



School History:

The American Missionary Association (AMA) responded in 1861 to the former slaves' need for education by hiring its first black teacher, Mary Smith Peake, who had secretly been teaching slaves and free blacks in the area despite the state's prohibition in law. She first taught for the AMA on September 17, 1861 and was said to gather her pupils under a large oak. After it was the site in 1863 of the first reading in the South of the Emancipation Proclamation, it was called the Emancipation Oak. The tree, a symbol of the university and the city, is part of the National Historic Landmark District at Hampton University.

The Hampton Agricultural and Industrial School, later called the Hampton Institute, was founded in 1868 after the war by the biracial leadership of the AMA, who were chiefly Congregation and Presbyterian ministers. It was first led by former Union General Samuel Chapman Armstrong. Among the school's famous alumni is Dr. Booker T. Washington, who became an educator and later founded Tuskegee Institute, another college supported by the AMA

Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute was founded in 1868. As the academic program evolved from that of a secondary school into a four-year college, and then into a university, the school's name changed to Hampton Institute (1930) and then to Hampton University (1984).

Hampton University offers 68 undergraduate programs, 27 master's degree programs, and 6 doctoral degree programs and 2 specialists in education degrees. Hampton University's current endowment is \$193.4M.

Majors Offered

Business

Engineering & Technology

Journalism & Communications

Liberal Arts & Education

**Nursing
Pharmacy
Science
College of Virginia Beach
Graduate College**

References:

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