



PROSPECTUS

PROVOST AND
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
SEARCH



Sam Houston
State University

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



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THE SEARCH

Sam Houston State University invites inquiries, nominations, and applications for the position of Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. The university seeks an innovative and collaborative academic leader who will advance the mission and values of the university. SHSU's motto, "The measure of a Life is its Service," resonates across the university's nine colleges. Guided by a focused strategic plan, SHSU has expanded beyond its historical roots, advancing through research, creative endeavors, innovative learning and meaningful community engagement. The new provost is expected to take office in summer 2025.



ABOUT SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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With a student population of more than 21,000, Sam Houston State University (SHSU) is located in Huntsville, Texas, with an off-site instructional location in The Woodlands, the College of Osteopathic Medicine in Conroe and a robust online presence through SHSU Online. Huntsville is located on the rapidly developing Interstate 45 corridor between Houston and Dallas. SHSU is 70 miles north of downtown Houston and 170 miles south of Dallas, ideally situated between the 4th and 9th largest cities in the country and two of the 10 fastest-growing cities in the U.S. This location presents many strategic opportunities for the future of Sam Houston State University.

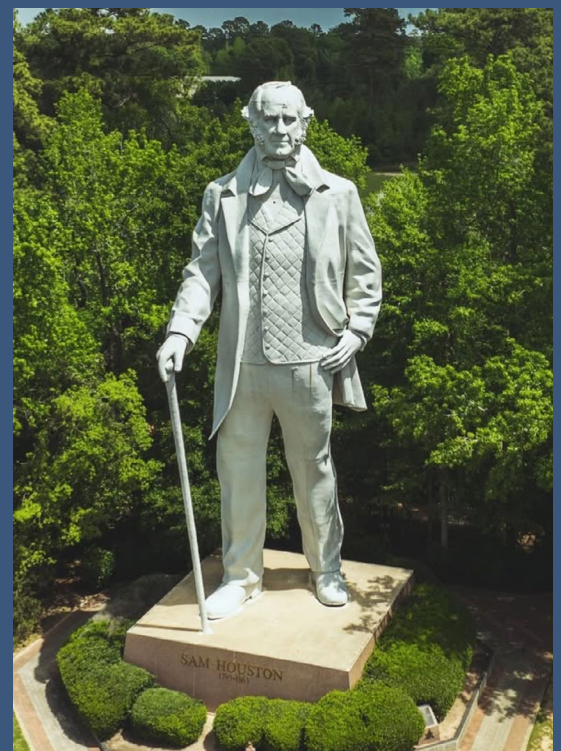
For more than 140 years, SHSU has been preparing students for meaningful lives of achievement. Named for Sam Houston, Texas's greatest hero, SHSU continually strives to honor its historical roots through academic excellence and meeting the workforce needs of Texas. While embracing its legacy, SHSU also strives to meet the needs of contemporary students, both traditionally and online. SHSU offers more than 95 bachelor's degree programs, more than 60 master's degree programs, nine doctoral programs, one professional doctorate (DO), and over 50 fully online degrees. The College of Osteopathic Medicine enrolled its inaugural class of medical students in Fall 2020 and graduated that class in May 2024.

SHSU is classified as a Carnegie doctoral university with high research activity (R2). It is also a Community Engaged University and a proud AACU institution, demonstrating a commitment to education for the public good. The university has award-winning online programs, nationally and internationally recognized scholars, and innovative initiatives to help students develop and succeed. SHSU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

SHSU is part of the [Texas State University System](#), the first university system established in Texas, composed of seven institutions. The institutions are located throughout the state, stretching from the Texas-Louisiana border to the Big Bend region of West Texas, and offer a broad range of teaching, research, and service opportunities.

