1952  On April 9, the Board of Regents votes to admit women into the Georgia Institute of Technology. Elizabeth Herndon and Barbara Diane Michel enroll for the fall quarter, becoming the first women students at Georgia Tech.

1961  Georgia Tech is the first major state university in the Southeast to desegregate without a court order. African American men and women are eligible to enroll at Georgia Tech for the first time.

1965  Ronald Yancey becomes the first African American student to graduate from Georgia Tech.

1968  Women are eligible to enter all of the degree programs at Georgia Tech.

1970  MaryAnn Jackson Wright earns a Ph.D. from the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering. The first African American women students enroll at Georgia Tech.

1972  Dorothy Coswer Yancy becomes Georgia Tech’s first African American female faculty member and would go on to become the first African American professor to receive tenure at Georgia Tech.

1979  Georgia Tech creates OMED: Educational Services, the unit charged with the retention and development of traditionally underrepresented students: African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, and multiracial.

1983  Adesola O. Kujore, a chemical engineering major, becomes the first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. at Georgia Tech.

1992  Georgia Tech creates the Focus Program to attract the nation’s best and brightest students from diverse backgrounds to pursue graduate studies and careers in academia.

1995  Georgia Tech introduces the Women, Science, and Technology minor.


2001  Georgia Tech ranks first in the nation in the graduation of African American engineers at all degree levels, according to Black Issues in Higher Education, and, 40 years after its integration, overall minority student enrollment reaches 34%.

2002  Georgia Tech creates the Office of Hispanic Initiatives.
2003  Hispanics become the fastest growing student group at Georgia Tech.

2008  Gilda Barabino of the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering is appointed the first vice provost of Academic Diversity.

2010  Rafael L. Bras becomes the first Hispanic provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs.
Jacqueline Jones Royster becomes the first African American dean of the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts.
Archie W. Ervin is appointed the first African American vice president for Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

2011  Jane Chumley Ammons, Ph.D. IE 1982, becomes the first woman chair of the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering.
Gary S. May, EE 1985, becomes the first African American dean of the College of Engineering.

2013  Georgia Tech hosts its first Lavender Graduation to celebrate the accomplishments of LGBTQIA graduates at every level.

2014  Aby Parsons becomes the inaugural director of Georgia Tech’s LGBTQIA Resource Center.

2015  Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion expands to create the Staff Diversity, Inclusion, and Engagement unit.
For the first time, women make up 41% of the first-year class, which also sees a 35% increase in the number of African American students.

2016  Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion opens the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion in the renovated Chapin Building.
Georgia Tech announces the Black Student Experience Task Force recommendations and Gender Equity Initiatives to help ensure a welcoming, inclusive campus.

2017  Georgia Tech announces A Path Forward — Together to support the Institute’s commitment to an inclusive, safe, and healthy community.
Georgia Tech receives the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from INSIGHT into Diversity for the fourth consecutive year.

2018  Georgia Tech unveils the Continuing the Conversation sculpture of Rosa Parks at ages 42 and 92 in Harrison Square.
Georgia Tech’s African American Student Union celebrates the 50th anniversary of its founding following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.
CASE honors Georgia Tech’s diversity programs with the Circle of Excellence Awards for the second consecutive year.

2019  Ángel Cabrera – the first Spanish-born president of an American university – becomes the 12th president of Georgia Tech.
Georgia Tech honors the legacy of its first African American students and first African American graduate with Trailblazers: The Struggle and the Promise, bronze statues dedicated and installed on campus.
ADA Compliance and Title IX offices join Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

diversity.gatech.edu