

DIGITAL LEARNING INFRASTRUCTURE TIMELINE

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE

Morehouse College is known for providing young men with a rich learning experience steeped in African American history and culture. Until recently, the “Morehouse Experience” happened exclusively on campus. The college has launched an online degree program in business administration stemming from its strategy to provide access for nontraditional students. Morehouse seeks to strengthen and scale this popular program while building digital learning infrastructure (DLI) that not only enables the expansion of online learning for other degrees but also increases efficiency on the administrative side of its academic and student services.

The timeline presents major milestones in Morehouse College’s recent efforts to build its DLI, addressing the major events and contextual factors enabling its DLI to evolve to its current form. It provides insight into the institution’s journey to establish the Office of Online Education and Information Technology Service and bring the “Morehouse Experience” into business administration and future online programs.

2019

DR. MARTHA MADKINS JOINS THE COLLEGE TO ESTABLISH ONLINE PROGRAMS

Dr. Martha Madkins brings years of experience with online education to the College to launch the online Bachelor of Art in Business Administration, which prioritizes nontraditional students who want to complete their degree. Hiring Madkins to develop new online programs demonstrates a commitment to expanding digital learning at Morehouse College.

2020

MOREHOUSE USES ONLINE FORMAT FOR SELECT COURSES (WINTER)

While most courses at Morehouse College take place in person, the college experiments with a few online courses to support student matriculation without the need to be on campus.



2020**COVID-19 PANDEMIC (SPRING)**

While the College is planning for online learning, the COVID-19 pandemic suddenly accelerates the need for digital learning. Students, staff, and faculty find ways to operate virtually. The experience of teaching and learning during the pandemic adds urgency to efforts to expand online learning and instruction.

2021**STRATEGIC PLAN HIGHLIGHTS DIGITAL LEARNING (WINTER)**

A five-year strategic plan for Morehouse College establishes *Morehouse Beyond Borders*, driving increased capacity and expansion of online learning at the College.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION GAINS INSTITUTIONAL APPROVAL (SUMMER)

The online bachelor's degree in business administration gains institutional approval once all faculty teaching courses required for the degree consent to using an online format. Faculty receive training from Morehouse College and 2U to design and teach their new online courses.

OFFICE OF ONLINE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICE TEAM EXPANDS (FALL)

An academic advisor, instructional designer, and instructional technologist join the team to ensure quality of online courses and meet the needs of online students for around-the-clock availability and swift support.

ONLINE BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES (FALL)

The online bachelor's degree in business administration starts with an enrollment of 220 students in August and expands to 330 students by January 2022 for the spring semester.

2022

OFFICE OF ONLINE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICE TEAM EXPANDS AGAIN (SPRING)

Morehouse College uses the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Digital Learning Infrastructure Capacity and Knowledge Sharing grant to increase the capacity of their online learning team by adding an administrative assistant/office coordinator. The position supports coordination and efficiency across the team, faculty, and students.

THE FUTURE

MORE ONLINE PROGRAMS AND SUPPORTS ARE OFFERED AND AUTOMATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES IS EXPANDED

Morehouse College's Office of Online Education and Information Technology Service prepares for the expansion of online degree and certificate programs for nontraditional students. Automation of enrollment and other administrative processes is planned to enable efficiency during this expansion. Supports continue to be implemented for online students, including tutoring, library access, and other resources designed to support student success.

ABOUT THE SERIES

This timeline is the first in a series of knowledge sharing resources created as part of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Digital Learning Infrastructure Capacity and Knowledge Sharing investment. As the learning consultant, Equal Measure partnered with the foundation's Postsecondary Success team and with Howard University, Morehouse College, Paul Quinn College, and UNCF to inform foundation strategy as well as awareness about digital learning infrastructure that drives success for HBCU students specifically and equitable student success in higher education more broadly.