

Condoleezza Rice

Condoleezza Rice was U.S. Secretary of State from 2005 to 2009 after serving as National Security Advisor from 2001-2005. She was the first African-American woman to act as Secretary of State. In addition to her involvement in U.S. politics, Rice is a gifted piano prodigy. She started college at the age of 15 with the idea of becoming a concert pianist. In college, she was influenced by political scientist, Josef Korbel, the father of Madeleine Albright and decided to study international politics. Rice was an avid student, and in 1974, she earned her bachelor's degree in political science (cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa) at age 19. She was awarded the Political Science Honors Award for "outstanding accomplishment and promise in the field of political science. She went on to get her Master's degree in government and international studies at Notre Dame University in just one year.

By the 1980s, Rice had become a teacher at Stanford University and had become a prominent public voice on international affairs.

Condoleezza Rice was born in Birmingham, Alabama, on November 14, 1954. Her father, John Wesley Rice, was a school guidance counselor during the week and a Presbyterian minister on the weekends. Her mother, Angelena, was a school teacher.