HUNTSVILLE

SHSU's geographic location combines small-town charm, historical importance, nature experiences, and proximity to the greater Houston area. **Huntsville** was home to General Sam Houston, who served as the first and third president of the Republic of Texas, governor of Texas, governor of Tennessee, U.S. Senator, and Tennessee congressman. It is centrally located between Houston and Dallas and nestled in the Piney Woods. Huntsville offers an array of outdoor activities and hometown hospitality, from culture and creativity to arts, performances, and natural parks. Huntsville's downtown square boasts an abundance of antique and boutique stores, as well as restaurants and coffee shops. The Cultural District includes museums, art galleries, theaters, and historic sites. The city is home to the Sam Houston Memorial Museum and Republic of Texas Presidential Library, the Texas Prison Museum, the HEARTS Veteran Museum, and the tallest statue of an American hero, the 77-foot statue of Sam Houston, "A Tribute to Courage." Outdoor adventure is close at hand for exploring East Texas in Huntsville State Park, where hiking, fishing, camping, and boating opportunities abound. Small-town appeal, historical distinction, its natural setting, and attractions in nearby Houston, make Huntsville a great place to live and work. Attractive housing options, whether in the small-town atmosphere of Huntsville, surrounding rural areas, or nearby bustling suburban areas, offer a range to please any taste.



ABOUT SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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HISTORY

The third oldest institution in Texas, Sam Houston State University was created by the Texas Legislature in 1879 as Sam Houston Normal Institute to educate teachers for the public schools of Texas. The baccalaureate degree was first awarded in 1919, and in 1923, the institution's name was changed to Sam Houston State Teachers College.

Graduate degrees were added in 1936, and the curriculum was expanded to emphasize preparation in a variety of fields. Continued growth and diversity in programming prompted the Texas Legislature to change the institution's name to Sam Houston State College in 1965 and to Sam Houston State University in 1969. The institution offered its first doctorate, a PhD in criminal justice, in the 1970s.

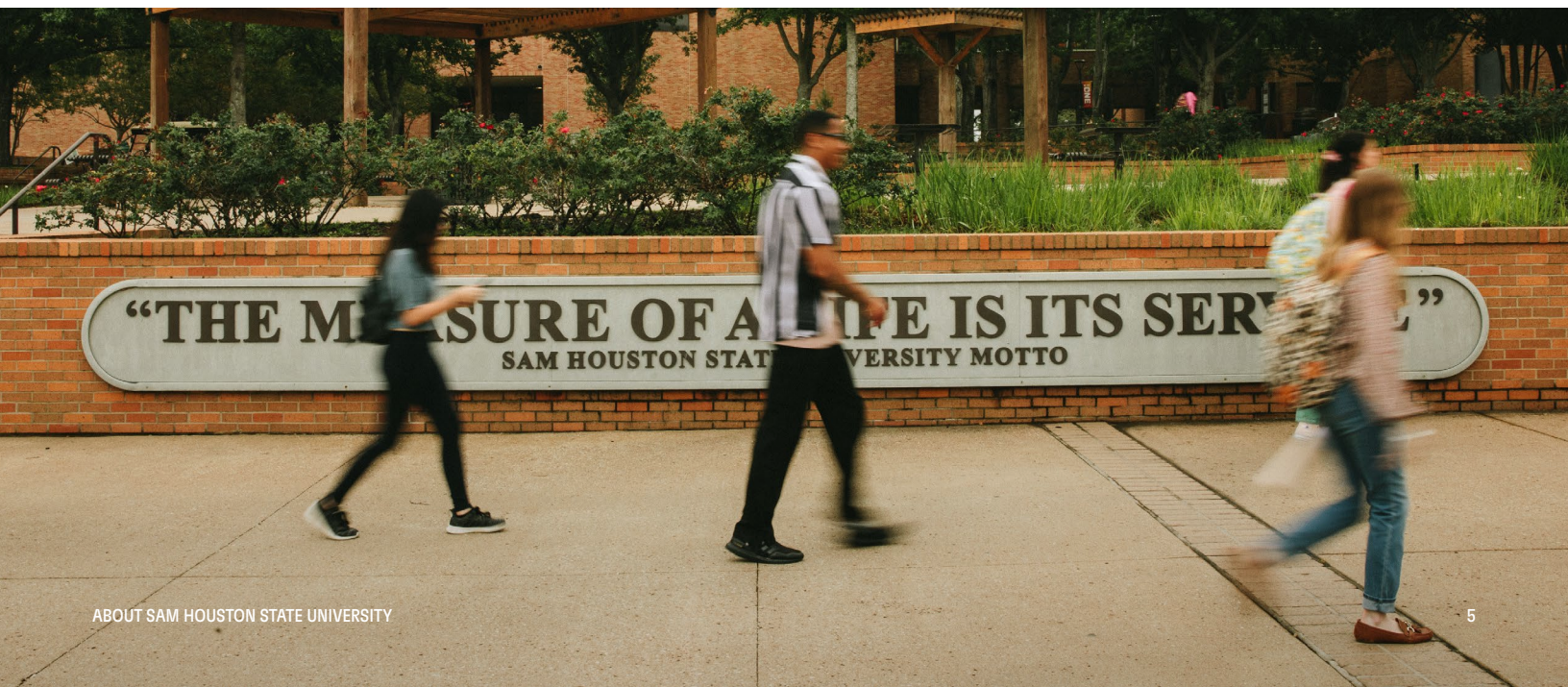
The 1980s and 1990s saw significant investment in academic, athletic, and support facilities. In recent years, the university has increased its program offerings, continued to invest in infrastructure and new facilities, and expanded its reach by offering programs online, at The Woodlands Center, the College of Osteopathic Medicine in Conroe, and at other off-campus sites. The university strives to preserve enduring traditions, promote academic excellence, facilitate student success, and operate efficiently in an innovation-focused environment.

