

# ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY



Image courtesy of Encyclopedia of Arkansas

Dr. Gordon Morgan was born in Mayflower, Arkansas (Faulkner County), and is an African American pioneer in the field of education. Morgan studied sociology at Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal School (AM&N), now known as the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He graduated in 1953, and in the same year, served in the Korean War. In 1956, Morgan continued his studies, earning his master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas Fayetteville (Washington County), as one of the first Black students to achieve this status. After working at several universities, including his alma mater of AM&N, Dr. Morgan was hired as the first Black professor at the University of Arkansas in 1969, where he worked with the department of sociology. He encouraged Black students to organize themselves into governing bodies, the first time this had been achieved on the university's campus. He also assisted in the desegregation of campus residence halls. Morgan retired in 2012, and the residence hall Gordon Morgan Hall was named in his honor in 2019.

