 Alcorn State University was founded in Lorman, Mississippi. The school was named in honor of James L. Alcorn.
- 1872 Paul Quinn College was founded in Dallas, Texas. The school was named for William Paul Quinn.
- 1872 Charlotte Ray became the first African American woman to graduate from the Howard University Law School.
- 1872 President Ulysses S. Grant disbanded the Freedman's Bureau.

- 1873 Bennett College was founded in Greensboro, North Carolina.
- 1873 Wiley College was founded in Marshall, Texas. The school was named for Bishop Isaac T. Wiley.
- 1873 Alabama State University moved from Marion, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama.
- 1873 University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff was founded. It was founded as Branch Normal College.
- 1874 Patrick Francis Healy was inaugurated as president of Georgetown University, the oldest Catholic University in the United States. He became the first African American to head a predominately white university.
- 1875 Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1875, but it was declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1883.
- 1875 Alabama A&M University was founded in Huntsville, Alabama. It was founded as the Huntsville Normal School.
- 1875 Knoxville College was founded in (Mechanicsville) Knoxville, Tennessee.
- 1875 Blanche Kelso Bruce of Mississippi became the first African American senator to serve a full six-year term.
- 1876 Edward Alexander Bouchet became the first African American to receive a PhD from an American university, Yale University, and the first African American to be elected to Phi Beta Kappa.
- 1876 Meharry Medical College was founded in Nashville, Tennessee. It was founded as the Medical Department of Central Tennessee College.
- 1876 Henry O. Flipper, who attended Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University), became the first African American to graduate from West Point.
- 1876 Prairie View A&M University was founded in Prairie View, Texas. It was originally called Alta Vista Agriculture and Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youth.
- 1876 Stillman College was founded in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
- 1877 Frederick Douglass became U.S. marshal for the District of Columbia.
- 1877 Jackson State University was founded in Jackson, Mississippi. It was originally founded as Natchez Seminary.
- 1877 Philander Smith College was founded in Little Rock, Arkansas. It was originally called Walden Seminary.
- 1878 Selma University was founded in Selma, Alabama. It was founded as Alabama Baptist Normal and Theological School.
- 1879 Livingstone College was founded in Salisbury, North Carolina. It was founded as Zion Wesley Institute.

- 1879 Florida Baptist Institute was founded in Live Oak, Florida. It merged with Florida Baptist Academy in 1941 to form Florida Memorial University.
- 1881 Morris Brown College was founded in Vine City, Georgia.
- 1881 The Howard University School of Dentistry was founded.
- 1881 Spelman College was founded in Atlanta, Georgia, as the first college for black women in the United States. It was originally named the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary by Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles.
- 1881 Southern University and A&M College was founded in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The school was founded by Pinckney Benton Stewart Pinchback, T. T. Allain, and Henry Demas.
- 1881 Tuskegee University was founded in Tuskegee, Alabama, and opened by Booker T. Washington. The school was founded as the Tuskegee Normal School for Colored Teachers.
- 1882 Virginia State University was founded in Petersburg, Virginia. The school was originally called Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute.
- 1882 Lane College was founded in Jackson, Tennessee. It was founded by Bishop Isaac Lane as the Colored Methodist Episcopal High School.
- 1882 Paine College was founded in Augusta, Georgia. It was founded as Paine Institute.
- 1884 Arkansas Baptist College was founded in Little Rock, Arkansas. It was originally named Minister's Institute.
- 1886 Kentucky State University was founded in Frankfort, Kentucky. It was originally founded as the State Normal School for Colored Persons.
- 1886 Meharry Medical College established a dental school.
- 1886 Virginia University of Lynchburg was founded in Lynchburg, Virginia. It was originally called Lynchburg Baptist Seminary.
- 1886 University of Maryland Eastern Shore was founded in Princess Anne, Maryland. It originally called the Delaware Conference Academy for Negroes.
- 1887 Florida A&M University was founded in Tallahassee, Florida. It was originally called the State Normal College for Colored Students.
- 1887 Central State University was established in Wilberforce, Ohio. It was originally a department of Wilberforce University.
- 1888 Saint Paul's College was founded in Lawrenceville, Virginia. It was originally called the Saint Paul Normal and Industrial School.
- 1888 Frederick Douglass was appointed Minister to Haiti.

