Accepted Freshman Checklist

Congratulations on your acceptance to Sam Houston State University! We created a checklist of items for you to complete before your first day of class.

☐ Activate Your SHSU Email
(Required before Orientation)
Activate your SHSU email and computer account through SamWeb. After acceptance, your SHSU email is the only email used by SHSU offices. Activation is required to access different portals and register for Bearkat Orientation.

IT Website | Email Help Desk | (936) 294-1950 | Academic Building I - Suite 145

☐ Check Your Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Status
(Required before Orientation)
Check your TSI status by reviewing DegreeWorks (TSI section). If you are missing scores (or an exemption) for any component (Math, Reading, and/or Writing), “Testing Required” will be posted in that component. If you are not TSI exempt, or if you are missing a score for any component, you will need to schedule a TSIA2 exam; this can be completed either in person or online with the SHSU Testing Center. Please note this must be completed before you attend Orientation.

TSI Website | Email the Registrar's Office | (936) 294-1040 | Estill Building - Suite 331

☐ Submit Bacterial Meningitis Documentation
(Required before Orientation)
Meningitis A documentation is required before selecting on-campus housing and registering for classes. Documentation must be submitted online to the KatHealth Patient Portal before you select your dorm room or attend your Orientation session.

Student Health Website | Email Student Health Center | (936) 294-1805 | 1608 Avenue J

☐ Submit Housing Application & Deposit
(Required before Orientation)
First-year students who have recently completed high school (within one year) are required to apply for housing, live on campus, and purchase a university meal plan.

Housing Website | Email Residence Life | (936) 294-1812 | 910 Bearkat Blvd.- Lone Star Hall
Submit Official College Transcripts
(Required before Orientation)
Submit transcripts of all coursework completed before attending SHSU (dual credit/college coursework or AP/CLEP scores) to the Admissions Office after you have received final course grades. All transcripts must be official and from the college awarding credit. This must be done before academic advising at Orientation to ensure you create an accurate course schedule with your advisor.

Admissions Website | Email Admissions | (936) 294-1828 | Visitor Center - 2nd Floor

Check for Registration Readiness
(Required before Orientation)
Check holds, complete Pre-Registration Notices, and learn about the Bearkat Bundle with the Bearkat Registration Dashboard.

Registration Dashboard | Email the Registrar | (936) 294-1040 | Estill Building - Suite 331

Register for Bearkat Orientation
(Required before Orientation)
Register for Freshman Orientation through your personalized invitation. You will receive an invitation to register for Orientation when registration opens, but only if you have activated your SHSU email through SamWeb. You will meet with your Academic Advisor and register for classes at your Orientation session.

Orientation Website | Email Orientation | (936) 294-1844 | Visitor Center

Schedule Additional Advising
All incoming students are advised at Orientation, but you can schedule a follow-up session with your Advisor if you need any additional assistance. Please check Who's My Advisor on the SAM Center’s homepage for all details and make sure you have submitted all transcripts before you arrive.

SAM Center Website | Email SAM Center | (936) 294-4444
College of Humanities & Social Sciences Building, Suite 170

Register for Classes
All incoming students will register for classes at Orientation, but you may need to make schedule changes later. You can add, remove, or change courses within the Bearkat Registration Dashboard.

Registration Dashboard | Email the Registrar | (936) 294-1040 | Estill Building - Suite 331
Get Your Bearkat OneCard
Request your Bearkat OneCard, the official ID of SHSU, online or in person. You must present a valid government or state issued photo ID to request your Bearkat OneCard. Activation is required for dorm room and dining hall access. *It will arrive in a green envelope so please don’t mistake it as junk mail.

Student Account Services Website | Email Student Account Services | (936) 294-2273
Estill Building - Suite 103

Apply for Financial Aid
Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the priority deadline each year. Be sure to review the Financial Aid website and complete all requirements as soon as possible to avoid delays.

Financial Aid Website | (936) 294-1774 | Estill Building - Suite 201

Apply for Scholarships
Complete the Scholarships4Kats application by the priority deadline each year. We automatically send your completed application to all relevant scholarships, and selected recipients receive an email in their SHSU email account with additional instructions.

Scholarships Website | (936) 294-1774 | Estill Building - Suite 201

Submit Final High School Transcript
Submit your FINAL and OFFICIAL high school transcript to the Admissions Office after finishing high school, by contacting the registrar at your high school. Failure to submit your transcript could impact and/or delay your financial aid.

Admissions Website | Email Admissions | (936) 294-1828 | Visitor Center - 2nd Floor

Make Tuitions & Fees Payment
Pay your tuition and fees by the deadline stated on your fee statement. Payments can be made online or at the Student Account Services Office.

Student Account Services Website | Email Student Account Services | (936) 294-2273
Estill Building - Suite 103

Attend Bearkat Kickoff
Bearkat Kickoff is your freshmen introduction to SHSU and all campus has to offer. It is required for all freshmen the week before classes start.

Bearkat Kickoff Website | Email Bearkat Kick-Off
Optional Opportunities

☐ Join the SHSU ZeeMee Community
ZeeMee is a great place to meet other new Bearkats. You can meet other students, find a roommate, ask questions of current students, stay up to date with Admissions announcements, or get help from an Admissions Counselor.

☐ Apply to the Elliot T. Bowers Honors College
Check qualifications for the Honors College and complete the application to take advantage of all the Honors College has to offer. Honors students have specific scholarship opportunities, early registration benefits, smaller class sizes, graduation designations, and much more.

Honors College Website | Email Honors | (936) 294-1477 | Academic Building IV - Suite 202

☐ Purchase an On-Campus Parking Permit
An ePermit is required to park a vehicle on all SHSU campuses.

Parking Website | Email Parking | (936) 294-1800 | 820 Bowers Blvd.

☐ Academic Resources and Learning Communities
Learn about First-Year Learning Communities, University 1101, and peer mentoring at FYE and at the Academic Success Center. First-Generation students can explore resources to help navigate the college experience, such as TRiO and the First-Generation Center.

☐ Attend Bearkat Camp
Bearkat Camp is a traditions camp for incoming students, highlighting the pride, spirit, and traditions of SHSU.

Bearkat Camp Website | Email Bearkat Camp | (936) 294-1985

☐ Download the TimelyCare App
TimelyCare is a new virtual health and well-being platform for students. Through either a mobile app or your desktop, TimelyCare provides 24/7 access to virtual care from anywhere in the United States at no additional cost.

Student Wellness Website | Email Student Wellness | (936) 294-2653