

National Association of Schools of Theatre

SELF-STUDY

in Format A

**Presented for consideration by the
NAST Commission on Accreditation**

by

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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WWW.SHSU.EDU/ACADEMICS/THEATRE

**Degrees and/or programs for which renewal of Plan Approval and Final Approval for
Listing is sought:**

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre-Acting and Directing Emphasis
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre-Design and Technology Emphasis
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre with Teaching Certification
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre-Theatre Emphasis

Degrees and/or Programs for which Final Approval for Listing is sought:

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre-Theatre Studies Emphasis
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre-Dance Emphasis

SECTION I. PURPOSES AND OPERATIONS

A. Purposes of the Institution and Theatre Unit

University 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 from diverse backgrounds.

University Strategic Priorities and Goals

Prioritize Student Success and Student Access

- Recruit, retain, graduate, and transform students to succeed to drive sustainable growth
- Academic agility
- Implement innovative, market-driven academic programs supported by flexible scheduling and modality
- Develop micro-credentials that provide academic credit toward degree programs
- Establish pathways from professional competencies to academic credit
- Eliminate opportunity and achievement gaps

Embody a Culture of Excellence

- Academic excellence
- Align processes and resources, such as staffing, facilities, technology, and other assets to strategic priorities
- Provide a supportive, empowering, and culturally responsive workplace
- Integrate and advance an institutional culture that fosters and embraces inclusive excellence and a climate where students, faculty, staff, alumni, community partners, friends, and visitors feel included and supported
- Provide excellent and timely service to students, faculty, staff, visitors, and alumni

Elevate the Reputation and Visibility of SHSU

- Increase internal and external strategic partnerships within three years
- Increase local, national, international high-profile quality events hosted by SHSU
- Strengthen relationships with the greater SHSU community including counties and municipalities
- Identify/improve, promulgate, and leverage SHSU brand
- Become a successful NCAA Division 1 (FBS) member of Conference USA
- Establish a more visible and high-profile culture of philanthropy, service, and community engagement

Expand and Elevate our Service to the State and Beyond

- Promote career readiness and attainment through experiences that facilitate personal and professional development and connections
- Provide innovative ways to engage and serve the community

- Enhance programmatic efforts and initiatives for historically underserved or underrepresented populations for educational opportunities
- Establish community engagement as a signature high impact practice and program for the university
- Utilize regional alumni (clubs) and opportunities to facilitate university initiatives
- Obtain higher education parity in funding

Promote students' intellectual, social, ethical, and leadership growth.

- Pursue continuous improvement.
- Recruit and retain qualified, dedicated faculty and staff.
- Recruit, motivate, and retain qualified students.
- Provide the necessary library, technology, and other facilities to support quality instruction, research, and public service.
- Promote scholarly and research activities that contribute to knowledge and understanding.
- Promote and support diversity and provide equitable opportunities for underrepresented groups.
- Offer a wide range of pre-professional, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral programs.
- Promote cooperation with educational institutions, government and non-profit agencies, and the private sector.

The mission statement has been approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and The Texas State University System Board of Regents. The mission statement addresses the institution's responsibilities in teaching, research, and service as mandated by the Texas Education Code. The mission is specific to SHSU and is consistent with a Carnegie *Doctoral Research University* (Research 2 status) and *Hispanic Serving Institution* classifications.

The mission statement drives the university's strategic planning process. The Strategic Planning Committee, appointed by the President, is charged with reviewing and updating the mission statement of the university. The mission statement is foundational for the environmental scan which is a vital component of strategic planning at the university. As part of this process, the committee seeks feedback from departments across campus in its review.

Establishment, approval, and periodic review of the Sam Houston State University Mission Statement is carried out every four years in accordance with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Rules (see MDP I—Purposes and Operations, A. Purposes, SHSU Strategic Plan—Model of Current Plan and Flash Drive, Link to Online Material, 3-SHSU Current Strategic Plan 2023). Previous, complete university strategic plans are on the SHSU website (see Flash Drive, Links to Online Material, 2-SHSU Previous Strategic Plans).