- 1890 The Afro-American League was founded in Chicago under the leadership of Timothy Thomas Fortune.
- 1890 Savannah State University was founded in Georgia. The school was originally called the Georgia State Industrial College for Colored Youth.
- 1891 Dr. Daniel Hale Williams founded Provident Hospital in Chicago, the first African American-owned hospital in the nation.
- 1891 North Carolina A&T State University was founded in Greensboro, North Carolina. It was originally founded as the Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Colored Race.
- 1891 Delaware State University was founded in Dover, Delaware. It was originally called the State College for Colored Students.
- 1891 West Virginia State University was founded. It was originally called the West Virginia Colored Institute.
- 1892 Winston-Salem State University was founded. It was originally called the Slater Industrial Academy.
- 1892 Livingstone College and Johnson C. Smith University (then Biddle University) played the first football game between two black colleges.
- 1894 Texas College was founded in Tyler, Texas. It was originally founded as Philips Academy.
- 1895 W.E.B. Du Bois became the first African American to receive a PhD from Harvard University.
- 1895 Booker T. Washington delivered his Atlanta Compromise address on September 18 at the Atlanta Cotton States Exposition.
- 1895 Bluefield State College was founded in Bluefield, West Virginia. It was originally called the Bluefield Colored Institute.
- 1895 Fort Valley State University was founded in Forty Valley, Georgia. It was originally called Fort Valley High and Industrial School.
- 1895 The Foreign Mission Baptist Convention of the United States, the American National Baptist Convention, and the Baptist National Educational Convention combined at Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta to form the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. The National Baptist Convention is the largest black religious denomination in the United States.
- 1895 The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is established in Atlanta, Georgia.
- 1896 U.S. Supreme Court decision handed down in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 163 U.S. (1896), which upheld the "separate but equal doctrine."
- 1896 South Carolina State University was established in Orangeburg, South Carolina. It was originally called the Colored Normal Industrial Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina.

- 1896 Booker T. Washington was awarded an honorary master's degree from Harvard University.
- 1896 The National Association of Colored Women was formed in Washington, D.C., with Mary Church Terrell as its first president.
- 1896 Oakwood University was founded in Huntsville, Alabama. It was originally founded as Oakwood Industrial School.
- 1896 George Washington Carver was appointed director of agricultural research at Tuskegee Institute. His work advanced peanut, sweet potato, and soybean farming.
- 1897 Langston University was founded in Langston, Oklahoma. It was originally called the Oklahoma Colored Agricultural and Normal University.
- 1897 Voorhees College was founded in Denmark, South Carolina. It was originally called the Denmark Industrial School.
- 1897 The American Negro Academy was established in Washington, D.C., to encourage African American participation in art, literature, and philosophy.
- 1898 Miles College was founded in Fairfield, Alabama. It was founded as Miles Memorial College.
- 1898 The National Afro-American Council was founded in Rochester, New York, with Bishop Alexander Walters as its first president.
- 1899 Mary Annette Anderson became the first black woman elected to Phi Beta Kappa.
- 1900 In their hometown of Jacksonville, Florida, and in celebration of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, James Weldon Johnson wrote the lyrics and his brother John Rosamond Johnson composed the music for "Lift Every Voice and Sing." The song was eventually adopted as the black national anthem.
- 1900 Coppin State University was founded in Baltimore, Maryland. It was originally called the Colored High School.
- 1900 Booker T. Washington founded the National Negro Business League.
- 1900 W.E.B. Du Bois conducts his first ranking of HBCUs.
- 1900 Nannie Helen Burroughs founded the Women's Convention of the National Baptist Convention at its meeting in Richmond, Virginia.
- 1900 By 1900, an estimated 30,000 black teachers have been trained, helping more than half of the black population achieve literacy.
- 1901 Grambling State University was founded in Grambling, Louisiana. It was originally called Colored Industrial and Agricultural School.
- 1901 Booker T. Washington dined with President Theodore Roosevelt at the White House. He became the first African American to dine at the White House.

- 1901 Booker T. Washington's autobiography, *Up from Slavery*, was published.
- 1903 Albany State University was founded in Albany, Georgia. Its original name was Albany Bible and Manual Training Institute.
- 1903 W.E.B. Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk* was published. It crystallized his opposition to Booker T. Washington's programs of social, political, and educational subordination.
- 1904 Bethune-Cookman University was founded in Daytona, Florida, by Mary McLeod Bethune. It was founded as the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls.
- 1904 The "Day Law" was passed in Kentucky. It prohibited Berea College from continuing to offer interracial education. The college did not integrate again until 1950.
- 1904 Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (the Boule), founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, became the first African American Greek lettered organization.
- 1904 Robert Abbot, a graduate of Hampton Institute (now Hampton University), founded the black weekly newspaper, the *Chicago Defender*.
- 1905 The Niagara Movement was created on July 11–13, by African American intellectuals and activists. It was led by W.E.B. Du Bois and William Monroe Trotter.
- 1906 John Hope was named president of Morehouse College and thus became the first African American to head one of the missionary colleges founded after the Civil War.
- 1906 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.
- 1907 Alain LeRoy Locke became the first black Rhodes Scholar.
- 1908 Morris College was founded in Sumter, South Carolina.
- 1908 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority was founded in Washington, D.C., at Howard University.
- 1909 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded on February 12 in New York City. Among the founders, 46 were white and only 6 were black. Among the blacks were W.E.B. Du Bois, Ida Wells-Barnett, Archibald Grimke, Oswald Garrison Villard, and William English Walling.
- 1910 North Carolina Central University was founded in Durham, North Carolina. It was founded as the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua for the Colored Race.
- 1910 The National Urban League was founded in New York City on September 29.
- 1910 The first issue of the official publication of the NAACP, *Crisis*, was published. It was edited by W.E.B. Du Bois.

