Lerner College Through the Years

1916 First undergraduate curriculum in Business Administration created at the University; courses offered as electives only.

1917 Undergraduate major in Business Administration established; students able to receive a Bachelor of Arts upon completion of studies.

1952 Master of Business Administration program created.

1963 School of Business and Economics became an official entity.

1965 All schools of the University became colleges; College of Business and Economics created.

1966 College received accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International at the baccalaureate level.

1971 Center for Economic Education and Entrepreneurship established. College participated in the University-wide Community Design Planning Commission to identify new goals for UD to pursue in the 1970s resulting in a two-volume report, The Decade Ahead.

1972 First College study abroad program held in Switzerland, featuring business administration, economics, and political science courses.

1982 College received AACSB accreditation at the graduate level.

1984 College received AACSB accreditation for accounting programs.

1982 College received AACSB accreditation at the graduate level.

1990 College Alumni Board formed.


1992 College Dean’s Advisory Board formed.

1993 FORTUNE program (now UDREAM) established with support from an MBNA grant, offering comprehensive academic and financial assistance for underrepresented students and strengthening the College’s commitment to diversity.

1995 Economics awarded the College’s first doctoral degree.

1998 Strategic planning session resulted in creation of College mission statement and supporting goals, objectives, and strategies.


2000 John J. Weinberg Center for Corporate Governance established.

2002 Formerly Alfred Lerner College of Business & Economics in honor of the former chairman of the board and CEO of MBNA Corporation.

2003 John J. Weinberg Center Innovation Center inaugurated. Lerner College programs reaccredited by AACSB.

2010 Sport Management program joins the Lerner College.

2011 J. Morgan Chase Innovation Center inaugurated. Lerner College programs reaccredited by AACSB.


1961 Ruben Austin, Dean of then newly-created College of Business & Economics, 1962.


1963 A student works at a state-of-the-art computer in Purnell Hall’s computer lab, 1983.

1975 University experienced substantial enrollment growth and by this year the total number of UD women undergraduates across campus surpassed the number of men.

1971 University-wide Community Design Planning Commission.

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2005 Department of Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management joins the Lerner College.

2008 Venture Development Center opens.

2010 Sport Management program joins the Lerner College.

2011 J. Morgan Chase Innovation Center inaugurated. Lerner College programs reaccredited by AACSB.


The Class of 2011 was the Lerner College’s largest class to-date, with degrees awarded to over 1,000 undergraduates and graduate students.