Additional university data found on Flash Drive, Links to Online Material, 34—SHSU Factbook.

Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre Mission

The Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre dedicates itself to the highest quality professional training of our students. We strive to create a community of collaboration and

artistry. While maintaining excellence and integrity in all our educational and artistic endeavors, we empower our students to be courageous mediums of change, brave risk-takers and curious global citizens.

The department's mission statement appears in the Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre section of the university catalog and on the departmental website. The genesis of the statement was developed in fall 2022, during the faculty retreat and through subsequent meetings and discussions. The mission statement was crafted to ensure that the faculty was clear about how we approach working with our students to offer the best education possible. The mission statement articulates the basis for departmental strategic planning. Results of departmental strategic planning are communicated annually to the Dean of the College of Arts and Media (CAM), becoming a component in college-level strategic planning which is then forwarded to the provost (See the department's strategic plan in MDP III— Evaluation, Planning, and Projections, A. Any planning documents currently in effect or in use, Department of Theatre & Musical Theatre Strategic Plan.)

B. Size and Scope

The Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre currently enrolls around 211 majors, distributed as:

- 50 Musical Theatre majors (combining dance and theatre emphases)
- 57 BFA in Theatre-Acting and Directing Emphasis
- 21 BFA in Theatre-Design and Technology Emphasis
- 41 BFA in Theatre-Theatre Studies Emphasis
- 42 BFA in Theatre with Teaching Certification; and
- 50 Theatre Minors

On average, the department serves 280 students per semester in theatre courses. Most of the students in theatre courses are theatre majors, along with some minors and non-majors who are interested in theatre production. Most of the theatre courses fill to capacity each semester with occasional over-enrollment required for popular classes.

The university's faculty-to-student ratio is 25:1 with an average class size of 34 students. Our department successfully strives to keep enrollment in studio classes at or below 16 and lecture classes at or below 24; and has done so since the last accreditation. Our average class enrollments for the past five academic years are illustrated in the following chart (Figure 1):

D. Governance and Administration

TSUS

The university is a member of The Texas State University System (TSUS). The Texas State University System is governed by a nine-member board of regents appointed by the governor. In addition, a nonvoting student regent is appointed annually to the board. The administration, which is headed by a board-appointed chancellor, is based in Austin, where it provides support to the system components and state government. Support services to the system's eight member institutions include legal counsel, accounting, financial audit, academic program planning, contract administration, government relations, and communications services (see Flash Drive, Links to Online Material, 7-Texas State University System)

Regents

The Texas State University System Board of Regents is:

Alan L. Tinsley <i>Chairman</i> Madisonville	Charlie Amato <i>Regent</i> San Antonio
Dionicio Flores <i>Vice Chairman</i> El Paso	Duke Austin <i>Regent</i> Houston
Sheila Faske <i>Regent</i> Rose City	Stephen Lee <i>Regent</i> Beaumont
Russel Gordy <i>Regent</i> Houston	Tom Long <i>Regent</i> Beaumont
William F. Scott <i>Regent</i> Nederland	Kevin Elgar <i>Student Regent</i> Beaumont

