In 2019, the Darla Moore School of Business and the University of South Carolina celebrated the 100th anniversary of business education at the university. The school was founded in 1919 as the School of Commerce under the direction of young, new dean George Olson, veteran economics professor George McCutchen, and university president William Currell. It evolved into the School of Business Administration and then the College of Business Administration before becoming the College of Business. In 1998, the school was renamed the Darla Moore School of Business thanks to a notable gift from South Carolina businesswoman Darla Moore. In 2014, the school was relocated to a stunning and innovative new building where students are transformed into vibrant community leaders who understand and practice the intersection of modern business and society. The business school that graduated its first class of nine students in 1923 is launching its second century with more than 6,100 world-class students. Through the leadership of eight deans and four acting and interim deans, the school progressed from a foundational curriculum in political economy to today’s coursework in international business, coding in R for data analytics, software tools for investment banking and projects that restructure supply chains to optimize productivity. The classroom experience is still rigorous, but it now focuses on the challenges of the 21st century, providing the knowledge and tools to motivate, educate and guide students so that they can secure the jobs they aspire to today and are equipped with the skills and abilities for the jobs of tomorrow.

The following timeline highlights significant dates and accomplishments in the 100-year history of business education at the University of South Carolina and the Darla Moore School of Business.
1973: H. William Close Building

The first Economic Outlook Business Development Center of the College of Business Administration is established.

1974: The Frank L. Roddey Small Business Development Center of South Carolina opens.

1976: The first Economic Outlook Business Development Center of South Carolina opens.

1976: The College of Business Administration (COBA) is reorganized as the College of Business Administration (COBA).

1981: The first Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree is established.

1985: The twin structures of the College of Business Administration (COBA) are completed.

1989: The Department of Business Administration (DBA) is founded.


1994: The College of Business Administration (COBA) is comprised of 120 full-time faculty members and 69 graduate students.

1994: The University of South Carolina-Business is the only state-supported school in the nation to have a business school in the top 10 in the world.

1995: The new School of Business Administration (SBMA) is established.

1996: The MBA-ETV (now the Professional MBA) degree is established.

1998: The College of Business Administration (COBA) is comprised of 3,649 undergraduate and 420 graduate students.

1999: The first Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in International Business is offered.

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2018: The first Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in International Business is offered.

2019: The first Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in International Business is offered.

2020: The first Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in International Business is offered.

2021: The first Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in International Business is offered.

2022: The first Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in International Business is offered.

2023: The first Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in International Business is offered.