MISSION

Sam Houston State University is a student-centered, community engaged institution whose mission is to offer an accessible, quality higher education. The university offers a variety of innovative and flexible degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional levels focused on career readiness, personal and professional development, and service. SHSU provides integrated academic and student success services designed to support traditional and non-traditional students.

MOTTO

The measure of a Life is its Service.



CAMPUS & FACILITIES ★

The beautiful main campus sits on 316 acres in the central area of Huntsville and features a planetarium, museum, performing arts center, and athletic and academic facilities. Campus highlights include: the James & Nancy Gaertner Performing Arts Center, a showcase for artistic talent and creative work in the community and the region; the Lowman Student Center, and the Johnson Coliseum and Bowers Stadium. Additional campus facilities located nearby include:



The Gibbs Ranch Agricultural Complex is a state-of-the-art facility serving as an integral component of the instructional and research programs for SHSU's agriculture students and faculty and the University's renowned rodeo team.



The Woodlands Center, located 40 miles south on I-45 just outside Houston in The Woodlands, is a 144,000 square-foot facility with 32 high-tech classrooms and a 125-seat auditorium. The full-service education center offers a variety of bachelors, masters and doctoral degree programs.



The College of Osteopathic Medicine, which is housed in a newly constructed, four-story, 107,000 square-foot building on seven acres in Conroe, is located 30 miles south of Huntsville on I-45.



Currently under construction is the new ***Health Professions Building*** next to the College of Osteopathic Medicine building in Conroe.

FACULTY & STUDENT-CENTERED PROGRAMMING ★

Of the university's 1,122 faculty members, 51% are tenure/tenure track. The student-to-faculty ratio is 20:1. SHSU's talented faculty submitted 238 grant proposals and secured 97 sponsored research grants in 2024, from federal, state, and private sources totaling more than \$32 million.

SHSU continually strives to meet the needs of students with new programs and innovative teaching and services that help to maximize student engagement and success. In the past 10 years, SHSU has added 3 embedded associate degrees, 10 undergraduate degrees, 13 master's degrees, two doctoral degrees, one professional doctorate, and 31 certificates.

Selected to participate in AASCU's *Re-Imagining the First Year*, SHSU engaged in a three-year program to transform the first-year experience for students and improve student success. The university established a **First-Generation Center** in June 2022, which is dedicated to helping first-generation students and their families navigate their university experience.

The university's **Center for Community Engagement** certifies Academic Community Engagement (ACE) courses as an essential part of the student's academic experience. This pedagogy encourages students to use the skills, knowledge, and dispositions learned in the classroom to collaborate with community partners to contribute to the public good. SHSU offers hundreds of ACE courses within an academic year. While students attend SHSU, and as they continue their professional and personal lives, they are encouraged and challenged to live out the SHSU motto, "The measure of a Life is its Service."



ACADEMICS



The **College of the Arts and Media** (CAM) offers degrees through the departments of Art, Dance, Mass Communication, and Theatre and Musical Theatre, as well as the School of Music. CAM also offers master's degrees in Arts and Social Practice, Band Studies, Dance, Digital Media Production, Emerging and Social Media, and Music.

