

The Supreme Court rules in 1954 that people cannot be segregated by law on the basis of race.

One year later (July 1955), and five years after opening the University to graduate students, the Board of Regents declared complete integration of University enrollment, effective September 1956. The Regents' action followed the historic court decision, but came three months before the U.S. Supreme Court voided the sections of the Texas Constitution and statutes that had provided for segregation. The Regents' action was another milestone: The University of Texas was the first major institution in the South to admit blacks as undergraduates.

It is a far-reaching ruling, a significant milestone in the history of a country proud of its heritage as a melting pot.