- 1911 Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity was founded at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, on January 5.
- 1911 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was founded in Washington, D.C., at Howard University on November 17.
- 1912 Tennessee State University was founded in Nashville, Tennessee. It was founded as the Agricultural and Industrial State Normal School.
- 1912 Jarvis Christian College was founded in Hawkins, Texas. It was founded as Jarvis Christian Institute.
- 1912 The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) was founded in Hampton, Virginia.
- 1913 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded in Washington, D.C., at Howard University on January 13.
- 1914 Phi Beta Sigma was founded in Washington, D.C., at Howard University on January 9.
- 1914 World War I began in Europe on August 1.
- 1915 The Great Migration of African Americans from the South to Northern cities began.
- 1915 Xavier University of Louisiana was founded in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 1915 Booker T. Washington died in Tuskegee, Alabama, at the age of 59.
- 1916 The American Conference of Black Leaders and Intellectuals was held in Amenia, New York, by NAACP leader Joel Spingarn. At the meeting, there was a call for unity between the supporters of W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington.
- 1920 The Harlem Renaissance began.
- 1920 Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was founded in Washington, D.C., at Howard University.
- 1920 The *Pittsburgh Courier* selected the first unofficial black college basketball champions, Howard and Talladega.
- 1921 Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander of the University of Pennsylvania, Eva B. Dykes of Radcliff College, and Georgiana R. Simpson of the University of Chicago became the first African American women to earn PhD degrees.
- 1922 William Leo Hansberry of Howard University teaches the first course in African history and civilization at an American university.
- 1922 Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority was founded at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 12.
- 1922 Concordia College was founded in Selma, Alabama. It was founded as Alabama Lutheran Academy and Junior College.

- 1923 Bethune Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls merged with Cookman Institute and became Bethune-Cookman College (now Bethune-Cookman University).
- 1924 Mount Hermon Female Seminary in Clinton, Mississippi, closed. The school was founded in 1875.
- 1925 The National Bar Association, an organization of black attorneys, was established on August 1 in Des Moines, Iowa.
- 1925 Students at Fisk University protest policies of the white administration.
- 1926 Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week in February, between the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Black History Month was established in 1976.
- 1926 Dr. Mordecai Wyatt Johnson became the first black president of Howard University.
- 1927 Chicago businessman Abe Saperstein formed the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team in Chicago on January 30.
- 1929 Morehouse College, Spelman College, and Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University) became academically affiliated.
- 1930 James V. Herring established the Howard University Gallery of Art, the first gallery in the United States directed and controlled by African Americans.
- 1930 Fisk University became the first predominately black college to be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- 1930 The National Pan-Hellenic Council was formed on the campus of Howard University.
- 1932 The *Journal of Negro Education* began publication at Howard University.
- 1933 The NAACP began a coordinated attack on segregation and discrimination, filing a suit against the University of North Carolina on behalf of Thomas R. Hocutt. The case was lost on a technicality after the president of Hocutt's undergraduate black college refused to certify his records.
- 1934 The Apollo Theater opened in Harlem, New York.
- 1934 Charles Hamilton Houston, the Dean of Howard University's Law School, was named the director of the NAACP legal campaign, and began the assault on de jure segregation in education.
- 1935 Norfolk State University was founded in Norfolk, Virginia. It was originally called the Norfolk Unit of Virginia Union.
- 1936 The Maryland Court of Appeals ordered the University of Maryland to admit Donald Murray in *Pearson v. Murray*, 169 Md. 478, 182 A. 590 (1936).
- 1936 Jesse Owens won four gold medals in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, Germany.

