Gorham State Teachers College had its official beginning in 1873 when the legislature approved the establishment of a normal school on the site of the Gorham Female Seminary. Opening on January 29, 1879, with six faculty members and eighty-five students, the college has developed over the years to its present size of over 800 students and 65 faculty and staff.

The rapid physical growth of the college from only one building to its present campus of approximately 70 beautifully landscaped acres and fourteen buildings is paralleled by the rapidly expanding curriculum. Highlights of the college's development are as follows:

1806 — Gorham Academy incorporated
1836 — Gorham Seminary completed
1878 — Gorham Seminary presented to the State of Maine for use as dormitory; William Corthell appointed as first principal; Recitation Hall built (later renamed Corthell Hall)
1880 — First class graduated (nicknamed the Strawberry Class)
1894 — Seminary building destroyed by fire
1895 — Academy building given to the State of Maine (oldest building on campus)
1897 — Robie Hall (women's dormitory) constructed
1905 — Dr. Walter E. Russell appointed as second principal; Corthell Hall enlarged
1906 — President's home built
1911 — Industrial Arts program started at Gorham
1913 — Brick Shop opened
1916 — East Hall built (renamed Andrews Hall in May, 1950)
1926 — Campus School constructed
1927 — First class graduated from Kindergarten-Primary program
1931 — Russell Hall completed
1938 — First graduates of four-year program awarded degrees
1940 — Dr. Francis L. Bailey appointed president
1945 — Name changed from Normal School to Gorham State Teachers College
1955 — Program for preparation of music teachers and supervisors added to the curriculum
1955 — Woodward Hall completed (dormitory for men)
1958 — Program for preparation of art teachers and supervisors added
1958 — Science wing of Bailey Hall completed
1960 — Upton Hall completed (dormitory for women)
1960 — Dr. Kenneth T. H. Brooks appointed president
1961 — Library wing of Bailey Hall completed
1961 — Gorham Town Hall donated to the State of Maine by the Robie family (building to be used by college for students’ chapel)
1962 — Construction started on new Physical Education plant and Men’s Residence Hall; Central Heating plant built.

Location

The Town of Gorham is pleasantly located in the heart of a rich cultural and recreational area of Maine. The city of Portland is only ten miles from Gorham providing students of the college with many supplementary educational facilities. In addition, because of the proximity of Boston which is only 100 miles distant, instructors at the college enrich their teaching through trips to this city. The Sebago Lake Region, nationally known for its recreational facilities, is only 12 miles from the college. Thus all winter and summer sports are part of the extra-curricular experiences of students.
Situated on a pleasantly landscaped hill overlooking the town of Gorham, the college has come to be known as "The College on the Hill," and the athletic teams as the "Hilltoppers." The quiet serenity of this residential town makes the community an ideal setting for the college. The students and faculty of the college become an integral part of the town through church, educational and civic activities, and many residents of the town are loyal supporters of college events and activities.

The buildings of the campus blend a traditional style of architecture with the modern. Representing the former are Academy Hall; Corthell Hall; two women's residence halls, Robie and Andrews, and the President's home. Russell Hall, named after the second president of Gorham, provides an auditorium and gymnasium.

The modern style buildings include Woodward Hall which is a men's dormitory; Bailey Hall, named after President Bailey who retired in 1960; a women's residence hall opened in September of 1960; a health and physical education plant and another men's residence hall in 1963.
The Location

The College is located in the town of Gorham in the heart of southern Maine's most attractive cultural and recreational area. Portland, largest city in the State and only ten miles from the campus, offers many opportunities for the enrichment of student life.

The quiet serenity of a residential town has assured an ideal college setting. Through educational and civic activities both the students and faculty take a vital interest in the community and, in turn, many residents of Gorham warmly support College events.

Boston is only two hours traveling time from the campus and provides a cosmopolitan experience and unparalleled research facilities for students and faculty alike. Easily accessible to the College is the Sebago Lake Region, a nationally famous resort area. The White Mountains are an hour's drive from the campus, and the Maine seacoast is easily reached in a half hour.

Thus, students and faculty at the College find the advantages of both city and country living within easy reach — winter and summer sports, cultural events, libraries, and a wide variety of social activities.

The Campus

Surrounded by towering pines and hardwoods, the 125 acre campus stands on a hill overlooking the town of Gorham to the south and the Sebago-White Mountain region to the northwest.

The architecture of the 15-building campus is a blend of traditional and modern designs. Earlier buildings express the College's deep traditions while those in the contemporary mode reflect the rapid development.
Major campus buildings include:

- **Bailey Hall Science Wing (1958)** — Contains the classrooms, laboratories and offices of the Science and Mathematics Departments, greenhouse, and a science museum maintained by faculty and students and available to visitors upon request.
- **Bailey Hall Library Wing (1961)** — Named for the third President of the College, Dr. Francis L. Bailey, the building contains a 45,000 volume library in a highly adaptable complex of stacks and reading areas. Included are conference rooms, a study-smoker and music listening area. The east side of the building contains classrooms, conference rooms, lounges, faculty offices and facilities for closed circuit television.
- **Warren G. Hill Gymnasium (1963)** — Bears the name of a former Maine Commissioner of Education and graduate of the College. The 2,500-seat gymnasium provides facilities for men's and women's physical education, locker rooms, classrooms, and offices of the Health and Physical Education Department. The gymnasium is used for intramural and inter-collegiate athletics and other College functions.
- **Woodward Hall (1955)** — Named for a former Vice-President of the College, Louis B. Woodward, the building provides dormitory accommodations for 96 resident men students.
- **Woodward Hall Extension (1963)** — Contains lounges, study areas, and dormitory accommodations for 106 resident men students.
- **Russell Hall (1931)** — Bears the name of the second President of the College, Dr. Walter F. Russell. Contains a stage, 500-seat auditorium, workshop facilities and offices of the Drama Department together with a gymnasium used for recreational and other campus activities.
- **Corthell Hall (1879)** — The College Administration Building is named for the first President, Dr. William Corthell. Contains administrative offices, information desk, bookstore, student lounge, classrooms and offices of the Music and Education Departments. Also contains the Museum of Man and Culture which includes an extensive and significant collection of Caribbean and Pre-Columbian artifacts.
- **Academy Building** — Housed the original Gorham Academy and presented to the State of Maine in 1895. Renovated in 1966 to contain studios, offices and classrooms of the Art Department.
- **Upton Hall (1900-1967)** — Named for long-time faculty member Miss Ethlyn Upton. Contains lounges and dormitory accommodations for 300 resident women students. First floor north wing houses the College dining facilities.
- **Mclellan House** — Considered to be the oldest brick house in the State of Maine. Purchased and renovated by the College in 1966 and operated as an honor resident dormitory for 16 women students.
- **President’s Residence (1906)** — Provides living accommodations for the President of the College and his family.
- **All Faith Chapel** — The former Gorham Town Hall, acquired in 1961 by the College for use as a student chapel; houses the Gorham State College Art Gallery.
- **Industrial Education and Technology Center (1965)** — Contains offices, classrooms and laboratories for conducting programs in industrial arts and vocational-industrial teacher education. The Center has facilities for teaching concepts in the manufacturing, construction, power-transformation, electrical-electronics, graphic communications, and service industries.