The AACSB-accredited **College of Business Administration** (COBA) offers a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in twelve major fields of study, as well as a 4.5-year degree program for qualified students leading to a specialization in PGA Golf Management. At the graduate level, the college offers an MBA, MS in Accounting, MS in Project Management, and an online Executive MBA in Banking and Financial Institutions. COBA is home to five centers: Gibson D. Lewis Center for Business and Economic Development, Small Business Development Center, Center for Building Business Professionals, VITA Center, and the Center for Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship.

Housing one of the largest and oldest criminal justice programs in the nation, the **College of Criminal Justice** (COCJ) offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in Criminal Justice and Criminology, Forensic Science, Homeland Security Studies, and Victim Studies. Doctorate degrees are offered in Criminal Justice and Forensic Science. The College of Criminal Justice is home to several prestigious training and research institutes dedicated to advancing the criminal justice field through professional development and investigation of key issues.

With its roots as the oldest teacher training institution in the state of Texas, the **College of Education** (COE) offers a broad range of programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels in both face-to-face and online formats. Master's and doctoral programs are offered in a variety of fields through the departments of Educational Leadership, Counselor Education, Library Science and Technology, and Teaching and Learning. Teacher certification is also under the purview of the College of Education.

The **College of Health Sciences** (COHS) offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate degrees spanning four academic departments: Human Sciences, Kinesiology, Public Health, and School of Nursing. Undergraduate degrees within the college range from Athletic Training, Health Care Administration, and Nursing to Fashion Merchandising and Interior Design. At the graduate level, the college offers master's degrees in Dietetics, Health Care Quality & Safety, Public Health, Sport & Human Performance, Sport Management, and Athletic Training.

The **College of Humanities and Social Sciences** (CHSS) provides the essential components of a liberal arts education. CHSS consists of Communication Studies, English, History, Integrated Studies, Political Science, Psychology & Philosophy, Sociology and World



ACADEMICS



Languages and Cultures. CHSS is home to the APA-accredited doctoral (PhD) in Clinical Psychology and several master's programs.

The ***College of Science and Engineering Technology*** (COSET) offers a wide variety of programs, including undergraduate degrees, master's degrees, and one PhD program. Degrees range from Animal Science and Biological Sciences to Construction Management and Physics. COSET is home to the Sam Houston State Natural History Collections Museum, Dominey Observatory, Gibbs Ranch Education & Research Center, STEM Center, and several student research labs.

The ***College of Osteopathic Medicine*** (COM) located in nearby Conroe, welcomed its inaugural class of medical students during Fall 2020. Designed to address a shortage of primary care doctors in the State of Texas, the college offers the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine with an emphasis toward primary care, and rural and underserved practice.

SHSU's newest college, SHSU Polytechnic College or ***SamPoly***, is designed to immediately equip students with industry-driven skills and workforce-ready training. Accepting applications starting in March 2025, SamPoly offers innovative educational pathways tailored to meet the demands of today's evolving job market.

SHSU Online offers a variety of degree programs and dozens of professional certificates and graduate certificates entirely online. These accredited programs are taught by the same faculty who teach on campus.

The ***Elliott T. Bowers Honors College*** enhances the university experience with intellectually stimulating academic, cultural, and social experiences, dedicated Honors housing and facilities, and faculty mentorship.

The ***Student Advising and Mentoring (SAM) Center*** in Academic Affairs provides centralized, integrated advising services for SHSU undergraduates. Advisors assist students with holistic, success-based academic advising and support to help with student achievement, retention, and degree completion.

ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges rankings highlight SHSU's success in advancing social mobility. The university was listed as No. 231 (out of 436) in National Universities, No. 126 (out of 225) in Top Public Schools and No. 32 (out of 433) nationally in the category of Top Performers on Social Mobility. According to the report, Top Performers on Social Mobility status is given to schools that put a focus on economically disadvantaged students.

SHSU was once again awarded top-ranking status for numerous online degree programs by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2025, including two programs ranking in the top four.

