TIMELINE
For Seventh-day Adventist Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>1853</td>
<td>Martha Byington, daughter of future General Conference (GC) President John Byington, opens the first-known church school for Sabbatarian Adventists in Buck’s Bridge, New York.</td>
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<td>1872</td>
<td>In Battle Creek, Michigan, Goodloe Harper Bell opens the first school sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Ellen G. White writes her seminal essay, “Proper Education,” which appears in installment form in <em>The Health Reformer</em> and later in <em>Testimonies for the Church</em>, volume 3.</td>
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<td>1874</td>
<td>Battle Creek College, the first Adventist college, opens with Sidney Brownsberger as president. It enrolls both male and female students. In order to provide oversight for its new program of education, the General Conference organizes the Educational Society, incorporated in Michigan.</td>
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<td>1881</td>
<td>The first Adventist textbook, <em>A Natural Method in English</em>, is produced by Goodloe Harper Bell.</td>
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<td>1882</td>
<td>The church opens its second college program, Healdsburg College, in northern California.</td>
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<td>1883</td>
<td>The church’s first school of nursing opens at Battle Creek Sanitarium, operated by Drs. Kate Lindsay and Ann Stewart under the auspices of Dr. John Harvey Kellogg.</td>
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<td>1887</td>
<td>The General Conference creates the office of Secretary of Education, appointing W. W. Prescott to the position in addition to his responsibilities as president of Battle Creek College.</td>
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<td>1888</td>
<td>The church’s first teachers’ institute convenes in Battle Creek.</td>
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<td>1891</td>
<td>The Harbor Springs (Michigan) Teachers’ Institute meets, the first convention for all North American teachers. Its approximately 100 attendees initiate the first reforms in Adventist education, advocating that the Bible be the center of all curricula.</td>
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<td>1893</td>
<td>Claremont Union College, the first Adventist college outside of the United States, opens in Kenilworth, South Africa.</td>
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<td>1895</td>
<td>Battle Creek Sanitarium establishes the first Adventist school of medicine, American Medical Missionary College, with John Harvey Kellogg as president. James Edson White begins the first church school for African-Americans aboard the <em>Morning Star</em>, in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Workers from South Africa and North America establish Solusi Mission in Matabeleland after receiving a grant of 12,000 acres of land from Cecil Rhodes to educate Africans.</td>
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<td>1896</td>
<td>Oakwood Industrial School opens in Huntsville, Alabama, as a training school for African-Americans after GC President O. A. Olsen personally leads a commission to prepare buildings and land. Battle Creek College establishes the first Adventist teacher-preparation de-</td>
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partment, led by Frederick Griggs.

1897 Avondale School for Christian Workers (the future Avondale College), begins classes in Cooranbong, Australia, with C. B. Hughes as principal.

E. A. Sutherland, president of Battle Creek College, launches the “Movement of ’97,” which dramatically increases the number of church schools.

1898 N. Z. Town founds the first worker-training school in South America, the forerunner of River Plate Adventist University, at Las Tunas, Entre Ríos, Argentina. Frank Westphal and fellow workers later re-establish the school near Diamante.

1899 Missionseminar Friedensau, the predecessor of Friedensau Adventist University, offers its first classes on an old estate, Klappermuhle, near Magdeburg, Germany.

1900 P. T. Magan begins a campaign to eliminate the debts of Adventist schools and other institutions. Ellen White donates the proceeds from the sale of Christ’s Object Lessons to raise money for schools.

Teachers from North America’s 220 elementary schools gather at Battle Creek, Michigan, for the church’s first institute for church school teachers.

1901 The General Conference creates the Educational Department with John Harvey Kellogg as chairman and P. T. Magan as secretary.


George McCready Price publishes Outlines of Modern Science and Christianity, the first Adventist book offering scientific support for creationism.

1903 Ellen White publishes Education, the leading Adventist treatise on education. It becomes a leading source for college classes on principles of Christian education.

1904 E. A. Sutherland and P. T. Magan launch the Nashville (Tennessee) Agricultural and Normal Institute, the beginning of the self-supporting educational movement in the American South.

Ida Thompson establishes the first Adventist school in China, Bethel Girls’ School in Canton, which later evolves into Hong Kong Adventist College.

Buresala Training School (the forerunner of Fulton College) opens in Fiji for Pacific Islanders.

1905 The Southern California Conference buys a resort hotel that will become Loma Linda University and, the following year, opens a school of nursing.

The General Conference adopts a “harmonious system of education” that integrates elementary, secondary, and college levels and articulates teaching materials and manuals. The GC Educa-
tional Department becomes the Department of Education.

1906 Pacific Press publishes the first Adventist church school manual.

1907 Washington Training College in Takoma Park, Maryland, becomes the Washington Foreign Missionary Seminary with H. R. Salisbury as president.

