1942 The Northern California Public Health Association appoints a committee on the establishment of a school of public health in California, chaired by William P. Shepard, second vice president of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, with strong endorsement by the California Medical Association.

1943 Shepard, Larry Arnstein, Karl F. Meyer, and other interested constituents successfully present the necessity of a school of public health to the California State Legislature. The legislature enacts a law, signed by Governor Earl Warren, establishing the school at the University of California.

1944 Walter Brown becomes the school’s first dean. Margaret Beattie, Fern French, Walter Mangold, Harold Gray, Escholzia Lucia, and Frank Kelley constitute the school’s principal faculty.

1944 The school holds its first commencement.

1945 The school launches a training program for public health sanitarians.

1946 The American Public Health Association accredits the School of Public Health at UC Berkeley, making it the only accredited school of public health west of the Mississippi.

1946 William McDowell Hammon becomes the school’s second dean.

1946 Edward S. Rogers becomes the school’s third dean.

1947 The school grants its first Dr.P.H.

1951 Charles E. Smith becomes the school’s fourth dean.

1955 UC Berkeley Chancellor Clark Kerr dedicates Earl Warren Hall, named for the former California governor and U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice, who was instrumental in obtaining public funding for its construction.

1960 The school grants its first Ph.D.

1961 The school is accredited to offer M.D.’s a residency program in preventive medicine—the first school of public health to receive such accreditation.

1967 William C. Reeves becomes the school’s fifth dean.

1968 The school ends its undergraduate degree program.

1971 Warren Winkelstein Jr. becomes the school’s sixth dean.

1971 The American Indian Graduate Program is founded to respond to a need for more Native American health professionals.

1979 The Minority Enrollment Program is established in response to California’s growing multicultural population.

1982 Joyce C. Lashof becomes the school’s seventh dean.
1982 The UCB-UCSF Joint Medical Program is placed under the school’s administrative direction.

1983 The San Francisco Men’s Health Study is launched by Warren Winkelstein Jr. The study will provide key epidemiological support for the link between HIV and AIDS.

1984 The Berkeley Wellness Letter, under the leadership of Sheldon Margen, publishes its first issue. Today it is the most widely read health newsletter in North America.

1986 Leonard Syme develops the Wellness Guide to provide Californians with direct information on how to stay well and how to find help on a wide range of health-related topics.

1987 Martyn Smith is appointed director of the school’s Superfund Basic Research Program, which is supported by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

1988 Alice Martin establishes the school’s first two endowed chairs: the Martin Sisters Chair and the King Sweesy and Robert Womack Chair.

1991 Berkeley students establish the Suitcase Clinic to address some of the health and social problems related to homelessness.

1992 Patricia A. Buffler becomes the school’s eighth dean. The school’s international health program is formally developed with the successful recruitment of Malcolm Potts to the Fred H. Bixby Endowed Chair in Population and Family Planning and multiple awards from the NIH Fogarty Center on International Health.

1992 The school becomes a training center for Scholars in Health Policy Research, a national program supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and headed by Richard M. Scheffler.

1993 Leonard J. Duhl chairs the first International Healthy Cities and Communities Conference, held in San Francisco.

1993 The CDC chooses the School of Public Health as one of nine health promotion and disease prevention research centers around the nation. The Center for Family and Community Health is led by Ira Tager.

1994 The school’s first Policy Advisory Committee is established to advise the Dean and faculty on strategic development issues facing the school.

1994 UC Berkeley launches its Millennium Campaign, “The Promise of Berkeley—Campaign for the New Century.” By the end of the campaign, the School of Public Health surpasses its $20 million goal, raising more than $26 million.

1995 The school teams with the Peace Corps to establish the Master’s Internationalist Program.

1996 The school establishes the Public Health Heroes Award program to honor individuals and organizations for their unique contributions and exceptional commitment to improving public health.
1996 The school holds its first annual research symposium.

1998 Stephen M. Shortell becomes the first Blue Cross of California Distinguished Professor of Health and Policy Management, established with a $2.5 million gift from Blue Cross of California.

1998 Sponsored research activities grow to $25 million annually.

1998 Edward E. Penhoet becomes the school’s ninth dean. Under his leadership, the school focuses on the ecological approach to addressing health issues by underscoring the intersections of biology, behavior, and environment with health status.

1999 The University launches the Berkeley Health Sciences Initiative, with leadership from Dean Penhoet, to encourage multidisciplinary research in the health sciences across the campus.

1999 The Nicholas C. Petris Center on Health Care Markets and Consumer Welfare is established. Richard M. Scheffler is appointed to its Distinguished Chair in Health Economics and Public Policy.

2000 Responding to the growth of the Internet and its potential to impact health, the school holds its first eHealth Summit and Forum.

2001 The Center for Health Research is established as a Universitywide effort administered by the School of Public Health. The center brings together UC Berkeley social scientists and other investigators to address challenging issues facing the health sector of society.

2001 Thomas G. Rundall becomes the first to hold the Henry J. Kaiser Endowed Chair in Organized Health Care Systems, established in 1996 by Kaiser Permanente.

2002 Stephen M. Shortell becomes the school’s tenth dean.

2002 The school receives a federal grant to establish the Center for Infectious Disease Preparedness following the 2001 anthrax attacks. Arthur L. Reingold serves as principal investigator.

2002 The Center of Excellence for Environmental Public Health Tracking, funded by the CDC and headed by John Balmes, is established to investigate links between diseases and environmental pollutants.

2002 Brian and Jennifer Maxwell, founders of PowerBar, establish an endowed chair to support research impacting maternal and child health. Kirk R. Smith is appointed to the chair.

2003 Sponsored research activities expand to over $40 million annually.

2003 The school reestablishes an upper-division undergraduate major in public health.

2003 The School of Public Health marks its 60th anniversary.