An economic impact study for fiscal year 2022-2023 revealed that SHSU added \$3.9 billion in income to the state, supporting the equivalent of 48,466 jobs. The study indicated that Walker County saw an income boost of \$317.6 million (12.1% of the county's GRP), and SHSU's activities in the county supported 4,436 jobs in the county. Montgomery County, home to the College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Woodlands Center, benefitted similarly to Walker County with the university funneling \$308.5 million into the local economy, supporting 4,370 jobs. The report underscored SHSU's role as a powerful economic engine, delivering lasting benefits to students, taxpayers and the Texas economy.

Bearkat Football qualified for the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl ('24) and defeated Georgia Southern University for the team's first bowl win since entering Conference USA.

Student doctors in the College of Osteopathic Medicine's class of '25 achieved the highest pass rate in the nation for first-time test takers on the Comprehensive Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX-USA) Level 1 exam.



STUDENTS



SHSU welcomed 21,039 students in fall 2024, majoring in a broad range of academic programs. This includes 17,787 undergraduates, 166 post-baccalaureate students, 2,123 master's students, 389 pursuing doctoral degrees, and 574 medical students at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. Students hail from 54 countries, 47 states and the District of Columbia, and 213 counties in Texas. On campus, 4,037 students reside in university housing, contributing to an engaged and thriving university community. For the fall of 2024, 4,589 students were 100% online.

STUDENT LIFE

Sam Houston State University offers a vibrant student life with over 250 student clubs and organizations, including honor societies, religious and spiritual groups, and a wide array of interest clubs spanning business, politics, fitness, culture, music, and community service. The campus also boasts a dynamic Greek Life, with more than 1,000 students involved in one of the 32 fraternities or sororities.



STUDENTS

SPORTS

The Bearkats compete in 18 NCAA Division I sports in Conference USA. Women's teams include basketball, bowling, cross country, golf, indoor and outdoor track & field, soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball. Beach volleyball's inaugural season is spring 2025. Men's teams include baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, and indoor and outdoor track & field. The conference membership provides an opportunity to compete as an NCAA Football Bowl program. In addition, the athletic department defines the student-athlete experience with success on and off the playing surface.

In SHSU's first year in CUSA, Men's Basketball was the regular season conference champions. Women's Golf won the championship and competed in the NCAA Regional Tournament. Women's Bowling won the NCAA Regional Tournament and competed for a NCAA National Bowling Championship by making it to the Final Four Tournament. In addition, former SHSU Baseball catcher, Walker Janek, was the 28th pick in the first round of the 2024 MLB draft, going to the Houston Astros.

RECREATION

Students can participate in recreational sports through intramurals, outdoor recreational programming, fitness classes, or by joining one of more than 18 club sports, including women's lacrosse, men's volleyball, e-sports, soccer, wrestling, rugby, and even Quidditch.

A newly renovated **Recreational Sports Center** is available to all students and offers a weight room, cardio area, 34-foot climbing and bouldering walls, a swimming pool, an indoor track, and basketball and volleyball courts. Additional facilities include the **Johnson Coliseum** – home to SHSU Volleyball as well as the SHSU Men's and Women's Basketball teams, the **University Camp** – located on 345 acres of land approximately 15 miles from Huntsville, the **Bearkat Course** – an 18-hole daily-fee course managed by the Sam Houston State PGA Golf Management program, as well as tennis courts, a turf field, sand volleyball courts, and more.



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Sam Houston State University is a member of the ***Texas State University System***. The system is governed by a nine-member Board of Regents appointed by the governor. A non-voting student regent is also appointed to the board annually. The system is led by a board-appointed chancellor, and the president of Sam Houston State University reports directly to the Chancellor.

SHSU President's Cabinet includes the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President for Operations, the Senior Vice President for Strategic Enrollment and Innovation and Chief Information Officer, the Vice President for University Advancement, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Chief Strategy Officer, the Chief Marketing Officer and Public Information Officer, the Director of Athletics, and the Deputy to the President. The President's Extended Cabinet also includes the Associate Vice President for Student Experience and Chief Retention Officer, the Vice Provost, the Chief Research Officer, the Vice President for Enrollment Success, and the Vice President for Facilities Management.

Other leadership bodies include the Faculty Senate, Council of Academic Deans, Academic Affairs Council, and Staff Senate.