Sam Yuk Shin Hak Tai Hak (Korean School for Boys), forerunner of Sahmyook University, opens in Soonan.

Pacific Press begins to publish the True Education Reader Series, graded reading books for elementary schools authored by Adventists.

1909 The College of Medical Evangelists (CME) receives a charter to operate schools of medicine and dentistry, and admits its first class of medical students.

Pacific Press begins publishing Alma McKibbin's Bible Lessons, a graded series of Bible textbooks for elementary schools.

Frederick Griggs establishes the Fireside Correspondence School, which later becomes Home Study International and Griggs University.

Christian Education, the first denomination-wide periodical about education, begins publication with Frederick Griggs as editor. Thirty years later, it becomes the Journal of True Education, the forerunner of the Journal of Adventist Education.

1910 Three seminaries for Scandinavian- and German-speaking Adventist students open in Minnesota, Missouri, and Illinois.

1911 CME receives a “C” rating from the American Medical Association, sparking a 25-year debate over accreditation.

1912 Manuel Camacho collaborates with Fernando and Ana Stahl to build La Platería Mission in Peru, the first of a system of mission schools that helped to transform society among Andean tribespeople.

1915 Adventist Seminary in Brazil starts classes with 18 students and J. H. Boehm as director. It later becomes Brazil Adventist University.

South India Training School (forerunner of Spicer Memorial College) opens in Coimbatore under the direction of G. G. Lowry.

1917 Philippine Seventh-day Adventist Academy (later the Adventist University of the Philippines) opens.

1918 Denton Rebok conducts the church’s first teachers’ institute in China.

1919 West Indian Training School, the first permanent worker-training school in the Caribbean and forerunner of Northern Caribbean University, opens in Mandeville, Jamaica.

1921 Seminaire Adventiste du Salève opens in Collonges-sous-Salève, France, and serves for many years as the church’s primary worker-preparation school for French-speaking Adventists.

1922 The GC Department of Education designates assistant and associate secretaries for elementary, secondary, and higher education. Sarah Peck be-

Built by student physicians, the first School of Medicine building at the College of Medical Evangelists in Loma Linda, California, included administrative offices for the president, a faculty room, a small library, and classrooms.

Administration building at Seminaire Adventiste du Saleve in France, about 1972.

comes the first female member of the department, assigned to elementary education.

The Far Eastern Branch of the Fireside Correspondence School, the first branch outside the United States, opens in Shanghai, China.

1923 W. E. Howell, GC Secretary of Education, conducts the first world council for Adventist educators in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

1928 The Association of Seventh-day Adventist Colleges and Secondary Schools is formed with its executive arm, the Board of Regents, to accredit Adventist schools.

1930 The General Conference drafts a position statement on creationism and authorizes a program of research and publication to refute evolution. Science and math teachers in North American colleges meet to begin discussions of creationism.
1932  Pacific Union College earns accreditation from the Board of Regents, the first Adventist college to obtain denominational accreditation.

Philippine Junior College becomes Philippine Union College, the first Adventist four-year degree-granting institution outside North America.

1933  Pacific Union College is awarded accreditation by Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools, the first Adventist college to be regionally accredited.

1934  The Advanced Bible School (forerunner of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary) is organized at Pacific Union College, in Angwin, California.

1936  After heated debate, GC session delegates approve of regional accreditation for Adventist colleges.

1937  GC Education Secretary H. A. Morrison conducts the Blue Ridge Educational Convention, the second (and last) world council for Adventist educators.

1939  Adventist College of Beirut, the only Adventist postsecondary institution in the Islamic Middle East and forerunner of Middle East College, opens with G. A. Keogh as president.

1941  The Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary moves into new and separate quarters in Takoma Park, Maryland.

1942  Colegio Agricola Industrial Mexicana (forerunner of Montemorelos University), begins classes at Montemorelos, Mexico.

The church establishes the Hispanic-American Seminary in Corrales, New Mexico, to serve the Spanish-speaking U.S. population.

The world church authorizes its seminary to grant Master's degrees.

1944  Spicer College (Pune, India) becomes the second Adventist four-year, postsecondary institution outside North America.

1946  Union College inaugurates the church’s first baccalaureate program of nursing education.
1947  Education resumes at Friedensau, East Germany, after having been closed during World War II.

1950  China Training Institute closes following the Communist Revolution.

1952  Philippine Union College becomes the first Adventist school outside the United States to receive authority to offer graduate courses.

1953  The first class enrolls in the School of Dentistry at CME.

The General Conference makes the Master’s degree the standard academic preparation for ministers.

1954  Solusi Training School (Zimbabwe) becomes Solusi Missionary College, the first four-year, postsecondary program for Africans.

