

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

The University of Oklahoma

1890 to Present

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- 1890 On December 19, Territorial Governor Steele approved bills for the location of three territorial schools: the university at Norman, the agricultural and mechanical school at Stillwater, and a normal school at Edmond.
- 1891 First Board of Regents for the University of Oklahoma appointed by Governor Steele.
- 1892 David Ross Boyd, Superintendent of the Arkansas City, Kansas school system, became first president of the University of Oklahoma.
- On September 15, OU enrolled the first students. Of the 57 students who presented themselves for admission, not one qualified for freshman standing. Therefore, the university began its career as a preparatory school and continued as such for several years.
- 1893 First college freshman enrolled.
- School of Pharmacy founded in response to demands for pharmacists in the territory.
- First annual catalog published; four departments were advertised: Preparatory, Collegiate, Pharmaceutical, and Musical.
- 1894 Oklahoma Historical Society organized.
- 1896 First degree -- that of Pharmaceutical Chemist -- conferred.
- 1897 The first OU newspaper, *The Umpire*, began operations.
- 1898 First Bachelor of Arts degree conferred.
- University created four new divisions: Graduate work, Premedical work, School of Music, and the Summer School.
- First graduate students enrolled.
- 1899 Alumni Association organized.
- Territorial legislature authorized creation of a department of Geology and Natural History, which later became the Geological Survey.
- First honorary degree conferred.
- 1900 First Master of Arts degree conferred.
- First medical instruction offered.
- 1901 Major elective system, with prescribed work in English, French, or German, biology or chemistry, and history was adopted by College of Arts and Sciences.
- 1902 School of Fine Arts established from School of Music.
- 1903 First Bachelor of Science degree conferred.
- Funds donated by Andrew Carnegie for the construction of a university library.
- 1904 School of Applied Science with curricula in mechanical, electrical, and civil engineering established.
- First Rhodes Scholar from OU chosen.
- 1905 Publication of the first OU yearbook, *The Mistletoe*, began.
- First social fraternity (Kappa Alpha) chartered.
- 1906 First Master of Science degree conferred.
- 1907 President Theodore Roosevelt issued proclamation admitting Oklahoma as the forty-sixth state of the Union. OU automatically became the state university.

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- 1908 President Boyd dismissed. A. Grant Evans became second President of OU.
- 1909 University reorganized into the Graduate School, College of Arts and Sciences, School of Fine Arts, School of Pharmacy, College of Engineering, and School of Medicine.
- School of Law organized.
- Faculty Senate organized.
- First sororities (Kappa Alpha Theta and Delta Delta Delta) chartered.
- 1910 School of Teaching organized in the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Preparatory School discontinued.
- School of Medicine merged with Epworth College of Medicine, with the first two years of School of Medicine continued on the Norman campus and the third and fourth years to be carried on at Oklahoma City.
- 1911 School of Nursing established.
- First Doctor of Medicine degrees conferred.
- President Evans resigned; Dean Julien Monnet of the Law School became Acting President.
- The State Board of Education became governing board of the university.
- 1912 First law degrees conferred.
- State University Hospital opened in Oklahoma City and operated a Training School for Nurses.
- Stratton D. Brooks became President of OU.
- 1913 School of Journalism and School of Commerce and Industry organized in College of Arts and Sciences.
- University Extension Division organized for distance learning.
- 1916 *The Oklahoma Daily*, first daily student newspaper, began operations.
- 1917 Student Loan Aid Association incorporated.
- 1919 School of Home Economics established in College of Arts and Sciences.
- The Seventh Legislature repealed provision that made State Board of Education the Board of Regents and set up a new and separate Board of Regents for OU.
- 1920 Phi Beta Kappa chapter established at OU.
- School of Education became independent school.
- 1922 Campus radio station (WNAD) went on the air.
- 1923 President Brooks resigned. Dean Buchanan of College of Arts and Sciences became Acting President, became President the following year.
- School of Business (formerly School of Commerce and Industry) organized as an independent school.
- Oklahoma Geological Survey abolished.
- 1924 School of Fine Arts reorganized as College of Fine Arts with subordinate schools in painting and design, dramatic art, and music.
- School of Petroleum Engineering established as part of College of Engineering.