- 1938 U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Missouri ex rel. Gaines v. Canada*, 305 U.S. 337 (1938), that a state must provide equal educational facilities for blacks within its boundaries. Lloyd Gaines, the plaintiff in the case, disappeared after the decision. His body was never found.
- 1939 Bill Bojangles Robinson organized the Black Actors Guild.
- 1939 World War II began.
- 1940 Hattie McDaniel became the first black to win an Academy Award, as Best Supporting Actress, for her role as "Mammy" in *Gone with the Wind*.
- 1940 The NAACP Legal Defense Fund was established in New York City.
- 1940 Dr. Benjamin E. Mays was named president of Morehouse College. He would later become a mentor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 1941 The U.S. Army created the Tuskegee Air Squadron.
- 1941 Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, bringing the United States officially into World War II.
- 1941 Yancey Williams, a student at Howard University, asked the federal court to order the secretary of war and the U.S. government to consider his application for a flying cadet position in the Army Air Corp.
- 1942 The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was founded in Chicago by James Farmer, Jr., George Houser, Bernice Fisher, James Russell Robinson, Joe Guinn, and Homer Jack.
- 1942 The first cadets graduated from the Army Flight School at Tuskegee University.
- 1943 George Washington Carver, noted scholar at Tuskegee University, died at age 78.
- 1943 Western University in Quindaro, Kansas, closed. It was founded in 1865.
- 1944 The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) was founded on April 25 by Frederick Douglass Patterson, president of the Tuskegee Institute, and Mary McLeod Bethune, an advisor to the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration.
- 1945 *Ebony* magazine, created by Chicago-based Johnson Publishing Company, published its first issue on November 1.
- 1946 The first CIAA Basketball Tournament was held.
- 1946 Dr. Charles Spurgeon Johnson became the first African American president of Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1947 The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and the Fellowship of Reconciliation send 23 black and white freedom riders through Southern states to test compliance with court decisions, challenging de jure segregation interstate commerce laws.

- 1947 Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers became the first African American to play major league baseball in the 20th century.
- 1947 John Hope Franklin published *From Slavery to Freedom*, which became the most popular textbook on African American history published in the 20th century. Franklin graduated from Fisk University before earning a doctorate from Harvard University.
- 1947 In its annual survey, *Crisis* magazine reported there were 74,095 black college students in 1946. The 1946 graduates received 6,052 baccalaureate degrees, 360 master's degrees, 8 PhD degrees, and 360 professional degrees.
- 1947 Texas Southern University was founded. It was originally called Texas State University for Negroes.
- 1948 President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981, directing the desegregation of the armed forces.
- 1948 Southwestern Christian College was founded in Terrell, Texas. It was founded as the Southern Bible Institute.
- 1948 The U.S. Supreme Court in *Sipuel v. Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma*, 332 U.S. 631 (1948) ruled that the state of Oklahoma must afford blacks "an opportunity to commence the study of law at a state institution at the same time as other citizens."
- 1950 Chuck Cooper, Nathaniel Clifton, and Earl Lloyd became the first African Americans to play professional basketball in the modern National Basketball Association (NBA).
- 1950 Mississippi Valley State University founded in Itta Bena, Mississippi. It was originally called the Mississippi Vocational College.
- 1950 The American Medical Association accepted black members for the first time.
- 1950 The Korean War began.
- 1950 The U.S. Supreme Court undermined the legal foundations of segregation in *Sweatt v. Painter*, 339 U.S. 629 (1950), and *McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents*, 339 U.S. 637 (1950).
- 1950 Various African American groups began to remove the words "Negro" and "Colored" from their organization names in anticipation of integration.
- 1951 The NAACP began its attack on segregation on the K-12 level by arguing three cases before the federal district court in South Carolina and Kansas. The courts ruled that segregation was detrimental to black children, but "separate but equal" was legal.
- 1951 Johnson Publishing Company published the first issue of *Jet* magazine.
- 1952 Ralph Waldo Ellison published *Invisible Man*.

- 1952 University of Tennessee admits its first black students.
- 1952 Huston-Tillotson University was founded in Austin, Texas, through a merger of Tillotson College and Samuel Huston College.
- 1952 Congress passed the Veteran's Readjustment Assistance Act, which required any college or university receiving federal financial aid funds to be accredited.
- 1952 Phi Beta Kappa admits chapters at Howard University, Fisk University, and Morehouse College.
- 1953 Albert W. Dent, president of Dillard University, was elected president of the National Health Council.
- 1953 Dr. Rufus Clement, president of Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University), was elected to the Atlanta Board of Education.
- 1953 Albert Edward Manley became the first black president of Spelman College.
- 1954 The Supreme Court ruled unanimously in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954) that the "separate but equal doctrine" was unconstitutional and public schools be desegregated.
- 1955 Rosa Parks refused to relinquish her seat to a white man. Blacks decided to boycott the city bus system in Montgomery, Alabama. Students from Alabama State University handed out flyers notifying black citizens of the bus boycott.
- 1955 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed Executive Order 10590 creating the President's Committee on Government Policy to enforce the federal government's policy of nondiscrimination in federal employment.
- 1955 Storer College in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, closed. It was founded in 1865.
- 1955 The Supreme Court rules in *Brown II* that public school desegregation must occur with all deliberate speed.
- 1956 The Southern Manifesto denounced the ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* and promoted resistance to integration.
- 1956 The (year-long) Montgomery Bus Boycott ended after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a lower court's ruling that segregation of the City Bus System in Montgomery, Alabama, was unconstitutional.
- 1956 Southern University at New Orleans was founded as a branch of Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- 1957 Federal troops escort nine black students to school in the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- 1957 Legislation was passed in Tennessee requiring the desegregation of state universities.