President

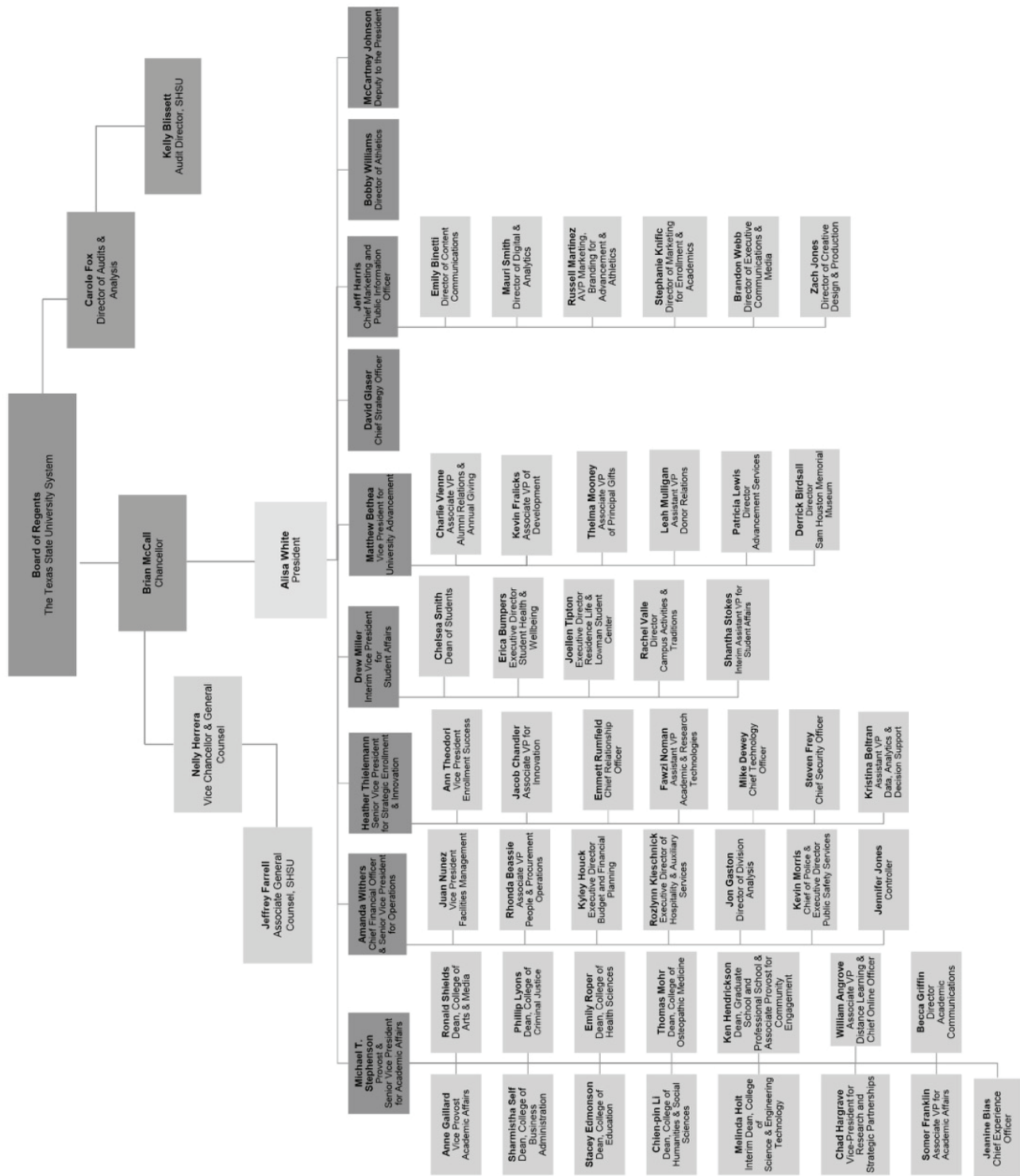
The chief executive officer of Sam Houston State University is the president, Alisa White. The president of the university is responsible for the development, maintenance, and utilization of the university's resources in such a manner that its goals and objectives are achieved in the most

effective and efficient manner, and in accordance with the desired philosophy as determined by the Board of Regents. The authority, duties, and responsibilities of the president's office can be found in The Texas State University System – Rules and Regulations. (See Flash Drive, “The Texas State University System – Rules and Regulations,” *Chapter IV, Presidents of the Components; Section 2 – Authority, Duties, and Responsibilities*).

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

The provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, Michael Stephenson, is the university's chief academic officer and reports directly to the President of the University. This position's responsibilities include supervising all matters, policies, procedures, and activities within the Division of Academic Affairs. Reporting to the Provost are the Academic Deans, Associate Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies, Associate Vice President for Research and Special Programs, Associate Vice President of Research Administration and Technology Commercialization, Associate Vice President of Distance Learning, and the Director of the Library.

An overview of the university's organizational structure is below (Figure 2).



<https://www.shsu.edu/dA/79e576aefc/fileAsset>
Figure 2