



Milestones and Recognitions

Since its inception, University of Phoenix has participated in 30 accreditation visits by regional accrediting bodies, 35 evaluations by state education agencies, and undergone 10 administrative reviews by the U.S. Department of Education. In addition to the University's commitment to academic quality, University of Phoenix is dedicated to social responsibility as demonstrated through a variety of recognitions. This historical perspective illustrates why University of Phoenix is an innovator, and the leader in higher education.

1976

- John Sperling founds University of Phoenix in Phoenix, Arizona.

1977

- The first classes are held at the Phoenix Campus.

1978

- The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association grants accreditation to University of Phoenix. The accreditation was reaffirmed in 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002. The next comprehensive evaluation visit by The Higher Learning Commission will be conducted in 2012.

1980

- The first interstate expansion occurs in San Jose with the establishment of the Northern California Campus.

1981

- The Phoenix Campus conducts the first graduation commencement ceremony.

1987

- The National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission grants accreditation to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

1989

- University of Phoenix establishes the Online Campus.

1991

- The first commencement ceremony is held for Online graduates.

1993

- University of Phoenix offers a post baccalaureate certificate program in teacher education.

1994

- Apollo Group, Inc., parent company of University of Phoenix, goes public with initial public offering on NASDAQ.

1995

- University Library Online Collection debuts, making library resources directly available to students over the Internet 24-hours a day.
- The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs accredits the Community Counseling specialization in the Master of Counseling program.
- The National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission accredits the Master of Science in Nursing program.
- The Nursing Honor Society is formed and inducts 166 members.

1997

- University of Phoenix becomes the largest private university in the country (in enrollment).
- Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) recognizes the University as an exemplar of "Good Practices in Distance Education."

1998

- The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association approves the Doctor of Management Program in Organizational Leadership.
- The first international expansion occurs with the establishment of the Vancouver Campus in British Columbia, Canada.
- Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) recognizes the University as an exemplary institution for "Ensuring Quality in Distance Education."
- American Productivity and Quality Center (APQC) honors the University as a Best Practices Partner in "Assessing Learning Outcomes."
- The Nursing Honor Society receives its charter and Greek name—Omicron Delta—from Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing.

1999

- Phoenix Campus is awarded the "Arizona State Quality Award" similar in requirements to the famous "Malcolm Baldrige" quality award.
- Psi Omega Pi is established at the Phoenix Campus and initiates 225 members (Psi Omega Pi is the University's chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, an international honor society that recognizes academic and clinical excellence in counseling).

2000

- Enrollment at University of Phoenix reaches 100,000 students.

2001

- Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs grants the Mental Health Counseling specialization for the Master of Counseling program.
- Debut of rEsource, the platform for the delivery of electronic course materials.

- University of Phoenix participates in the "Project Good Work" study being conducted by researchers from Harvard, Stanford, and Claremont Graduate University, and is selected for excellence in undergraduate education.

2002

- The Higher Learning Commission approves offering of three additional doctoral programs which initiates the founding of The School of Advanced Studies.
- Economist Intelligence Unit awards the Global Achievement Award for Innovation to the University in recognition of the Online Campus.
- University of Phoenix offers Master of Arts in Education with a specialization in Teacher Education.
- University of Phoenix is named the winner of Global Achievement Award for Innovation by Economist Intelligence Unit in recognition of leadership, creativity, success and contribution to our students' lives, despite turbulent economic times.

2003

- Enrollment reaches more than 200,000 students in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada.
- University of Phoenix holds the first classes for the Doctor of Educational Leadership, the Doctor of Business Administration, and the Doctor of Health Administration programs.
- University of Phoenix participates in an American Association for Higher Education (AAHE) project "Best Practices: Toward an Enlarged Understanding of Scholarship"—funded by the Carnegie Foundation and presented at AAHE 2003 winter meeting.
- New Media Consortium selects University of Phoenix as a designated New Media Center. Since 1993, approximately only 125 institutions have been selected for this designation, which denotes an organization deeply committed to expanding the boundaries of teaching, learning and creative expression.

