

Counting Women of Color: Less than 1% of all mathematicians are Black. Of these, 25% are women. In the early half of the twentieth century many Black women obtained masters degrees in mathematics, but not until 1943 was the first Ph.D. in mathematics bestowed upon an African American woman.

Euphemia Lofton Haynes earned her master's in education at the University of Chicago in 1930 and became the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Haynes taught in D.C. public schools for forty-seven years and was the first woman to chair the D.C. School Board. At Miners Teacher's College in the District, Dr. Haynes established the mathematics department and served as its chair.

The second African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics was Evelyn Boyd Granville at Yale University in 1949. The third African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics was Marjorie Lee Browne in 1950 at the University of Michigan. Argelia Velez-Rodriguez became the fourth African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics, in 1960 at the University of Havana.

Georgia Caldwell Smith passed her Ph.D. defense in 1960. Due to her death, her Ph.D. was conferred posthumously in 1961 the year Sadie Gasaway became the fifth African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics at Cornell. The sixth, Lillian K. Bradley, also was the first Black woman to earn a doctorate in any field at the University of Texas when she earned her D. Ed. in mathematics education. This is important to note because of the racist attitudes in the University of Texas Mathematics Department.

The seventh and eighth African American women to earn Ph.D.s in mathematics were Gloria Conyers Hewitt (University of Washington-Seattle) and Louise Nixon Sutton (New York University), both in 1962. In 1963 Grace Lele Williams became the first African (Nigerian) woman to earn any doctorate when she got her Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Chicago. In 1965 the ninth and tenth, African American women to earn Ph.D.s in mathematics were Beryl Eleanor Hunte (New York University) and Thyrsa Frazier Svager (Ohio State).

The eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth African American women earned their Ph.D.'s in mathematics in 1966. They were Eleanor Dawley Jones at Syracuse University, Shirley Mathis McBay at the University of Georgia, and Vivienne Malone Mayes, who also was the first African American woman Ph.D. in any field at the University of Texas at Austin, despite the difficulties of African Americans who attempted to earn degrees in the South prior to 1970.

In 1967 Geraldine Darden was the fourteenth African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics (Syracuse University). In 1968 Mary Lovenia DeConge-Watson was the fifteenth African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics (St. Louis University). And in 1969 Etta Zuba Falconer was the sixteenth African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics at Emory.

The seventeenth African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics was Genevieve Knight (Math Education-University of Maryland) in 1970. Joella H. Gipson (University of Illinois) and Dolores Spikes (Louisiana State) were the eighteenth and nineteenth African American women to earn Ph.D.s in mathematics in 1971.

And, in 1972 at Ohio State, Rada Higgins McCreadie was the twentieth African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics. Also in this year, Prince Winston Armstrong earned her D. Ed. in mathematics from the University of Oklahoma.

In 1992 Gloria Gilmer was the first African American woman to deliver a major NAM lecture. Kate Okikiolu was the first Black to win mathematics' most prestigious young person's award, the Sloan Research Fellowship in 1997. She also was awarded the new \$500,000 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers.

In 2000 three African American women earned Ph.D.s in one year as the University of Maryland graduated its first mathematics women Ph.D.s: Tasha Inness, Sherry Scott, and

Kimberly Weems. In 2001 Kate Okikiolu became the first Black woman to publish in the best mathematics journal, "The Annals of Mathematics." Counting women of color counts.

Sources: <http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/wohist.html>
<http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/madhists.html>
<http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/wmad0.html>