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- 1924 Oklahoma Geological Survey re-established and placed under OU Board of Regents.
- 1925 William Bizzell became President of OU.
School of Physical Education established.
- 1926 Lew Wentz loan fund established.
- 1927 *Books Abroad*, international literary journal, published its first issue.
Oklahoma Biological Survey established.
Phillips Collection on Western History donated to the University Libraries.
School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and School of Geology organized in College of Arts and Sciences.
- 1928 First two years of School of Medicine transferred to Oklahoma City and the four-year curriculum was given on one campus.
Crippled Children's Hospital completed.
- 1929 First Doctor of Philosophy--in Zoology--conferred.
University of Oklahoma Press established.
School of Library Science established in College of Arts and Sciences.
Schools of Education and Business elevated to college status.
New University Library completed.
- 1931 First Doctor of Education degree conferred.
First visiting professor came to OU.
Appropriations for Geological Survey discontinued.
- 1932 School of General Engineering and School of Natural Gas Engineering organized in College of Engineering.
- 1935 AMA withdrew accreditation from Medical School, primarily because of political interference by governor admitting chiropractors to practice at University Hospital.
Oklahoma Geological Survey reopened.
- 1936 Museum of Art established.
- 1937 School of Applied Biology and School of Letters organized in College of Arts and Sciences.
- 1941 Max Westheimer Flying Field acquired.
President Bizzell resigned; Joseph Brandt became President of OU.
Constitutional amendment established Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.
- 1942 University College organized for freshmen.
Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Fine Arts, and School of Pharmacy reorganized to include only upper division work.
Research Institute created.
- 1943 Graduate School elevated to college status.

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- 1943 President Brandt resigned; George Lynn Cross became President of OU.
First research and distinguished faculty named.
- 1944 University of Oklahoma Foundation established.
- 1946 OU acquired North Base.
- 1947 Regents adopted AAUP policy on academic freedom and tenure.
- 1948 Medical School re-accredited by AMA.
- 1949 DeGolyer Collection in the History of Science donated to the University Libraries.
- 1950 OU desegregated graduate and law schools after Supreme Court decisions in the Sipuel and McLaurin cases.
- 1955 Bass Collection in Business History donated to the University Libraries.
Undergraduate colleges desegregated.
- 1957 OU School of Library Science began teaching classes in Tulsa.
- 1960 College of Liberal Studies organized offering a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree.
- 1962 The Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education dedicated.
- 1964 Honors Program began.
- 1967 College of Public Health organized on Oklahoma City campus.
- 1968 President Cross resigned; J. Herbert Holloman became President of OU.
- 1969 Neustadt/World Literature Today Prize for International Literature announced.
College of Dentistry organized on Oklahoma City campus.
Work began on Chaucer Variorum.
- 1970 College of Environmental Design organized.
Provost system installed on each campus.
President Holloman resigned; Provost Peter Kyle McCarter became Interim President of OU.
College of Allied Health organized on Oklahoma City campus.
- 1971 Paul Sharp became ninth President of OU.
- 1972 Legislature created OU Tulsa Medical College.
- 1973 First endowed chairs at OU selected.
- 1974 Medical college branch at Tulsa began training third and fourth year medical students.
- 1976 College of Pharmacy moved to Oklahoma City campus.
- 1977 President Sharp resigned as President, remained as Regents Professor of Education.
- 1978 William S. Banowsky became 10th President of OU.
- 1981 College of Geosciences established from Department of Geography, Schools of Geology and Geophysics, and Meteorology.

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- 1982 Neustadt wing of the University Library opened.
President Banowsky resigned; Provost J. R. Morris became Acting President.
President Banowsky reassumed position.
- 1983 OU began offering degree programs at the University Center at Tulsa.
- 1984 Library received two millionth volume.
- 1985 President Banowsky resigned; Martin C. Jischke became Interim President.
Frank E. Horton became 11th President of OU.
- 1986 Catlett Music Center became operational upon completion of Phase IA.
Office of Business and Industrial Cooperation established to help develop and diversify the state's economy by providing state businesses a means of tapping university resources.
Office of International Programs established to foster international exchange among students and faculty.
- 1987 Weather Center building on the north campus completed and occupied by the Oklahoma City National Weather Service Forecast Office and the Next Generation Radar Operational Support Facility.
- 1988 President Horton resigned; David Swank became Interim President.
The first strategic planning document for the Norman campus, Strategy for Excellence, unanimously endorsed by the OU Board of Regents in December.
- 1989 Richard L. Van Horn became 12th President of OU.
OU Center for Aerospace Programs created.
- 1990 Oklahoma MesoNet established in conjunction with OSU as a statewide network of agricultural meteorological and hydrological sensors.
Energy Center dedicated November 16.
Forty-eight new endowed chairs and professorships created.
University-wide general education requirements implemented.
- 1991 Eight new endowed professorships and chairs created.
- 1993 Fourteen endowed chairs and professorships were established during FY 1993, bringing the total to 99.
- 1994 President Van Horn resigned; J. R. Morris became Interim President.
David L. Boren became 13th President of OU.
Seven endowed chairs and professorships were established during FY 1994, bringing the total to 106.
- 1995 Ten endowed chairs and professorships were established, bringing the total to 116.
Storm Prediction Center created at OU by the National Weather Service.
- 1996 Honors College established.
OU Health Sciences Center's Oklahoma Telemedicine Network was dedicated.
International Programs Center established and Edward J. Perkins named the first director.
The OU Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art acquired the Fleischaker Art Collection.

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- 1996 The Faculty-In-Residence Program, in which faculty members live in student residence halls, was started.
The Presidential Professors program was established to reward both senior and junior faculty who excel in teaching and research.
A new program, "OU Cousins," was established to help form friendships between volunteer American students and international students.
- 1997 College of Business renamed the Michael F. Price College of Business.
The International Programs Center served as host for the first Foreign Policy Conference.
- 1998 Musical Theater Program was named the A. Max Weitzenhoffer Musical Theatre Program.
The Great Reading Room in Bizzell Memorial Library was named in honor of Peggy V. Helmerich.
South Oval gardens endowed by the Morris R. Pitman family.
The Stanton L. Young Biomedical Research Center opened at the OU Health Sciences Center.
The first University Vice President for Technology Development named and the Office of Technology Transfer was created.
Department of Dance became the School of Dance.
- 1999 OU/OSU Research and Graduate Education Center in Tulsa was officially opened.
Ken Lackey was named OU-Tulsa's first president.
The Charles M. Russell Center for the Study of Art of the American West was dedicated.
The Prentice Gautt Academic Center, located in Oklahoma Memorial Stadium, was dedicated.
Bioengineering Center formed by OU and the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.
The Schusterman Health Sciences Center at OU-Tulsa was established.
- 2000 The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History opened to the public.
The School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering was renamed in honor of Curtis W. Mewbourne.
The School of Journalism and Mass Communication was elevated to college status and named the Gaylord Family College of Journalism and Mass Communication.
The OU Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art acquired the Clara and Aaron Weitzenhoffer Art Collection.
First OU academic occupant, College of Pharmacy, moved into the Schusterman Center in Tulsa.
- 2001 The School of International and Area Studies was created.
The A. Max Weitzenhoffer Program of Musical Theatre was awarded department status.
The Health Sciences Center established a general clinical research center.
A state-of-the-art practice facility for OU Physicians, the OU Physicians Building, was completed.
Post-tenure review process was approved.
The Schusterman Center, headquarters for OU-Tulsa area programs, was formally dedicated.
Ken Levit named OU-Tulsa's second president.
- 2002 All OU programs in Tulsa moved to the Schusterman Center.
The football stadium was renamed the Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium.