Australasian Missionary College affiliates with Pacific Union College, inaugurating the era of international affiliations among Adventist schools.

The Board of Regents extends its accrediting authority beyond North America, the inception of international denominational accreditation.

1957  The GC organizes Potomac University in Takoma Park, Maryland, for ministerial training.

The GC establishes the Geoscience Research Institute.

Philippine Union College becomes the first non-American Adventist institution to receive authority from the General Conference to offer Master’s degrees (education).

1958  The GC approves the merger of Potomac University and Emmanuel Missionary College in Berrien Springs, Michigan. A new name, Andrews University, is selected two years later.

CME grants the first Adventist Ph.D. (medical sciences).

1959  Columbia Union College and Sligo church (both in Takoma Park, Maryland) combine to send the church’s first student missionary.

1961  CME changes its name to Loma Linda University (LLU).

1963  Loma Linda University Overseas Heart Surgery Team begins a program of treating international heart patients in their home countries.

1965  Administrators of Adventist colleges and universities adopt a statement of academic freedom that prohibits classroom instruction contrary to Adventist teachings.

1966  The Academic Conference on Modern Church-State Problems convenes at Andrews University. Attendees challenge the traditional Adventist position on government aid to church-sponsored schools.

1970  Newbold College becomes the first postsecondary school outside North America to achieve accreditation by the church’s Board of Regents.

1972  The theological seminary begins to offer its first doctoral program (doctor of ministry).

1973  The Vocational and Professional School in Montemorelos, Mexico, receives state authority to issue recognized university degrees. The institution establishes the second Adventist school of medicine.

1974  The General Conference Department of Education begins to issue the Citation of Merit, Award of Excellence, and Medallion of Merit awards.

1978  The theological seminary at Philippine Union College becomes the first recognized division-sponsored seminary outside North America. The institution moves from Caloocan City to its present site in Silang, Cavite.

1979  The South American Division organizes the Latin American Theological Seminary, headquartered in Brasilia, the church’s first division-wide, multi-campus seminary.

1981  The landmark Defence of Government Schools case in Australia establishes the legitimacy of government financial aid for church-sponsored schools in that nation.

1984  Loma Linda University affili-
ates with Kasturba Medical College near Manipal, India, to educate physicians and other healthcare professionals.

1987 The GC Department of Education forms the Institute for Christian Teaching and initiates seminars in every world field to promote the integration of faith and learning.

1988 The Adventist University of Central Africa, serving Francophone Africa, is accredited by the Rwandan government. It becomes the first government-recognized, degree-granting Adventist institution for Africans but closes six years later during civil disturbances. It later reopens as a multi-campus institution.

1989 The Department of Education launches Dialogue, a periodical published in four languages that discusses intellectual issues and is beam to Adventist college and university students, worldwide.

Zaoksky Theological Seminary (Russia) opens as the first educational center for Adventists in the Soviet Union.

1990 LLU Medical Center installs the world’s first hospital-based proton treatment facility.

1991 The University of Eastern Africa, Baraton receives a charter from the Kenyan government, becoming the church’s first tertiary institution for English-speaking Africans with government-recognized, degree-granting authority.

1992 South Korea’s Sahmyook College becomes Sahmyook University; adding a doctorate to its theology curriculum.

1993 The Adventist College in Collegedale, Tennessee, during which he authored the two-volume The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Latin America and the Caribbean (Andrews University Press, 1992).

1994 The church’s Annual Council votes to place ministerial education under the jurisdiction of the divisions as monitored by the International Board of Ministerial and Theological Education.

1995 Solusi College, near Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, receives a charter as a degree-granting university.


1997 The General Conference Department of Education began to confer the Global Award in Adventist Education.

1999 Worldwide enrollment in Adventist schools surpasses one million.

2000 The General Conference organizes a new Commission of Higher Education to develop a global plan for Adventist tertiary institutions.

2001 In Columbia Union College v. Clarke, the court rules that Columbia Union College (Takoma Park, Maryland) may legally receive money from the state of Maryland, using the “neutrality” test rather than the “pervasively sectarian” legal test to determine the eligibility of church-sponsored colleges for government aid.

2002 The number of Adventist elementary schools passes 5,000.

2003 The number of teachers in Adventist secondary schools exceeds 20,000.

2004 The General Conference accept a recommendation from the International Faith and Science Conferences affirming traditional Adventist beliefs about creation.

2005 In the years since 1974, a total of 31 people worldwide have received the Citation of Merit, 130 the Award of Excellence, 43 the Medallion of Distinction, and 13 the Global Award in Adventist Education (1997–).

The Journal of Adventist Education receives its seventh Distinguished Achievement Award (including one Finalist nomination) from the Association of Educational Publishers—two for theme issues; six for feature articles.