2004

- University of Phoenix offers programs on military bases in Europe and Asia Pacific theaters.
- Debut of the eBook Collection, a library of hundreds of books available for students to search, browse, and read.
- Debut of WritePointSM, a sophisticated automated grammar, style, and composition evaluation tool included as part of the Center for Writing Excellence, available from the student website.
- The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Administration approves Bachelor of Science in Education/Elementary Teacher Education program.

2005

- University of Phoenix receives of the Western Cooperative for Education Telecommunications WOW (WCET Outstanding Work) Award for the work done with rEsouce, specifically for the Virtual Organizations, Simulations, and the eBook Collection.
- WritePointSM receives millionth paper for review.
- The College of Graduate Business implements problem-based learning in the Master of Business Administration program.

2006

- University of Phoenix integrates Axia College into its academic structure, offering six associate degree programs.

- The Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education accredits College of Health and Human Services nursing programs.
- Dr. John Sperling establishes the University of Phoenix Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to increase access to education, especially for underrepresented and low-income students traditionally under-served by the education continuum, in an effort to provide a pathway for economic advancement.
- The Glendale, Arizona National Football League venue, home of the Arizona Cardinals football team, is named after University of Phoenix, representing the first time an NFL venue is named after an educational institution.

2007

- According to *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, University of Phoenix ranks No. 1 in graduating master's degree students from underrepresented populations.
- *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* ranks the University of Phoenix No. 1 in African American and American Indian students graduating with master's degrees in all disciplines combined in its annual Top 100 Graduate Degree Producers report.
- The Higher Learning Commission approves two new Ph.D. programs in Industrial/Organizational Psychology and Higher Education Administration.
- The School of Advanced Studies becomes the host college for the *Journal of Leadership Studies*, a quarterly academic journal which provides opportunities for doctoral learners, faculty members and others to publish their research.

2008

- The National Research Center is formed to drive continued significant and innovative research initiatives in teaching and learning among adult students in higher education.
- Military Advanced Education names University of Phoenix as one of the country's top 20 colleges and universities—a distinction for setting the gold standard in military-friendly policies.
- The University of Phoenix is among the top ten colleges and universities that utilize green power, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. The green power purchase propels the University to No. 7 on the EPA's Green Partner list.
- The *Journal of Leadership Studies*, a journal of the School of Advanced Studies published by Wiley, wins in the category of New Magazines and Journals at the twentieth Annual Awards for Publication Excellence.
- University of Phoenix receives the Crescordia Award at Valley Forward's 28th annual Environmental Excellence Awards for excellence in sustainability and communication efforts.
- According to data aggregated from *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, more minority students earn degrees from University of Phoenix than from any other university in the nation.
- The Houston Campus is recognized for Workplace Flexibility and Effectiveness and is selected winner of the prestigious 2008 Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility.
- The National American Red Cross awards the Circle of Humanitarian Award to Apollo Group, Inc. a top honor in recognition of commitment and contribution to the Red Cross mission.

2009

- Apollo Group, Inc. debuts at number 78 on Corporate Responsibility Officer Magazine's 10th annual 100 Best Corporate Citizens List®.
- Eta Theta proceeds as a chapter of the Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society.

- The severely Injured Veterans scholarship program is recognized, by U.S. Army, as a national best practice in support of military members and their families.
- *The Best/Worst in Online Education* ranks University of Phoenix second out of over 140 online universities according to the Five Point Rating System. Each school was also reviewed individually and University of Phoenix received the highest rating on the five point rating scale.
- Apollo Group, Inc. is chosen as one of Computerworld's 100 Best Places to Work in IT.
- University of Phoenix is named a Winner of the CivilianJobs.com Most Valued Employer ("MVE") for Military Award.
- University of Phoenix is named a Military Friendly School for 2010 by G.I. Jobs magazine. This honor ranks the University in the top 15% of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide.