

HISTORY

Shippensburg University was established in 1871 under the Normal School Act of 1857 as the Cumberland Valley State Normal School. The School received official approval by the state on February 21, 1873, admitted its first class of 217 students on April 15, 1873, and received its first state appropriation of \$30,000 in 1877. In 1917, the School was purchased by the Commonwealth for \$38,100.

On June 4, 1926, the School was authorized to grant the bachelor of science in education degree in elementary and junior high education. By authority of Section 1307 of the 1923 Administrative Code, the School received a charter on October 12, 1926, making it the first normal school in Pennsylvania to become a state teachers college. On June 3, 1927, the State Council of Education authorized the School to change its name to the State Teachers College at Shippensburg effective August 13, 1927. The Act approved April 25, 1929, P.L. 712, provided that it should be the State Teachers College for Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Bedford, Huntingdon, and Blair counties.

On December 3, 1937, the business education curriculum was approved. On December 8, 1939, Shippensburg State Teachers College became the first teachers college in Pennsylvania and the fourth in the United States to be accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and (Secondary) Schools.

The State Council of Education approved graduate work leading to the master of education degree on January 7, 1959. The Act approved January 8, 1960, P.L. 2130, authorized the name change to Shippensburg State College.

On April 18, 1962, the arts and sciences curriculum was authorized by the State Council of Education. The bachelor of science in business administration degree program was initiated on September 1, 1967. In January 1975, the Board of State College and University Directors adopted a resolution assigning to Shippensburg the three major missions of liberal arts, business, and teacher education. On November 15, 1979 the Board of State College and University Directors approved the additional missions of human services and public administration.

On November 12, 1982, the governor of the Commonwealth signed Senate Bill 506 establishing the State System of Higher Education. Shippensburg State College was designated Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania effective July 1, 1983.