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

Texas Southern University was established on March 3, 1947, by the fiftieth Texas Legislature. Originally designated 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 a focus on the unique needs of an urban clientele. As a result, 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 "a special purpose institution for urban programming."

Thus, TSU has undergone significant change over its brief 59-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 42,749 degrees. It presently offers 53 baccalaureate degree programs, 36 master's degree programs, the Doctor of Education degree in three programs, the Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Toxicology, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Urban Planning and Environmental Policy, 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 and occupies 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; the 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 802,107 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 of TSU exceed \$250 million.



## Texas Southern University

### *Historical Highlights*

- 1947** Texas Southern University became the first publicly supported University in Houston. The University was originally founded as Texas State University for Negroes.
- 1948** Dr. R. O'Hara Lanier, U.S. Minister to Liberia, was appointed as the first president of Texas Southern University.
- 1950** Texas Southern University awarded its first Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the School of Law.
- 1951** By legislative enactment, Texas State University for Negroes was renamed Texas Southern University.
- 1955** 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 School of Law 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.
- 1966** Dr. Joseph A. Pierce was appointed acting president. Dr. Pierce later became the third president of Texas Southern University.
- 1967** Student protest during the turbulent 1960s led 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 closing of Texas Southern University because of the "inability of the University's administration to control the behavior of its students."



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

- 1968** Dr. Granville M. Sawyer was appointed the fourth president of Texas Southern University.
- 1973** Because of its continuously 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 sixth president of Texas Southern University.  
The College of Pharmacy awarded Texas Southern University’s first Doctor of Pharmacy degree.
- 1987** Dr. William H. Harris was appointed the seventh president of Texas Southern University.
- 1993** Dr. Joann Horton was appointed the eighth president of Texas Southern University and its first female president.
- 1995** Mr. James M. Douglas, Esq., was appointed acting president. He was later appointed the ninth president of Texas Southern University
- 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 tenth president of Texas Southern University.
- 2006** General James T. Boddie, Jr. was appointed interim president of Texas Southern University.
- 2008** Dr. John M. Rudley was appointed the eleventh president of Texas Southern University



## Texas Southern University

### *Spring 2008 Facts in Brief*

Location: **Houston, TX**

Total Students	8,920	Residency Status	
Full-time	6,554	In-state	7,573
Part-time	2,366	Out-of-state	1,105
Gender		Foreign	241
Male	3,615	Unspecified	1
Female	5,305		
Ethnic Origin		Top Five Counties Represented	
African American	7,523	Harris	5,298
Hispanic	415	Fort Bend	555
White	244	Dallas	383
Other	738	Tarrant	186
Classification		Jefferson	160
Freshman	2,233		
Sophomore	1,471		
Junior	1,450		
Senior	1,810		
Graduate/Professional	1,956		
Average Age			
Undergraduate	24		
Graduate/Professional	31		



## **Texas Southern University**

### ***Mission Statement***

In fulfilling its mission and 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.



TSU