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Alisa White assumed the presidency of SHSU in 2020. Dr. White, a Texas native, previously served as president of Austin Peay State University and as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at the University of Texas at Tyler and provost and vice president for academic affairs at Midwestern State University. Dr. White earned a PhD in Mass Communication and an M.S.L.S. degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, and a B.A. in Business from Lee College (now Lee University) in Cleveland, Tennessee. In addition to her experience in Tennessee and Texas, she has held faculty and leadership positions in Alaska, Louisiana, and Georgia.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The ***annual operating budget*** of Sam Houston State University is \$470 million, with assets totaling over \$1.2 billion as of the most recent year-end. Net tuition revenue was \$182 million, and state appropriations totaled about \$111 million. The Composite Financial Index for the university has ranged from 1.29 to 4.19 in the most recent five years. The endowment is valued at about \$170 million.



PROVOST AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

RESPONSIBILITIES

As the university's chief academic officer, the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs provides expertise and leadership in the development and operation of the Division of Academic Affairs in support of the university's mission. The provost reports to the president and oversees university administrative officials such as college deans, directors, or equivalent leaders in related areas. The provost provides leadership within Academic Affairs; works effectively with administration, faculty, staff, students, and outside contacts; and serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the university in the absence of the president. The provost is responsible for strategic planning, coordination, directing, and outcomes of all academic programs and other work.

The provost must be an innovative and forward-thinking leader, prepared to address the evolving landscape of higher education while preserving the university's academic excellence and traditions. The provost is an advocate for all academic programs and provides leadership to faculty and staff to ensure consistent quality standards in curriculum and delivery of programs to meet student needs. The provost is responsible for the strategic planning and direction of Academic Affairs units with primary oversight of the teaching, research, library, online education, and other service components of Academic Affairs, university-wide accreditation efforts (including the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and college/program accreditations), and sponsored research. In addition, the provost oversees faculty recruitment, appointment and re-appointment, professional development, evaluation, salary administration, promotion, tenure, and grievances as well as recruiting and selection of department heads. Further, the provost is responsible for budgeting, division resources, academic facilities, and commencement.

This position is a Campus Security Authority (CSA) and performs other duties assigned by the President.

QUALIFICATIONS

The Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs must possess a doctorate or terminal degree; sustained teaching and scholarly endeavors appropriate for the rank of full professor and tenure in one of Sam Houston State University's academic departments; proven and substantive administrative experience with a record of accomplishments as an administrator at the dean level or above at a senior educational institution.

The provost's duties require high-caliber coordination of diversified programs to ensure the achievement of SHSU's mission. The ideal candidate must be able to balance innovation and tradition – someone who is ready to face the evolving challenges in higher education while safeguarding the rich traditions and core values of the academic experience. The provost must possess the ability to communicate, obtain support, and work collaboratively with internal and external contacts, including top government officials and business executives, in advocating for SHSU activities and programs. The position of Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs requires comprehensive knowledge of university structure, policies, rules, and procedures for a major university division.

HOW TO APPLY

The position is open until filled, but applications received by Monday, April 11, will be given full consideration. Applications should include: 1) a detailed letter of interest; 2) a current curriculum vitae (CV); and 3) a list of five professional references with contact information. References will not be contacted without explicit permission from the candidate. Inquiries, nominations, and applications may be sent in confidence to: SHSUProvost@academicsearch.org

Sam Houston State University is being assisted by Academic Search. Confidential discussions may be arranged by contacting Ann Hasselmo (ann.hasselmo@academicsearch.org) or Chris Butler (chris.butler@academicsearch.org).

Sam Houston State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Plan Employer and Smoke/Drug-Free Workplace. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, creed, ancestry, marital status, citizenship, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, veteran status, disability status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.



ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting Sam Houston State University in this work. For more than four decades, Academic Search has offered executive search services to higher education institutions, associations, and related organizations. Academic Search was founded by higher education leaders on the principle that we provide the most value to partner institutions by combining best practices with our deep knowledge and experience. Our mission today is to enhance institutional capacity by providing outstanding executive recruitment services, executive coaching, and transition support, in partnership with our parent organization, the American Academic Leadership Institute. For more information, visit www.academicsearch.org.



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