- 1957 Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1957, certifying every citizen had the right to vote.
- 1958 Interdenominational Theological Center was founded in Atlanta, Georgia.
- 1958 The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) was organized in Atlanta, Georgia, with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as its first president.
- 1958 Althea Gibson, an alumnus of Florida A&M University, became the first African American woman to win the U.S. Open Tennis Championship in Forest Hills.
- 1959 Massachusetts senator (and future president) John F. Kennedy donated the proceeds from his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Profiles in Courage*, to the UNCF.
- 1959 Berry Gordy, Jr., founded Motown Records in Detroit, Michigan.
- 1960 Four students from North Carolina A&T State University started the sit-in movement in Greensboro, North Carolina.
- 1960 Students at Alabama State University staged a sit-in at the courthouse in Montgomery, Alabama.
- 1960 The governor of Alabama forces the president of Alabama State University to expel nine Alabama State University students for participating in the sit-in movement.
- 1960 Police used tear gas to disperse a student demonstration at Florida A&M University.
- 1960 Alabama State University students marched on the state capital and held a protest meeting in support of suspended students.
- 1960 Police broke up a student protest on the campus of Alabama State University. Thirty-five students and a professor were arrested.
- 1960 Southern University and A&M College students boycotted classes after 18 students were suspended. Students threatened to withdraw from the university in protest.
- 1960 The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee was organized on the campus of Shaw University.
- 1960 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Civil Rights Act of 1960, establishing federal inspections of local voter registration polls and penalties for voting obstruction.
- 1961 Two black students, Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter, enrolled at the University of Georgia. Campus riots ensued and they were suspended before a federal court ordered them to be reinstated.
- 1961 Student jail-in movement started in Rock Hill, South Carolina. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee urged a region wide campaign titled the "Jail, No Bail" campaign.



- 1961 Ernie Davis became the first African American to win the Heisman Trophy.
- 1961 One hundred and eighty college students and a white minister were arrested in Columbia, South Carolina, after an antisegregation march.
- 1961 Freedom Ride Coordinating Committee was established in Atlanta.
- 1961 The Southern Regional Council announced that the student sit-in movement had affected more than 100 cities in 20 Southern and border states.
- 1962 University of the Virgin Islands founded in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. It was founded as the College of the Virgin Islands.
- 1962 Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, closed after student demonstrations protesting expulsion of student activists.
- 1962 James Meredith integrated the University of Mississippi and a riot ensued.
- 1963 Two black students, Vivian Malone and James Hood, integrated the University of Alabama, despite Governor George C. Wallace's protests.
- 1963 W.E.B. Du Bois died in Accra, Ghana, at the age of 95.
- 1963 Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton Holmes graduated from the University of Georgia.
- 1963 Mississippi NAACP Field Secretary Medgar Evers was assassinated.
- 1963 Iota Phi Theta Fraternity was founded on September 19 at Morgan State University.
- 1963 President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on November 22.
- 1963 March on Washington civil rights demonstration. Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech.
- 1964 Sidney Poitier is the first African American to win an Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance in *Lilies of the Field*.
- 1964 Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ending racial segregation in the United States.
- 1965 The United States sent ground troops to fight in the Vietnam War.
- 1965 The Selma to Montgomery Civil Rights March occurred. A group of civil rights demonstrators walked 50 miles to protest the denial of voting rights.
- 1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- 1965 Congress passed the Higher Education Act of 1965, which increased funding to colleges and universities, including federal grants to HBCUs.
- 1965 Vivian Malone became the first black to graduate from the University of Alabama.

- 1965 The NCAA began accepting black colleges for membership.
- 1965 Malcolm X was assassinated at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem on February 21.
- 1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson first used the term "affirmative action" in a speech at Howard University on June 4.
- 1965 Alex Haley published the *Autobiography of Malcolm X*.
- 1966 Stokely Carmichael became chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.
- 1966 The first all-black starting lineup of a NCAA basketball team at Texas Western won the NCAA basketball championship title.
- 1966 The Black Panther Party was formed in Oakland, California, by Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton.
- 1967 H. Rap Brown replaced Stokely Carmichael as chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.
- 1967 Writers conference held at Fisk University to raise the consciousness of African American authors.
- 1967 Four hundred students take over the administration building at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania (then Cheyney State University).
- 1967 Thurgood Marshall took seat as the first African American Supreme Court justice.
- 1968 Police officers killed three students from South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina, during a demonstration. Students were attempting to integrate a local bowling alley. This is called the "Orangeburg Massacre."
- 1968 Mississippi state troopers used tear gas to put down student demonstrations at Alcorn State University.
- 1968 Howard University students seized the administration building demanding campus reforms and a black oriented curriculum.
- 1968 Marlin Briscoe became the first starting quarterback of a NFL team, the Denver Broncos.
- 1968 Bowie State University students take over the administration building in protest.
- 1968 Black students take over the administrative building at Boston University and demanded more black studies courses, black faculty, students, and administrators.
- 1968 Black students at Northwestern University seized the finance building and demanded a black oriented curriculum and other campus reforms.

