

## History

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The State College for Colored Students, now known as Delaware State University, was established May 15, 1891, by the Delaware General Assembly under the provisions of the Morrill Act of 1890 by which land-grant colleges for blacks came into existence in states maintaining separate educational facilities.

Through the conservative and practical planning of the Board of Trustees appointed by Delaware Gov. Robert J. Reynolds, the College was launched upon its mission of education and public service on February 2, 1892. Five courses of study leading to a baccalaureate degree were offered: Agricultural, Chemical, Classical, Engineering and Scientific. A Preparatory Department was established in 1893 for students who were not qualified to pursue a major course of study upon entrance. A three-year normal course leading to a teacher's certificate was initiated in 1897. The College graduated its first class of degree candidates in May 1898. The normal course of study (teacher education) was extended to four years in 1911 and the Bachelor of Pedagogy degree was awarded to students upon satisfactory completion of the curriculum.

In the 1916-1917 school year, the Preparatory Department was phased out, a Model School was established, and a high school diploma was granted on completion of a four-year course of study. In 1923, a Junior College Division was added. Four-year curricula in the Arts and Sciences, Elementary Education, Home Economics, Agriculture and Industrial Arts were established in 1932. The College graduated its first class of four-year, baccalaureate degree candidates in June 1934.

In 1944, the College received provisional accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). In 1947, the name of the institution was changed to Delaware State College by legislative action. At the end of the 1951-52 school year, the High School Division was discontinued. In April 1957, the College was accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education in 1962, 1972, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002 and 2012 reaffirmed this accreditation. Concurrently, the University achieved and maintained accreditation of its teacher education programs by the Delaware State Board of Education.

On July 1, 1993, Delaware State College turned another chapter in its history when Governor Thomas Carper signed a name change into law, thus renaming the College to Delaware State University

The University has grown in stature as a center for teaching, research and public service. The purpose and objectives of the University have broadened in keeping up with changing times. While recognizing its historical heritage, the University provides higher education today for a diverse student population. Academic units are organized into the College of Agriculture & Related Sciences; the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences; the College of Business; the College of Education, Health & Public Policy; the College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences & Technology; and University College.

The University offers 53 undergraduate degrees, which include unique and traditional majors such as Agriculture, Aviation, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Forensic Biology, Health Promotion, Hospitality & Tourism Management, Management, Mass Communications, Natural Resources, New Media in Arts, Nursing, Physics, Social Work and Textiles & Apparel Studies.

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Delaware State University also offers 25 master's degrees in Agriculture (Animal Science, Plant Science), Applied Optics, Art Education, Biological Sciences (M.S.; or M.A., General Biology, Biology Education), Business Administration (Aviation, Business Analytics, CPA, Finance, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Information Systems or Project Management), Applied Chemistry, Computer Science, Education (Adult Literacy and Basic Education, Curriculum and Instruction or Special Education), Educational Leadership, Family and Consumer Science Education, Food Science, Historic Preservation, Mathematics (Pure or Applied), Mathematics Education, Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience, Natural Resources, Physics, Physics Teaching, Public Administration, Science Education, Social Work, Sport Administration, Teaching, as well as Teaching English as a Second Language.

The University also has five doctoral programs in Applied Chemistry, Educational Leadership, Interdisciplinary Applied Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Neuroscience, as well as Optics.

The institution has national academic program accreditations from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, the Council on Social Work Education, the Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, and the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics. The University's College of Business is also internationally accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The underpinning of the growth and development of Delaware State University has been the leadership of ten permanent presidents and two acting presidents. The ten permanent presidents have included Wesley P. Webb (1891-1895), William C. Jason (1895-1923), Richard S. Grossley (1923-1942), Howard D. Gregg (1942-1949), Oscar J. Chapman (1950-1951), Jerome H. Holland (1953-1960), Luna I. Mishoe (1960-1987), William B. DeLauder (1987-2003), Allen L. Sessoms (2003-2008) and Dr. Harry L. Williams (2010-present). The two acting presidents are listed as follows: Maurice E. Thomasson served twice as acting president from 1949-50 and 1951-1953; and Dr. Claibourne Smith served as the acting president from 2008-2010.

As a result of the efforts of past and current presidents, administrators, faculty, staff and students, the University is well-positioned to reach new levels of prestige and respect in the