OAKWOOD
UNIVERSITY

1890–1899

1896

A.S. Steele loaned future principal Solon Jacobs $1,000 to begin the initial development of Oakwood.

1896

Founders Ellen G. White, O. A. Olsen, H. Linsey, and G. A. Irwin originally called the school "Oakwood Industrial School," and opened its doors November 16 with 16 students.

1899

Students were able to receive a diploma from the Oakwood Industrial School.

1900–1909

1904

Ellen G. White, one of the founders and promoters, visited and addressed the Oakwood family.

1904

Oakwood almost closed because of the poor conditions of its buildings and because of state legislation against education of Blacks.

1905

Oakwood enrollment rose from 16 to 30.

1909

The nine graduates of Oakwood Industrial School were nurses.

1910–1919

1910

Oakwood Sanitarium (now known as East Hall) opened.

1917

Oakwood Manual Training School became Oakwood Junior College.

1930–1939

1934

Calvin E. Moseley became the first African-American to chair the Religion Department and to pastor the Oakwood College Church.

1936

Oakwood Junior College operated a clinic that offered services to the community of Huntsville.

1940–1949

1943

Oakwood received its first accreditation as a junior college, changing the name to Oakwood College.

1944

The first graduating class of Oakwood College received their degrees.

1944

Eva B. Dykes joined the Oakwood faculty as its first faculty member with a Ph.D. degree.

1945

Oakwood College became a four-year institution.

1945

The first senior college graduating class at Oakwood consisted of nine students.

1946

Eva B. Dykes established the Aeolians at Oakwood.

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1955

Frank W. Hale Jr., became the first active Oakwood faculty to earn a Ph.D. (Eva B. Dykes had been brought to the faculty from Howard University.)

1956

By the end of the sixth decade (1946-1956), more than 600 students were enrolled at Oakwood.

1958

Oakwood College received official accreditation as a four-year liberal arts institution from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

1959

Desmond T. Doss, Congressional Medal winner, spoke at Oakwood College.

1962

Martin Luther King Jr., spoke on the Oakwood campus to students, staff, and Huntsville community, invited by President Garland J. Millet.

1964

Oakwood College was accepted into the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

1968

Oakwood sponsored its first student missionary, Barry Black, to serve in Lima, Peru.

1973

The first Oakwood class to exceed 100 graduates graduated 124 students.

1975

Oakwood awarded its first associate degree in nursing.

1981

Essence Magazine cited Oakwood College for preparing more Blacks for success in medical and dental schools around the country than all but four or five of the leading colleges in the country.

1996

Oakwood celebrated 100 years.

1996

The Diversity Educational Exchange Program (DEEP) was inaugurated by Oakwood University and Southern Adventist University to bring together students and employees of both schools for relationship building, overcoming diversity barriers, and development of personal leadership skills through student exchange, retreats, reciprocal visits, and cooperative events.

1999

Ellen G. White Estates Branch was established on Oakwood University campus (subsequently discontinued when the university transitioned from the General Conference to the North American Division).

2000

A slave cemetery was identified on the property of Oakwood University and made a part of the Oakwood Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

2001

McKee Business & Technology Complex opened at Oakwood.

OAKWOOD
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2001

Monument to Service was erected on Oakwood campus.

2007

Oakwood college received approval to award graduate degrees.

2007

Oakwood offered its first graduate degree, the master of arts in pastoral leadership.

2008

Oakwood College became Oakwood University, and 315 members of the graduating class were the first to receive degrees under the Oakwood University designation.

2009

Oakwood reached its highest enrollment of 1,916.

2009

U. S. News and World Report ranks Oakwood University number 28 among 100-plus historically Black colleges and universities, and 31st among all institutions in the South, the latter a ranking shared with another Adventist university of the region.

2010–2019

2012

Oakwood Aeolians won three awards at the World Choir Games in Cincinnati, Ohio.

2014

Oakwood University transitions from General Conference sponsorship to the North American Division.

2015

Oakwood participated in the historic Selma 50th Anniversary March.

2016

Oakwood Farms was launched.

2017

Aeolians were named 2017 Choir of the World at the National Eisteddfod of Wales Music Festival.

2018

Oakwood University Information Technology was awarded the 2018 Exemplary Models Award by the American Association of University Administrators (AAUA).

2019

Oakwood University prepared to offer an MPH in nutrition and wellness, focusing on how diet can play a major role in promoting health.

2019

Oakwood University partnered with Ross University School of Medicine.

2019

Oakwood's Child Development Lab became a licensed facility.

2019

Oakwood's Aeolians raised more than $11K at a benefit concert following the group's bus crash.

2020–PRESENT

2020

A first-year Oakwood student, Robert Booker II, was selected by the Obama Foundation and the Reach Higher Initiative to feature in their educational Instagram stories.

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

OAKWOOD INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

Solon M. Jacobs, 1896-1897
Henry H. Shaw, 1897-1899
Benjamin E. Nicola, 1899-1904

OAKWOOD MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL

Fred R. Rogers, 1904-1905
Grandville H. Baber, 1905-1906
Walter J. Blake, 1906-1911
Clarence J. Boyd, 1911-1917

OAKWOOD JUNIOR COLLEGE

James L. Beardsley, 1917-1921
Joseph A. Tucker, 1922-1932

OAKWOOD COLLEGE

James L. Moran, 1932-1945
Frank L. Peterson, 1945-1954
Garland J. Millet, 1954-1963
Addison V. Pinkney, 1963-1965
Frank W. Hale, 1966-1971
Calvin B. Rock, 1971-1985
Benjamin F. Reaves, 1985-1996

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

Delbert W. Baker, 1996-2010
Leslie N. Pollard, 2010-