- 1968 Five buildings were seized on the campus of Columbia University. Students virtually shut down the campus with their protest.
- 1968 Tuskegee University students held 12 of the university's trustees hostage for 12 hours. The students demanded campus-wide reform.
- 1968 Classes at San Francisco State University suspended after the Black Student Union leaders demonstrated demanding a Black Studies Program and more minority students and faculty.
- 1968 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4.
- 1968 Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated on June 5 in Los Angeles, California.
- 1969 The Ford Foundation gave \$1 million to Morgan State University, Howard University, and Yale University to help prepare faculty members to teach courses in African American studies.
- 1969 Moneta Sleet, Jr., of *Ebony* magazine and a graduate of Kentucky State University, became the first African American to win a Pulitzer Prize in Photography.
- 1969 Robert Chrisman and Nathan Hare published the first issue of *The Black Scholar*.
- 1969 Police and National Guard break up a demonstration at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, North Carolina. One student was killed and five police officers were injured.
- 1969 Black students used guns and seized Cornell University's Student Union building to protest racism.
- 1970 The first issue of *Essence* magazine was published.
- 1970 Students protested at the University of Michigan and demanded more black students be admitted.
- 1970 National Guard used force to quell student protests at Ohio State University. Students demanded an end to the ROTC program and the admission of more black students.
- 1970 Two students in protest of the Vietnam War were killed at Jackson State University Jackson, Mississippi, and 12 others were wounded.
- 1970 The first issue of *Black Enterprise* was published.
- 1971 The Congressional Black Caucus was formed in Washington, D.C.
- 1971 Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., founded People United to Save Humanity (PUSH) in Chicago, Illinois.
- 1972 Two students were killed during demonstrations at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

- 1972 Barbara Jordan of Houston, Texas, and Andrew Young of Atlanta, Georgia, became the first black Congressional representatives elected from the South since 1898.
- 1972 Forest Long, an executive of the Young and Rubicam advertising agency, developed the NAACP slogan, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."
- 1973 The National Black Feminist Organization was established by Elizabeth Holmes Norton.
- 1973 Marian Wright Edelman, a graduate of Spelman College, created the Children's Defense Fund.
- 1973 Maynard H. Jackson, Jr., a graduate of Morehouse College, was elected the first black mayor of Atlanta, Georgia.
- 1974 U.S. district judge W. Arthur Garrity initiated a busing program, involving several thousand students, designed to desegregate the public schools of Boston.
- 1975 Morehouse School of Medicine was founded in Atlanta, Georgia.
- 1975 The W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research was established at Harvard University.
- 1975 Kintrell College in Kintrell, North Carolina, closed. It was founded in 1886.
- 1975 General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., in the U.S. Air Force, a graduate of Tuskegee University, became the first African American four-star general.
- 1977 Andrew Young, a graduate of Howard University, became the first African American ambassador to the United Nations.
- 1977 Henry L. Marsh, III, a graduate of Virginia Union University and Howard University, became the first African American mayor of Richmond, Virginia.
- 1977 Randall Robinson, a graduate of Virginia Union University, founded Trans-Africa, a lobbying group for Africa, in Washington, D.C.
- 1978 The Supreme Court ruled in *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, 438 U.S. 265 (1978) that race could be used as in university admissions decisions, but quotas were not allowed.
- 1978 Morehouse School of Medicine enrolled its first class of students.
- 1978 U.S. Supreme Court endorsed the concept of "reverse discrimination" in *Bakke v. University of California Medical School*, 438 U.S. 265 (1978).
- 1979 Daniel Payne College closed in Birmingham, Alabama. The school opened in 1889.
- 1980 The first annual Black College Day was held in Washington, D.C.
- 1980 Robert L. Johnson began operation of Black Entertainment Television (BET) in Washington, D.C.

