



Admission Types

A student applying for admission to graduate studies at SHSU may be considered for six types of admission. Details of the possible admission types follow. **The final admission decision rests with the respective academic dean.**

Regular Admission

Regular admission may be granted to a degree-seeking student who meets all of the University and program-specific admission requirements. Meeting stated minimum admission requirements does not constitute automatic admission to a graduate program at Sam Houston State University. Any inquiries regarding program-specific admission requirements should be directed to the graduate advisor (access advisors at [Degrees Offered](#)) or the dean of the appropriate college in which the program is housed. Regular admission, pending degree conferral, may be granted to a degree-seeking student who has not yet graduated with their baccalaureate degree. This will allow an admission decision to be made and the student to enroll in classes pending receipt of successful degree conferral. For students admitted pending degree conferral or lacking official transcripts (i.e., admission decision made with unofficial transcripts), the official transcript of the degree-granting institution(s) showing the date of the degree conferral must be submitted prior to the registration deadline of the semester enrolled. Failure to submit such official transcripts by the registration deadline may result in revocation of admission status.

Conditional Admission

Conditional admission may be granted, at the discretion of the appropriate academic dean, to a degree-seeking student who has not yet submitted ALL of the required admission materials to allow an admission decision to be made and is being allowed to enroll in classes pending receipt of the missing material(s). Conditional admission is valid for **ONE SEMESTER ONLY**. A subsequent admission decision will be made upon receipt of the missing admission material. **Conditional admission does NOT guarantee regular admission upon receipt of the missing material**, regardless of the student's performance in classes taken during the one semester of conditional admission. Some programs do not grant conditional admission. At the discretion of the appropriate academic dean, a conditionally admitted student may be limited to fewer than the normal maximum semester load of 12 graduate credit hours. International students may not qualify for conditional admission, with the exception of international students transferring directly from U.S. institutions. For more information, refer to [Additional Visa Type Considerations](#). Conditional admission does not qualify for federal financial aid.

Probationary Admission

Probationary admission may be granted, at the discretion of the appropriate academic dean, to a degree-seeking student who has submitted all of the required admission materials BUT does not qualify for regular admission. Probationary admission allows a student to enroll in courses to demonstrate the ability to succeed at the graduate level. A student may complete a maximum of 12 graduate semester credit hours with probationary admission. A student with probationary status may be limited to fewer than 12 graduate credit hours by the appropriate academic dean. To petition for regular admission, a student must earn a grade of "B" or better in each course completed under probationary admission. A program may set a higher standard. The final decision rests with the appropriate academic dean. A maximum of 12 credit hours completed in probationary status may be applied to a graduate program, but the department/school concerned may choose not to accept some credit hours taken prior to regular admission. **Probationary admission does NOT guarantee regular admission upon completion of the requisite coursework.** International students may not be eligible for probationary admission. For more information, refer to [Additional Visa Type Considerations](#). Probationary admission does not qualify for federal financial aid.

Preparatory Admission

Preparatory admission may be granted, at the discretion of the appropriate academic dean, to a degree-seeking student who has NOT qualified for regular admission AND needs to complete one or more prerequisite (stem) courses. A student granted preparatory admission may be limited to a specified number of credit hours and be subject to a stringent GPA requirement in the prerequisite (stem) courses. **Preparatory admission does NOT guarantee regular admission upon completion of the stem courses**, regardless of the student's performance in the preparatory (stem) courses taken. International students may not be eligible for preparatory admission. For more information, refer to [Additional Visa Type Considerations](#). Preparatory admission does not qualify for federal financial aid.

Non-Degree Admission

Non-degree admission may be granted to a student who holds a baccalaureate degree or higher and does not intend to pursue a graduate degree at SHSU, but instead wishes to take courses for professional advancement, licensure, graduate certificate, certification, or self-edification purposes. Students may enroll in undergraduate or graduate-level courses. An applicant for non-degree admission must submit the following documents to the [Office of Admissions](#): the graduate application for admission, a non-refundable application fee, and a transcript from the school that awarded the baccalaureate degree. A non-degree student who later applies for regular admission to seek a graduate degree may apply a maximum of 12 credit hours of coursework taken in non-degree status toward a graduate program at the discretion of the appropriate academic Dean. Some graduate certificate programs may require additional information such as letters of recommendation, essays, and documentation of experience.

Generally, international students possessing an F-1 student visa are not eligible for non-degree admission. However, an F-1 student may enroll in a graduate-level certificate program. If currently enrolled at a U.S. institution in F-1 status, non-degree admission may be permitted if the student is pursuing a course that is not offered at their current institution. Both Sam Houston State University and the current F-1 institution must be in approval. Please, contact the [Global Engagement Center](#) for more details. For more information on additional visa types, refer to [Additional Visa Type Considerations](#).

Non-degree admission does not qualify for federal financial aid.

Graduate Transient Admission

Transient admission may be granted to a student who is accepted in good standing at a college and/or university recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and who wishes to enroll for one semester at Sam Houston State University. An applicant requesting this status must submit the following to the Office of Admissions: the graduate application for admission, a nonrefundable application fee, and certification of graduate standing in a college and/or university recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Some departments/schools may require additional information for transient admission; therefore, applicants should contact the appropriate academic department/school. A student admitted with this admission type who later wishes to seek a degree at Sam Houston State University must submit an application for graduate studies. A maximum of 12 credit hours taken as a graduate transient may be applied to a graduate degree program at the discretion of the appropriate academic dean. For more information for international students, refer to [Additional Visa Type Considerations](#).