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- 2002 The Department of Athletics made a leadership gift from merchandise revenue to the new University Libraries endowment.
- The Henderson-Tolson Cultural Center, honoring George Henderson and Melvin B. Tolson Jr., two of OU's most outstanding black faculty, was dedicated.
- OU held the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Western History Collections.
- William Bizzell Bible Collection received some 2,000 notable and rare Bibles and specialized Bible studies.
- The History of Medicine Collection opened in the Robert M. Bird Health Sciences Library.
- The Oklahoma Petroleum Information Center was created after earth core samples and grant funding were received from BP America.
- 2003 Fourteen new endowed faculty positions were created with FY 2003 gifts.
- President David L. Boren initiated the Sooner Heritage Scholarships Campaign to assist students and their families in absorbing an increase in tuition and fees.
- The OU Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art acquired the Thams Collection of Southwestern art.
- The first student housing facility at the OU Health Sciences Center, University Village Apartments, opened.
- The new Dermatology Surgery Center opened at OU Physicians Dermatology in Oklahoma City.
- 2004 The Honors College building was named the David L. Boren Hall.
- The Health Sciences Center student center was named the David L. Boren Student Union.
- The ballroom in Oklahoma Memorial Union was named the Molly Shi Boren Ballroom.
- The OU College of Fine Arts was named the Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts.
- Gaylord Hall, a state-of-the-art media education facility, was dedicated.
- The Edith Kinney Gaylord Expository Writing Program was launched.
- The OU Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art received half of the R. E. Mansfield Native American Art Collection.
- The university celebrated the reopening of a newly remodeled Huston Huffman Physical Fitness Center, voted for and paid for by student funds.
- OU opened One Partners Place, a space designated to foster collaborations with private companies on the Research Campus. Weathernews Inc. is the first tenant.
- 2005 The Mary and Howard Lester Wing of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art was dedicated. The museum received the Tate Collection and 11 works of art bequeathed by the late Jerome M. Westheimer.
- The Donald W. Reynolds Performing Arts Center was dedicated in April.
- The Michael F. Price Hall for the Price College of Business was dedicated in September.
- The College of Earth and Energy was formed from the Mewbourne School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering, School of Geology and Geophysics, Sarkeys Energy Center institutes and programs and the Oklahoma Geological Survey.
- The College of Geosciences was renamed the College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences, with the School of Meteorology and Department of Geography and their related units.
- The Oklahoma Climatological Survey celebrated 25 years of service to Oklahomans.
- 2006 The School of Accounting was named the John T. Steed School of Accounting.

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- 2006 In FY 2006, 26 new endowed positions were added bringing the total endowed positions to 406.
- OU received an academic excellence grant from the OU Foundation for \$2.7 million, with the grant to be recurring each year.
- Dr. Gerry Clancy, dean of the OU College of Medicine, Tulsa, was named OU-Tulsa president.
- The University of Pennsylvania donated a historically important M.P. Möller pipe organ (Op. 5819) to the newly organized American Organ Institute at OU.
- University-wide Research Cabinet was created to coordinate research planning on all three OU campuses.
- The National Weather Center – a unique partnership of OU and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Norman-based weather research and operations programs – opened.
- OU was named a Confucius Institute site.
- The Department of Emergency Medicine was established at OU-Tulsa.
- The Chickasaw and Choctaw nations committed funds for the creation of endowed faculty positions in OU diabetes research and clinical care programs.
- 2007 The number of endowed faculty positions increased to 445 in FY 2007.
- The Schusterman Clinic opened at the OU-Tulsa Schusterman Center.
- A new research program focusing on the diseases of aging was established.
- The new Oklahoma Diabetes Center at the OU Health Sciences Center was named for Harold Hamm.
- OU's Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art and the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa were jointly selected to receive the Eugene B. Adkins collection of Taos and Native American art.
- The College of Earth and Energy was renamed the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy.
- OU purchased a mobile clinic unit, Sooner Schooner II, for use by the OU College of Medicine, Tulsa.
- OU added women's rowing to its intercollegiate athletics program.
- 2008 The total number of OU faculty endowments increased to 539.
- Responding to the 2007 ice storm that destroyed or damaged more than 1,000 trees on OU's campuses, members of the OU family responded with a \$1.7 million Reforestation Campaign.
- The George Kaiser Family Foundation announced a \$50 million gift, and the College of Medicine at OU-Tulsa changed its focus and became the first formally named School of Community Medicine of the nation.
- The College of Education was named for Jeannine Rainbolt, a 1951 education alumna, making the college the first in OU's history to be named for a woman.
- The Schusterman Learning Center, the first building at the Schusterman Center designed solely for student classrooms, study and social space, was dedicated.
- University Libraries added its 5 millionth volume, keeping it the state's largest research library.
- 2009 OU dedicated the renovated Old Science Hall, which is named for alumna Beatrice Carr Wallace.
- Lissa and Cy Wagner Hall, a one-stop shop for student academic services, opened.
- The Women's Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences was renamed the Women's and Gender Studies Program.
- A new state-of-the-art facility for the College of Allied Health was dedicated.

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- 2009 Phase II of Gaylord Hall, home of the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, was dedicated.
- The School of Social Work was renamed Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work.
- 2010 The total number of OU faculty endowments increased to over 560.
- OU achieved the Carnegie Foundation basic classification's highest tier of research activity, the first time a public institution in Oklahoma had achieved such recognition.
- OU established an Institute for Water and Sustainability.
- The Department of Geography in the College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences was renamed the Department of Geography and Environmental Sustainability.
- OU's Norman campus faculty achieved a record in FY 2010 grant funding, topping \$100 million for the first time in the university's history.
- The Division of Construction Science was renamed the Haskell and Irene Lemon Construction Science Division.
- Devon Energy Hall and the ExxonMobil Lawrence G. Rawl Engineering Practice Facility, both state-of-the-art facilities for the College of Engineering, were dedicated.
- OU established the John B. Turner Master of Laws (LL.M.) Program in the OU College of Law.
- The newly renovated and expanded Collings Hall for the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education was dedicated.
- OU received the Bialac Collection of more than 3,500 works representing indigenous cultures across North America, one of the most important private collections of Native American art in the country.
- OU joined forces with ConocoPhillips to create a new Biocorrosion Center with the OU Institute of Energy and the Environment.
- 2011 The College of International Studies was established.
- The Film and Video Studies program in the College of Arts and Sciences was renamed Film and Media Studies.
- Dedication ceremonies were held for the Peggy and Charles Stephenson Cancer Center.
- The Stephenson Life Sciences Research Center, housing the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, was dedicated.
- Dedication ceremonies were held for Anne and Henry Zarrow Hall for the OU School of Social Work.
- Dedication ceremonies were held for the renovated and expanded Gould Hall, home of the College of Architecture, marking the first time that all five disciplines were housed under one roof.
- The Stuart Wing of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art opened and included a new gallery to house the acclaimed Eugene B. Adkins Collection.
- The OU School of Drama was renamed the University of Oklahoma Peggy Dow Helmerich School of Drama.
- OU was selected by the U.S. Department of the Interior as the site of one of only eight regional climate science centers nationwide.
- The Schusterman Center Library at OU-Tulsa was dedicated.
- The School of Industrial Engineering was renamed the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

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- 2012 For the first time in OU history, OU students won the Rhodes, Marshall and Mitchell scholarships in the same year.
- OU journalism professor and foreign correspondent Mike Boettcher was awarded two Emmys for his coverage of the war in Afghanistan, marking the first time an active university professor also serving as a war correspondent has won an Emmy.
- An OU assistant professor and colleagues announced that they had identified two white dwarf stars considered the oldest and closest known to man. According to the researcher, these stars are the closest known examples of the oldest stars in the Universe forming soon after the Big Bang.
- OU launched One University, an initiative embracing digital technologies to create an even more dynamic classroom experience for its students.
- OU was named the 2012 Big 12 Conference Champion for using more green power than any other school in the Big 12 Conference, according to standings released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. OU later was recognized as one of only four organizations nationwide to be selected as a Green Power Partner of the Year by the EPA.
- The first Peggy Dow Helmerich Scholarships were awarded to 46 students in the Peggy Dow Helmerich School of Drama.
- The Harold Hamm International Prize for Biomedical Research in Diabetes was established.
- 2013 The University of Oklahoma implemented flat-rate tuition and mandatory fees for full-time undergraduate students carrying between 12 and 21 credit hours per semester to enable them to graduate sooner.
- The university announced it would begin using the Common Application, effective with the academic year beginning fall 2014, for incoming freshmen.
- The University of Oklahoma became the first public university in the nation to be awarded the prestigious Davis Cup in recognition of its record-setting enrollment of United World College international freshmen.
- The OU Research Campus was named the nation's top research park for 2013 by the Association of University Research Parks.
- Headington Hall, a six-story, 230,000-square-foot residence hall for 380 students, including 180 student-athletes, opened in August 2013.
- The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art began offering complimentary admission to the public, due to a gift from the OU Athletics Department.
- OU's History of Science Collections acquired *Tractatus de sphaera*, a manuscript written by Oratio Grassi, a leading astronomer in Rome at the height of Galileo's astronomical discoveries.
- A first-ever grant from the GRAMMY Foundation to OU's American Organ Institute Archive and Library allowed for the preservation and public access to a unique organ recording collection. The collection consists of 760 original and irreplaceable master organ player rolls produced by the Möller Pipe Organ Company in the early 1920s.
- 2014 OU was the only Big 12 university selected as having one of America's 25 most beautiful campuses.
- The Radar Innovations Laboratory was dedicated in a public ceremony.
- The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History was awarded the 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service.
- The first ever anaerobic structural biology program in the United States was created. The OU-Einstein Research Consortium's focus would be on advancing groundbreaking research with biomedical relevance in an unexplored area and would establish an Institute of Structural Biology in the Stephenson Life Sciences Research Center on OU's Research Campus.

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- 2014 The lower level of the Neustadt Wing of Bizzell Memorial Library was renovated to create the Peggy V. Helmerich Collaborative Learning Center.
- OU was selected to serve as Secretariat for the U.S. Department of State's Diplomacy Lab program. As Secretariat, OU would serve as the coordinator for all universities selected to participate in the nationwide program.
- The University of Oklahoma achieved an 80 percent graduation rate overall for student-athletes, the highest mark ever recorded by the Sooners since the NCAA began tracking this data.
- 2015 OU became the first public university in U.S. history to be ranked No. 1 in freshman National Merit Scholars enrolled.
- The College of Nursing was named in honor of OU alumni Fran and Earl Ziegler of Dallas, Texas.
- OU-Tulsa opened the Tandy Education Center, a \$6.4 million, state-of the art simulation and education facility.
- OU's Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art exhibited a collection of 20 sculpted busts from the world's oldest museum, the Capitoline in Rome. It was the first time that collection had ever been exhibited in the United States.
- The Elsie C. Brackett Theatre, a renovated theater in the Rupel J. Jones Fine Arts Center that was originally completed in 1965, opened in October.
- OU dedicated the newly renovated Hester Hall, home of the OU College of International Studies, in a public ceremony in April.
- 2016 OU was the only public university in U.S. history to ever rank first among both public and private universities in the number of freshman National Merit Scholars.
- OU had the academically highest ranked student body at a public university in Oklahoma history.
- OU achieved an all-time record freshman-to-sophomore retention rate of 90 percent, ranking OU among the top universities in the nation.
- OU was the only public university in Oklahoma to be included in the Fiske Guide to Colleges, which lists the top 10 percent of all U.S. universities.
- OU has produced 29 Rhodes Scholars; no other university in Oklahoma has had more than three.
- OU is the only university in the nation, public or private, whose students have won Goldwater, Mitchell, Truman, Rhodes, Marshall, Fulbright and National Security Education Program scholarships in the same year.
- Hester Hall, home of the College of International Studies, was renamed as Farzaneh Hall and the Iranian Studies Program was renamed as Farzaneh Family Center for Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies.
- For the first time in the history of OU College of Medicine in Tulsa, all four years of medical school were offered at the Schusterman Center through the OU-TU School of Community Medicine.
- 2017 In January, David Boren began his 50th year of public service, as governor of Oklahoma, U.S. Senator, member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and as OU president. In September, Boren announced plans to retire as president, effective June 30, 2018.
- For the second year in a row, OU set an all-time record in freshman-to-sophomore retention. Of first-year students entering OU in Fall 2016, 92.1 percent returned for their sophomore year in fall 2018.
- OU was ranked among the top institutions in the nation, both public and private, for its online degree programs, according to U.S. News & World Report.
- The OU-Tulsa Office of Community Engagement was established.