- 1980 Howard University's WHMM-TV became the first public broadcasting television station in the United States owned and operated by African Americans.
- 1980 Lou Rawls hosted the first UNCF televised telethon, the *Lou Rawls Parade of Stars*.
- 1980 The Virginia Union University Panthers won the NCAA Division II Championship.
- 1980 President Jimmy Carter signed Executive Order 12232 establishing a federal program to overcome the effects of discrimination against HBCUs and to expand their capacity to provide a quality education.
- 1981 President Ronald Reagan signed Executive Order 12320 establishing the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
- 1981 James Frank, president of Lincoln University of Missouri, was installed as the first African American president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).
- 1982 Mississippi Industrial College closed. It was founded in Holly Springs, Mississippi, in 1905.
- 1982 President Ronald Reagan approved a \$55.6 million aid package to Meharry Medical College so that it would not lose accreditation.
- 1983 Louis Gossett, Jr., became the first African American to win an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor his role in *An Officer and a Gentleman*.
- 1983 The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday was signed into effect by President Ronald Reagan.
- 1983 Alice Walker's (attended Spelman College) *The Color Purple* wins the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.
- 1984 *The Cosby Show* makes its television debut. The show runs for eight seasons and became the most successful series in television history featuring an African American cast.
- 1985 Grambling State University's football coach Eddie Robinson became the coach with the most wins in college football history.
- 1986 The first national Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday was celebrated.
- 1986 Dr. Ronald McNair, a graduate of North Carolina A&T State University, and six other crewmembers are killed when the space shuttle *Challenger* explodes.
- 1986 The *Oprah Winfrey Show* became nationally syndicated. Winfrey is an alumnus of Tennessee State University.
- 1986 Spike Lee (Morehouse College) released his first feature film, *She's Gotta Have It*.

- 1987 The television show *A Different World* aired, depicting student life at the fictional HBCU Hillman College.
- 1987 Reginald Lewis, a graduate of Virginia State University, orchestrated the leveraged buyout of Beatrice Foods to become the first African American CEO of a billion dollar corporation.
- 1987 St. Augustine's College became the first black college to operate its own on-campus commercial radio and television stations.
- 1987 Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole became the first African American woman president of Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia.
- 1988 More than 200 students took over the African American studies building at the University of Massachusetts to protest the beating of 2 African American students by 6 whites.
- 1988 Frederick Douglass Patterson, founder of the United Negro College Fund and president emeritus of Tuskegee University, died at age 86.
- 1988 Atlanta University and Clark College merged to form Clark Atlanta University.
- 1988 *School Daze*, written and directed by Spike Lee (Morehouse College), premiered in nationwide movie theaters depicting student life at the fictional HBCU Mission College.
- 1988 Bill Cosby and Camille Hanks Cosby donated \$20 million to Spelman College, the largest single gift to a black college by African Americans.
- 1988 Bishop College, in Dallas, Texas, sold at a bankruptcy auction to businessman Comer J. Cottrell. The college was founded in Marshall, Texas, in 1881.
- 1988 Students at Howard University protested the appointment of Republican National Committee chairman Lee Atwater to the Board of Trustees. The students cited Atwater's stand on civil rights and what they called racist strategy in the 1988 presidential campaign of George H. W. Bush.
- 1989 President George H. W. Bush signed Executive Order 12677 establishing a Presidential Advisory Board on Historically Black Colleges and Universities to advise the president and secretary of education on strategies to improve HBCUs.
- 1989 Art Shell, alumnus of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, became the first African American head coach in National Football League (NFL) history, with the Oakland Raiders.
- 1989 Oprah Winfrey established the Oprah Winfrey Endowed Scholarship Fund at Morehouse College with a donation of \$1 million. She made another donation of \$1 million in 1997, and \$5 million in 2003 for the public launch of *The Campaign for a New Century*.

- 1989 L. Douglas Wilder, a graduate of Virginia Union University, became the first African American governor of a state, Virginia.
- 1990 Sharon Pratt Kelly, a graduate of Howard University, became the first African American woman to lead a large American city as mayor of Washington, D.C.
- 1990 The National Pan-Hellenic Council banned any form of hazing in fraternity and sorority initiations.
- 1990 Walter Hubert Annenburg made the largest donation (\$50 million) in the history of the UNCF.
- 1991 Thurgood Marshall announced his retirement from the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1991 Roland Burris, a graduate of the Howard University School of Law, became the first black attorney general of Illinois.
- 1992 In *United States v. Fordice*, 505 U.S. 717 (1992), the Supreme Court ruled that the public universities in Mississippi had not sufficiently integrated and the state must take immediate action to rectify.
- 1993 President Bill Clinton signed Executive Order 12876 requiring a senior level executive in each agency have oversight in implementing the order and for the Office of Management and Budget to be involved in monitoring implementation.
- 1993 M. Joycelyn Elders, an alumnus of Philander Smith College, became the first African American and the first woman to be named U.S. surgeon general.
- 1993 Toni Morrison, a graduate of Howard University, became the first black American to win the Nobel Prize in Literature for her novel *Beloved*.
- 1993 Thurgood Marshall died at age 84.
- 1994 The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the Benjamin Banneker Scholarship Program at the University of Maryland was unconstitutional because it was limited to black students.
- 1995 A federal judge ordered the state of Alabama to set up a trust fund to pay for improvements at Alabama State University and Alabama A&M University.
- 1995 The Million Man March, organized by Minister Louis Farrakhan, was held in Washington, D.C., on October 17.
- 1996 In *Hopwood v. State of Texas*, 78 F.3d 932 (5th Cir. 1996), a Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the University of Texas could no longer consider race as a factor in admissions decisions.
- 1996 California voters passed Proposition 209, which outlawed affirmative action in state college and university admissions.
- 1997 Harvey Johnson, Jr., a graduate of Tennessee State University, became the first African American mayor of Jackson, Mississippi.

