

Yale University
Milestones in the Education of Women at Yale

<u>Year</u>	
1701	Charter of the Collegiate School passed by the General Court of the Colony of Connecticut, "of the founding, suitably endowing & ordering a Collegiate School ... wherein Youth may be instructed in the Arts & Sciences...through the blessing of Almighty God."
1783	Lucinda Foot, age twelve, examined by President Ezra Stiles and found "that were it not for her sex, she would be considered fit to be admitted as a student in the freshman class of Yale University."
1869	Yale School of the Fine Arts, the first coeducational school at Yale, opened.
1886	First woman received a degree from the Yale Law School, Alice Rufie Blake Jordan. As she applied using initials, it was assumed she was a man. The rules for admission were then revised, and women were not officially admitted until 1919.
1891	The degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts conferred for the first time. The recipient was Josephine Miles Lewis.
1892	Women admitted to the Yale Graduate School.
1894	First group of women awarded Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Yale. At the 1894 Commencement, seven of the twenty-one Ph.D. degree recipients were women.
1905	First woman "Assistant in Instruction" was Florence Bingham Kinne, in Pathology Department.
1910	First honorary degree awarded to a woman, Jane Addams.
1916	Women admitted to the Yale School of Medicine.
1916	First woman "Lecturer" was Anna Maria Rhoda Erdmann, in Biology Department.
1919	School of Law officially enrolls women.
1920	First law degree awarded to a woman after official enrollment, Shirley M. Moore.
1920	First medical degree awarded to a woman, Louise Farnam Wilson.
1920	First woman professor (assistant) was Catherine Turner Bryce in Elementary Education.
1922	Degree of Doctor of Public Health (first awarded in 1920) awarded to a woman, Helen R. Gage.
1923	Yale School of Nursing established. Annie Goodrich appointed the first female dean at Yale.
1923	Drama School opened as a department of the School of the Fine Arts and immediately accepted women.
1926	First Yale degree awarded to an African American woman, Otelia Cromwell, Doctor of Philosophy.
1934	Women admitted to the Yale Divinity School.
1952	First woman received tenure, Bessie Lee Gambrill in the Department of Education.
1959	First woman received tenure in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.
1965	Women faculty members appointed fellows of the residential colleges for the first time.
1966	Women admitted to the School of Forestry.
1968	"Coeducation Plan" approved by the faculty.
1969	230 women entered the freshman class and 358 women transfer students registered in Yale College.
1970	First Women's Studies course taught, "Women in a Male Society."
1970	First woman residential college dean appointed (in Morse and Saybrook Colleges).
1971	First women named to serve on the Yale Corporation, Hanna Gray and Marian Wright Edelman.
1971	First woman master of a residential college appointed, Katherine Lustman.
1971	First women (transfer students) graduated from Yale College.
1973	First class of women undergraduates graduated, 177 of the original 230 female freshmen.
1974	First woman appointed officer of the University (provost), Hanna Gray.
1977	First woman to serve as University president (acting), Hanna Gray.
1981	Women's Studies major approved by the faculty.
1991	First woman appointed dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Judith Rodin.
2002	First artist and first Asian American woman to serve on the Yale Corporation, Maya Lin.

Source: Judith Schiff, Sterling Memorial Library, Manuscripts and Archives

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Enrollment Milestones in the Education of Yale Women

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