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- 2017 For the second year in a row, OU was a recipient of the 2017 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award, the only national award honoring individual colleges or universities for their outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion across their campuses
- OU's first Residential Colleges, Dunham College and Headington College, were dedicated. Patterned after those at Harvard, Yale, Oxford and Cambridge, OU was the first university in the state and one of the first public universities in the nation to adopt the residential college model.
- Bizzell Memorial Library, built in 1929, was named among 18 stunning university libraries around the world, according to Architectural Digest. OU was the only Big 12 University to be recognized.
- The Graduate School of Business at the Michael F. Price College of Business was named in honor of H.E. "Gene" Rainbolt.
- The A. Max Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre was recognized as one of the top musical theatre programs in the country by American Theatre magazine. OU was the only school in Oklahoma and the only school in the Big 12 to be selected.
- The Sam Noble Museum received the prestigious 2017 University Museums and Collections Award from the International Council of Museums, which was presented in Helsinki, Finland. The museum program recognized for the award was the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, a program that for 15 years has reached thousands of young Native Americans across Oklahoma and the Southwest.
- The University of Oklahoma was 2017's Big 12 Conference Champion of the College and University Green Power Challenge for using more green power than any other school in the conference, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rankings.
- The College of Liberal Studies was renamed the College of Professional and Continuing Studies.
- 2018 James L. "Jim" Gallogly was named the 14th president of the University of Oklahoma on March 26 and assumed the office on July 1. A 1977 alumnus of the OU College of Law, Gallogly was the first-ever CEO from a Fortune 500 company to lead the University.
- The OU College of Public Health was officially named the Hudson College of Public Health.
- The Stephenson Cancer Center received from the National Cancer Institute the highly-competitive status of "NCI Designation," one of only 69 (top 2%) other cancer centers in the nation to be selected as a Designated Cancer Center by the NCI and the only one in the state of Oklahoma.
- The university dedicated the Dodge Physics Complex and Lin Hall, a new academic building featuring more than 18,000 square feet of research laboratory space and an astronomy observatory on the roof.
- The University of Oklahoma dedicated the Tom Love Innovation Hub.
- Holmberg Hall celebrated its 100th anniversary.
- A year-long celebration of the centennial of the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corp at OU culminated at the OU vs. Army football game.
- OU celebrated the Geostationary Carbon Cycle Observatory project, known as GeoCarb, a science mission to space led by OU and funded by NASA. The mission marked one of the most exceptional accomplishments in OU history.
- OU dedicated the James P. Pappas University Outreach Administration Building.
- 2019 The OU Board of Regents named Joseph Harroz Jr., at the time serving as dean of OU College of Law, as interim president.
- OU's Class of 2023 was the largest class in the history of the University of Oklahoma. It also was one of OU's most diverse, with more than a third of the students identifying as minorities. Nearly a quarter of the freshman students were first-generation college students.

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2019 The university dedicated the OU Center for Quantum Research and Technology, placing OU and Oklahoma on track to become a leader in quantum technologies.

The Gallogly College of Engineering dedicated the new home of the Stephenson School of Biomedical Engineering.

2020 The OU Board of Regents unanimously voted to name Joseph Harroz Jr. the university's 15th president.

The OU Board of Regents approved "Lead On, University" – OU's Strategic Plan for the Norman campus, which defined a clear plan for the university's future and comprehensive strategies to achieve it.

The university did not miss a single day of instruction when it became necessary to suddenly shift classes online in the middle of the spring semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the summer, staff and faculty worked tirelessly to welcome back students and resume in-person classes for the fall semester. A number of comprehensive health and safety measures were introduced, including the appointment of a Chief COVID Officer to guide OU's decision-making and planning; requiring face masks; modifying class schedules and learning spaces to accommodate social distancing; and much more. OU also launched a number of proactive strategies to mitigate the spread of the virus on campus, including a COVID-19 testing program for residential students and an online dashboard providing regular public health updates.

OU announced the launch of OU Online, a central division delivering the university's online graduate degree programs and expanding OU's ability to reach students in Oklahoma and beyond. Designed for adult learners seeking career advancement, OU Online's programs offered specialized graduate degrees in a variety of professional fields.

OU transitioned to a test-optional admissions process, making OU the first public university in the state to adopt a multiyear, test-optional undergraduate admissions policy.

For the first time in its 130-year history, OU held virtual graduation ceremonies in May and December to celebrate the Class of 2020. The changes were necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic and marked the end of a unique academic experience for graduates, who were invited to participate in OU's in-person graduation ceremonies planned for May 2021.

The OU Health Sciences Center and OU Medicine announced the launch of OU Health – a new, unified brand identity for the combined clinical enterprises of OUHSC and OU's hospital partner.

For the seventh time in the past eight years, OU was awarded the Davis Cup in recognition of its record-setting enrollment of Davis United World College international freshmen.

OU entered an agreement to develop a joint research program with the Universidad Nacional de San Agustín, one of Peru's largest and oldest public research universities, sponsoring research collaborations to study global grand challenges including COVID-19, cancer therapy, public health monitoring and climate impacts.

OU completed renovations to the historic Armory.

Sources: 1) Gittinger, Roy. (1942). *The University of Oklahoma, A History of Fifty Years, 1892-1942*. The University of Oklahoma Press.

2) Long, Charles F. and Carolyn G. Hart. (1980). *The Sooner Story, Ninety Years at the University of Oklahoma, 1890-1990*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Foundation.

3) Marketing and Communications, University of Oklahoma.

4) Office of Development, University of Oklahoma.