

50 years



Referendum to establish Illinois Community College District #535 passes and founding Board of Trustees is elected.



William A. Koehnline is selected as founding president of the college.

1969



Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the Moon.



Over 400,000 attend the Woodstock Music Festival.



The Beatles break up.

Four protesters of the Vietnam War are killed at Kent State University by National Guard troops.



Oakton becomes the first educational institution in the U.S. to install IBM's most advanced, high speed 370/3031 computer.



Oakton's first classes begin at Morton Grove campus with 832 students enrolled. The campus consists of four factory buildings at Nagle Avenue and Oakton Street.

1970



First graduation ceremony.

1971



170 acres are purchased for the Des Plaines campus, located between the Des Plaines River and a county forest preserve. Site development begins the next year.

1974

Annexation of the Glenbrook and New Trier High School Districts doubles geographic service area to greatly increase the population served.

1977



First classes begin at the new Des Plaines campus.

1980

The college leases and then purchases Niles East High School in Skokie. The campus is then called "Oakton East."



Thomas TenHoeve is inaugurated as second college president.

1984

City of Evanston joins Oakton's district.

1988



The Board of Trustees votes to rename its Skokie campus, formerly Oakton East, the Ray Hartstein Campus in honor of the founding chairman.

1991



Oakton becomes the first community college in the state to connect to the internet.

1993

New building and remodeling projects begin on both campuses.



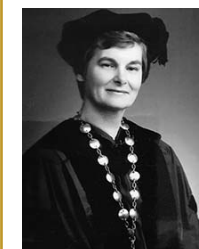
25 oak trees are planted on campus to commemorate Oakton's 25th anniversary.

1994



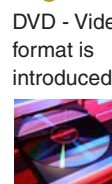
The new 133,000 sq. ft. Ray Hartstein Campus building opens in Skokie.

1995



Margaret B. Lee is inaugurated as the college's third president.

1996



DVD - Video format is introduced.



First online classes are offered.

1998



New Art, Science, and Technology Pavilion opens at the Skokie campus.

2006



As the economy stumbles, enrollment grows and Oakton offers free tuition for laid-off workers.

2009



Des Plaines River reaches historic crest of 20.92 feet.

2013



Margaret B. Lee Science and Health Careers Center opens on the Des Plaines campus.

2015



Joianne Smith is inaugurated as the college's fourth president.

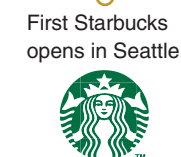
2018



Oakton Owls baseball team wins its first NJCAA Division III World Series.

2019

June 25, 2019
Oakton celebrates its 50th Anniversary.



First Starbucks opens in Seattle.

1973

Roe v. Wade passes (landmark decision granting American women the right to abortion).

1975

U.S. pulls out of Vietnam War.

Watergate scandal - Richard Nixon resigns as President of U.S.



Jaws, the first blockbuster movie, is released.

1981

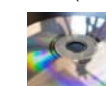
MTV is launched.



Marital law in Poland ends by Solidarity action.

1982

The first Compact Disc (CD) is released.



AIDS emerges as major health threat throughout world.

1989



Berlin Wall is demolished, ending the Cold War.

First episode of *The Simpsons* airs.



British House of Commons approves unity pact. Maastricht Treaty takes effect creating the European Union.



Launch of Amazon.com.



Wikipedia is founded.

Nearly 3,000 people die in the September 11 attacks.

2001

Facebook is launched.



iPhone is introduced.



2007

Barack Obama becomes the first African-American President of the United States.



2008

Gay marriage is legalized in the United States.

After 108 years, the Chicago Cubs win the World Series again.



2016

Earth experiences its hottest year on record.