- 1997 African American women participated in the Million Woman March in Philadelphia, focusing on health care, education, and self-help.
- 1997 President Bill Clinton made a formal apology to black men exploited in the U.S. Public Health Service Tuskegee Syphilis Study.
- 1997 Knoxville College lost its accreditation.
- 1998 President Bill Clinton appointed John Hope Franklin, graduate of Fisk University, to lead the President's Commission on Race to promote a national dialogue on issues affecting African Americans in the United States and to ease racial tensions.
- 1998 Washington state voters approved Proposition 200, banning racial preference in admissions at any state college or university.
- 1998 Tom Joyner, a graduate of Tuskegee University, started the Tom Joyner Foundation, which raised \$55 million for HBCUs from 1998 through 2010.
- 1998 William G. Bowen and Derek Bok published *The Shape of the River*, examining the use of race in college and university admissions.
- 1999 The state of Oklahoma eliminated college scholarships set aside for blacks and other minorities.
- 1999 Florida governor Jeb Bush issued an executive order ending affirmative action in admissions at state universities in Florida.
- 1999 Bill Gates and Melinda Gates established the Gates Millennium Scholars Program with a \$1 billion grant and 20-year commitment to promote academic excellence and opportunity for minority students.
- 2000 Reverend Vashti M. McKenzie, a graduate of Howard University, became the first woman bishop of the African Methodist Zion Church.
- 2001 A federal judge approved a five-year plan to further racial desegregation at Tennessee State University.
- 2001 Shirley Clarke Franklin, a graduate of Howard University, became the first African American female mayor of Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2001 Dr. Ruth Jean Simmons, a graduate of Dillard University, became the first black president of an Ivy League institution, Brown University.
- 2002 Halle Berry became the first African American to win an Academy Award for Best Actress for her performance in *Monster's Ball*.
- 2002 President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13256, transferring the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities to the Office of the Secretary within the Department of Education.
- 2002 The movie *Drumline* opened in national theaters, focusing on the trials of a freshman joining the fictitious Alabama A&T University marching band.

- 2002 After 30 years, a federal judge approved a \$503 million settlement in the *Ayers v. Fordice* case, designed to correct Mississippi's past neglect of Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University, and Alcorn State University.
- 2002 Morris Brown College lost its accreditation, federal funding, and UNCF financial support.
- 2003 The Supreme Court's ruling in *Grutter v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 306 (2003) upheld the University of Michigan Law School's admissions policy supporting affirmative action.
- 2003 The Supreme Court ruled in *Gratz v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 244 (2003) that the University of Michigan must dismantle affirmative action as an admissions criteria for undergraduate admission.
- 2003 The HBCU Library Alliance was formed to preserve and promote the history and mission of the White House-designated HBCUs and their libraries.
- 2004 Oprah Winfrey, a graduate of Tennessee State University, became the first African American billionaire.
- 2004 Barber-Scotia College lost its accreditation.
- 2005 Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans.
- 2006 Voters in Michigan approved the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, which banned the use of race as an admissions criterion by Michigan's state colleges and universities.
- 2006 Parties in *Knight and Sims v. Alabama* settled the 25-year desegregation case in the higher education system in Alabama.
- 2006 Bennie G. Thompson, a graduate of Tougaloo College and Jackson State University, became the first Democrat and first African American to chair the Homeland Security Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- 2007 The movie *The Great Debaters* premiered nationwide, starring and directed by Denzel Washington. The movie was based on the true story of Professor Melvin Tolson and the debate team at Wiley College.
- 2007 The movie *Stomp the Yard* premiered, centering on fraternity life at the fictional HBCU Truth University.
- 2008 *U.S. News and World Report* began producing an annual ranking of top HBCUs.
- 2008 Barack Obama became the first African American elected president of the United States.
- 2009 The U.S. Senate passed a resolution, on June 18, apologizing to African Americans for the wrongs of slavery.

- 2010 President Barack Obama signed Executive Order 13532, approving more federal funds for HBCUs.
- 2010 On September 10, President Barack Obama declared the week of September 12 through September 18 as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week.