

**TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**  
*A Brief Profile*

Texas Southern University was established on March 3, 1947 by the fiftieth Texas Legislature. Although originally founded as the Texas State University for Negroes, it became the first state-supported institution in the City of Houston. In 1951 the institution was renamed Texas Southern University (TSU). Although the University was initially established to educate African-Americans, it has become one of the most ethnically diverse institutions in the state. Additionally, its focus and mission has significantly evolved since those early years from a comprehensive generalist focus to an institution focused on the unique needs of an urban clientele. So much so, that in 1973 the Texas Legislature recognized TSU's involvement in programs and services particularly suited to the needs of urban residents by designating the institution as "a special purpose institution for urban programming."

Thus, TSU has undergone significant change over its brief 57-year history. Nevertheless, it has remained a special attraction for African-Americans. The institution now distinguishes itself as one of the leading producers of African-American scholars that obtain collegiate, professional, and graduate degrees in the state as well as in the nation.

Since its inception, TSU has awarded over 40,878 degrees. It presently offers 78 baccalaureate degree programs; 41 master's degree programs; the Doctor of Education degree in three programs; the Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Toxicology; and two graduate professional degrees (the Doctor of Pharmacy and the Doctor of Jurisprudence).

TSU is housed on a single campus in Houston's central city. It has over 40 buildings occupying over 114.63 acres. Among the buildings are separate facilities for two professional schools; a music recital hall, acclaimed for its acoustics; a performance theater; university art museum; a health and physical education complex, containing a 7,200-seat arena; a student center; and dormitories. The University's Robert J. Terry Library has a collection of over 759,568 holdings. Additionally, the University owns a 25,000-watt FM radio station that serves as a teaching and learning laboratory and as an educational link to the community at large. The total assets for TSU exceed \$250 million.





## Texas Southern University

### *Historical Highlights*

<b>1947</b>	Texas Southern University became the first publicly supported University in Houston. The University was originally founded as Texas State University for Negroes.
<b>1948</b>	Dr. R. O'Hara Lanier, U.S. Minister to Liberia, was appointed as the first president of Texas Southern University.
<b>1950</b>	Texas Southern University awarded its first Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the Law School.
<b>1951</b>	By legislative enactment, Texas State University for Negroes was renamed Texas Southern University.
<b>1955</b>	Dr. Samuel M. Nabrit was appointed the second president of Texas Southern University.  Texas Southern University obtained accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the Texas Education Agency, and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.  The Law School was approved by the State Board of Law Examiners and by the American Bar Association. The School of Pharmacy was accredited by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education.
<b>1966</b>	Dr. Joseph A. Pierce was appointed acting president. Dr. Pierce became Texas Southern University's third president.
<b>1967</b>	Student protest during the turbulent 1960s lead to a violent confrontation with Houston police on the Texas Southern University campus. One policeman was killed and many students were arrested. The incident lead many to call for the immediate closure of Texas Southern University due to the inability of the University's administration to control the behavior of its students.
<b>1968</b>	Dr. Granville M. Sawyer was appointed the fourth president of Texas Southern University.



**Texas Southern University**  
*Historical Highlights*  
(Continued)

- 1973** Due to its continually evolving urban focus, the Texas Legislature designated Texas Southern University as a “Special Purpose Institution for Urban Programming”.
- 1978** The College of Education awarded Texas Southern University’s first Doctor of Education degree.
- 1979** Mr. Everett O. Bell was appointed acting president.
- 1980** Dr. Leonard H. O. Spearman was appointed the fifth president of Texas Southern University.
- 1986** Dr. Robert J. Terry became the University’s sixth president.
- The College of Pharmacy awarded Texas Southern University’s first Doctor of Pharmacy degree.
- 1987** Dr. William H. Harris was appointed Texas Southern University’s seventh president.
- 1993** Dr. Joann Horton became Texas Southern University’s first female president as she was appointed the University’s eighth president.
- 1995** Mr. James M. Douglas, Esq., was appointed acting president. He was later appointed the University’s ninth president.
- 1998** Texas Southern University awarded its first Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology.
- 1999** Dr. Priscilla Slade was appointed acting president of Texas Southern University. She was later appointed the University’s tenth president.



# Texas Southern University

## *Spring 2004 Facts in Brief*

Location:	<b>Houston, TX</b>		
Total Students:	10,567	Library Holdings:	
Full-time	8,592	Volumes	759,569
Part-time	1,975	Periodicals	1,700
Gender:		Government Documents	1,245
Male	4,353	Residency Status:	
Female	6,214	In-state	9,253
Ethnic Origin:		Out-of-state	908
African American	9,144	Foreign	372
Hispanic	404	Unspecified	34
White	244	Top 5 Counties:	
Other	775	Harris	6,523
Classification:		Fort Bend	640
Freshman	3,897	Dallas	596
Sophomore	2,023	Jefferson	215
Junior	1,332	Tarrant	196
Senior	1,370		
Graduate/Professional	1,945		
Average Age:	26		
Undergraduate	24		
Graduate/Professional	33		



# **Texas Southern University**

## ***Mission Statement***

The designation of Texas Southern University as “a special purpose institution of higher education for urban programming” provides a foundation for its programmatic goals. Ascribing to the global implications of its urban mission, the University focuses on high-quality teaching, research and public service as a means of preparing students for leadership roles in the urban communities of our state, nation, and world. Texas Southern University offers a variety of academic programs to students of diverse backgrounds and various levels of scholastic achievement. These students matriculate in undergraduate and graduate programs leading to degrees in the Schools of Arts and Sciences, Public Affairs, Education, Business, Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Law, Pharmacy and Technology.

A special challenge of the institutional mission is the open access philosophy which affords admission to broad categories of students—from the academically under- prepared to the intellectually gifted. In support of this concept, faculty develop special programs and create an appropriate intellectual climate for individuals who are not included in traditional university missions. The expected educational outcomes of all academic programs are that students will possess an appreciation for humanistic values, acquire effective use of communicative skills, and develop an appreciation for and competency in the use of technology in daily living. These educational outcomes are periodically assessed to ensure the quality of the educational experience. As the result of matriculating at Texas Southern University, students gain the personal confidence and capability to succeed in the global workplace.



In fulfilling its purpose, Texas Southern University is committed to the following: maintaining an innovative, productive, and receptive learning environment; implementing initiatives to ensure a suitable environment for research and other scholarly activities; and infusing new technological advances into its infrastructure and academic programs.

