1. Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio, 1856: The oldest private HBCU was named in honor of abolitionist William Wilberforce.

2. Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama, 1865: This college was started by slaves William Savery and Thomas Tarrant with help from the Freedmen's Bureau.

3. Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, 1866: Named for General Clinton B. Fisk of the Tennessee Freedmen's bureau, this acclaimed HBCU is known for the Jubilee Singers and notable alumnus W. E. B. DuBois.

4. Alabama State University, Montgomery, Alabama, 1867: Famous alumni include Rosa Parks and Fred Gray (one of her attorneys).

5. Howard University, Washington, D.C., 1867: Originally a seminary for clergymen, this prominent school was named after Civil War hero General Oliver O. Howard. Among the many notable alumni are Thurgood Marshall, Toni Morrison, Phylicia Rashad, and Jessye Norman.

6. Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia, 1868: This HBCU distinguished itself by establishing a program for American Indians in 1878.

7. Bennett College, Greensboro, North Carolina, 1873: This is one of two all-male HBCUs.

8. Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia, 1881: Named for a female abolitionist, this women's college held its first classes in the basement of the Friendship Baptist Church.


10. Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, Florida, 1887: Gaining university status in 1953, this HBCU was named the number one producer of African Americans with bachelor's degrees in 2006. Famous alumni include Julian "Cannonball" Adderly and Anika Noni Rose, as well as many professional athletes and members of congress.

11. Savannah State University, Savannah, Georgia, 1890: Gaining university status in 1996, this is the oldest public HBCU in Georgia.

12. Langston University, Langston, Oklahoma, 1897: The only HBCU in Oklahoma, this school was named for civil rights pioneer John Mercer Langston, the first African-American member of congress and founder of Howard University's law school.

13. Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia, 1978: This school of medicine is committed to aiding underserved communities.