



Sam Houston State University

Member Texas State University System

Date

First Name Last Name

Address Line

City, State Zip Code

**Subj: Student Loan Debt
Budgeting and Planning**

Dear First Name,

At Sam Houston State University we are proud to share in your educational journey. We know higher education requires a real investment in time, energy, and financial resources; and, we think you made a great choice by pursuing a degree in higher education and investing in yourself. Studies indicate the majority of college graduates earn more, have a lower unemployment rate, and live longer than those who do not have a college degree.

Student Loan Debt

The purpose of this communication is to give you a quick recap on what you have borrowed, to date, in student loans. We want you to *be informed* about your student debt and options for repayment. To date, your accumulated student loan debt is:

Federal Student Loans	\$
Alternative Loans Certified by SHSU	\$
Total Estimated Student Loan Debt	\$
Estimated Monthly Payment @ 6.8%	\$

Please note that Private Education Loans including Be On Time, College Access Loans, and Alternative Loans accrued at other institutions may not be included in this debt total. To get the most accurate information on your loans, please visit www.nsls.ed.gov

Completion of Your Degree

As the amount of your loan debt increases, the importance of successfully completing your degree also increases. Did you know that the federal government is attempting to reduce your student debt incurred by only paying aid on courses that count toward your attempted degree? For questions, contact your academic advisor.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Review DegreeWorks and ensure that you are making the required *Satisfactory Academic Progress* to retain eligibility for your federal student aid. You must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0, an overall 67% completion rate and not exceed 180 attempted hours. If you have any questions about this, please contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for assistance.

Federal and State Programs to Reduce Loan Debt and Assist in Repayment

You may be eligible for tuition and fee waivers, the TEACH Grant, a tuition rebate or a *loan forgiveness program* for teachers or public servants. There are also multiple loan repayment plans available for student borrowers. For questions or assistance in determining what you may be eligible for, please visit the Student Money Management Center.

Next Steps

Schedule an appointment with a Financial Coach at the Student Money Management Center (SMMC) using Campus Connect. You may also schedule an appointment via phone at 936.294.2600 or E-mail studentdebt@SHSU.EDU.

Meet with a Career Counselor. Outside of earning a degree, one of the most important steps you can take to secure a solid financial future is to develop an internship and career plan. To assist with this effort, your financial coach will refer you to a career counselor during your first meeting. Or, you may contact Career Services at 936.294.1713 to schedule an appointment.

We look forward to working with you to structure a successful transition from your educational career at Sam Houston to your new professional career.

Debt Letter Next Steps

shsu.edu/debt-letter

In order to retain your eligibility for Federal Student Aid, please review the following checklist.

- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)** shsu.edu/sap

Requirements

	Minimum GPA	Hours Completion Rate	Max Attempted Hours
Undergrad	2.0	67%	180
Graduate	3.0	67%	30 - 36

Review your information in DegreeWorks to ensure compliance! degreeworks.shsu.edu

Questions?

Contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at (936) 294-1774.

- Complete Your Degree**

- As you continue to increase your student loan debt amount, it becomes increasingly important to finish your degree.
- The federal government is attempting to reduce your student loan debt by only paying aid on courses that count toward your attempted degree.



919 Bearkat Blvd.
Student Services Annex
(936) 294-2600
studentdebt@shsu.edu
shsu.edu/smmc



@SHSU_SMMC



Kattributes

These SHSU Kattributes are most representative of the SHSU student body and most desired by potential employers.

Communication

Teamwork

Critical Thinking

Ethics

Career Ready