

# GRADUATION

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- Application for Graduation (p. 1)
- Graduation Application Deadlines (p. 1)
- Graduation Application Fee (p. 1)
- Transferring Courses in Term of Graduation (p. 1)
- Tuition Rebate (p. ) for Undergraduates (p. 2)
- Graduation with Special Recognition (p. 2)
- Graduation with Academic Distinction (p. 2)
- Pursuit of Graduate Studies (p. 2)

## Application for Graduation

Students must submit their online application for graduation in the term of degree completion. Degree candidates enrolled in all coursework required to complete the degree and who also meet the required major, minor, and overall grade point averages are permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. The application for graduation is required for degree awarding within a term and must be submitted by the pre-set graduation application deadline from the Academic Calendar (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/calendars/academic-calendar.html>). See the Graduation Application Deadlines section below.

Students who fail to submit the application for graduation to the Registrar's Office within the term of degree completion may submit an application for graduation in a subsequent term. For these students, the degree will be awarded pending the completion of all degree requirements.

## Graduation Application Deadlines

- Students graduating in either a fall or spring term must submit the application for graduation prior to the 12th class day of their graduating term.
- Students graduating in the summer term must submit the application for graduation prior to the 4th class day of summer session one. The exact application deadline dates for current terms are available in the Academic Calendar (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/calendars/academic-calendar.html>).

## Graduation Application Fee

The graduation application fee must be paid at the time of application. A student filing a graduation application after the published deadline will be assessed a late fee. The graduation application fees listed below are subject to change. **Please, be sure to visit the Office of the Registrar (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/>) for the most up-to-date fees.**

- The fee for students who apply by the published deadline is \$50.00.
- The fee for students who apply after the published deadline is \$80.00.

Applications for graduation must be received before the graduation ceremony to be awarded a degree within that term. The application fee does not roll forward to future terms. Students who do not meet degree requirements in the term of graduation application will need to re-apply and pay the graduation application fee again.

## Transferring Courses in Term of Graduation

Completing final degree-required courses at a transfer institution in the term of expected graduation is highly discouraged. The SHSU final grade deadline may not align with other institutions. Regardless, the SHSU final grade deadline must be adhered to in order to award a degree. **No exceptions will be made.**

The Registrar's Office requires:

- The Notification of Transfer Course Form must be submitted with the graduation application. Students must contact their SHSU academic advisor to initiate the Form.

The Admissions Office requires:

- An official transfer transcript, including any final course grades, must be submitted to the Admissions Office by the SHSU grade deadline, as published in the Academic Calendar, (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/calendars/academic-calendar.html>) to articulate the coursework to the SHSU academic record. The student should notify the Admissions Office (<https://www.shsu.edu/admissions/>) and the Graduation Team (Graduation (Graduationteam@shsu.edu)) in the Registrar's Office upon submission of the transfer transcript.

**Warning:** Transfer grades not arriving by the final grade deadline will result in no degree awarded. Students will be required to re-apply for graduation and pay the application fee in a subsequent term. Degrees are not awarded to students without an application for graduation on file with the Registrar's Office within the term of degree completion.

## Tuition Rebate for Undergraduates

The tuition rebate program was created by Senate Bill 1907, 75th Texas Legislature. The Texas Education Code §54.0065 (<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.54.htm#540065>) authorizes qualified undergraduate students to receive up to \$1,000 in tuition rebate upon completing an undergraduate baccalaureate degree.

This program aims to provide a financial incentive for you to complete a bachelor's degree efficiently, taking as few courses outside your degree plan as possible. The program's goal is to minimize the number of courses you take – saving money for you, your parents, and the State of Texas. To remain on track to earn the rebate at Sam Houston State University, it is important to meet and follow course completion advisement from an academic advisor (<https://www.shsu.edu/centers/sam-center/>). Repeated and Q-dropped course hours are calculated as attempted hours and could negatively affect the awarding of the tuition rebate.

Students are required to apply for the rebate during the term in which they plan to graduate. The Tuition Rebate Application (<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/registrar/forms-and-documents/forms-and-documents.html>) is available online. Visit the College for All Texans (<http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/apps/financialaid/tofa2.cfm?ID=447>) website for more details.

## Graduation with Special Recognition

Undergraduate students who achieve exceptional academic performance are honored with special recognition during their graduation ceremony. Graduates who have achieved undergraduate academic excellence at the university receive a gold cord at graduation to reflect this achievement. The gold cord indicates one of the following Latin Honors academic achievements: Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Cum Laude.

Degrees conferred Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude reflect an outstanding grade point average with a minimum of 30 semester credit hours earned in residence at Sam Houston State University, with no fewer than 24 hours being advanced course work. To qualify for these honors, students must meet the GPA requirements in both the SHSU **and** overall (transfer and SHSU combined) GPA. The distinction and corresponding grade point averages are:

- Cum Laude—3.50 to 3.66
- Magna Cum Laude—3.67 to 3.85
- Summa Cum Laude—3.86 to 4.00

The Academic Distinction Program is an individualized learning experience available to outstanding students at SHSU within each department. An Academic Distinction Program project provides qualified students with a comprehensive introduction to meaningful research under the guidance of a designated faculty advisor. See the Graduation with Academic Distinction section.

Participation in the Honors Program at SHSU is based on a competitive selection process and provides outstanding academic opportunities and distinct undergraduate college experiences. Upon successful completion of the Honors Program (24 semester credit hours of Honors courses including two special seminars), the student's academic transcript will indicate graduation "With Honors," and the student may wear an Honors medallion provided by the Honors College with their academic regalia. To be designated as having graduated "With Highest Honors," the student must also successfully complete a special senior project involving original research and/or an effort of creative expression.

**Note:** Grades earned in prior correspondence courses completed are not used in determining the GPAs for the graduation Latin honors of Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, or Summa Cum Laude.

## Graduation with Academic Distinction

An enriched program is offered to superior students at SHSU, culminating in the student receiving a diploma designating that the degree is being conferred "With Academic Distinction" in a field of specialization. The program consists of six credit hours of individual work on a project under the guidance of a designated faculty member. To qualify for Academic Distinction, the student must enroll in six semester credit hours in an approved department Academic Distinction program. See Academic Policy Statement 800521 Academic Distinction (<https://www.google.com/url/?client=internal-element-cse&cx=004830602591387252590:t-rzmg-jbaw&q=https://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/800521%2520Academic%2520Distinction.pdf&sa=U&ved=2ahUKEwiT7KGnuNmIAxV1PUQIHxWdKlwQFnoECAAQAg&usg=AOvVaw3iGOOz-VnJM6Zi07sVBfrg>) for qualifications of graduating with Academic Distinction.

## Pursuit of Graduate Studies

SHSU graduate programs provide avenues for advanced and specialized study, catering to individuals who seek to contribute meaningfully to their respective professions and academic fields.

The university offers a range of graduate programs, including both Master's and Doctoral degrees, all designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge required for professional and academic advancement.

For a comprehensive list of available graduate programs, please refer to the "Degrees Offered (<https://www.shsu.edu/home/catalog.html>)" section of the catalog. This information is also accessible via the "Prospective Graduate Students (<https://www.shsu.edu/beabearkat/graduate-journey/>)"

section on the university's website. For further details on scholarships and graduate assistantships, students should contact the relevant department or college administering the degree program of interest.