



For Black History Month, we shine our Spotlight on **SIMMONS COLLEGE !**

Get to know Louisville's HCBU, and its rich history of vision, service, and resilience.

In the beginning....

Simmons was founded in 1879 as an institute of learning for those who'd been enslaved. Its namesake, Dr. William Simmons, a former slave, became its 2nd president after helping develop Howard University's teacher training programs. Under Dr. Simmons, the small Bible school expanded to include courses in medicine, law, music, business, and theology. He also encouraged competitive sports and led the effort that resulted in the college becoming a state university. In partnership with the University of Louisville, the University offered professional degrees in nursing and law. Most African Americans in Kentucky who were physicians, teachers, ministers, and lawyers before 1920 had attended Simmons University. Simmons became the only African American higher institution in the nation other than Howard University with both medical and law departments. In 1922, there were over 500 students in attendance.

But then disaster hit....

The University was hard hit by the great depression which caused lowered enrollment resulting in fewer course offerings, less revenue, loss of accreditation, and foreclosure on the original campus. Simmons was forced to move to a smaller location in Louisville's West End.

And now....

In 2003, Dr. Kevin Cosby took the helm, issuing in a period of tremendous growth. Under his leadership, Simmons has bought back and returned to the original campus on 4th Street and resecured its accreditation. Academic programs are increasing and the student population is growing at unprecedented rates.

Learn more about Simmons and the important contributions of HBCUs here.

<https://www.simmonscollegeky.edu/>