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SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT GUIDELINES 2016-2018

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY



DIVISION OF STUDENT SERVICES

# Student Guidelines



MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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# INTRODUCTION

## UNIVERSITY MISSION

Sam Houston State University provides high quality education, scholarship and service to qualified students for the benefit of regional, state, national and international constituencies.

## UNIVERSITY GOALS

- **Lifelong Learning** - Foster a lifelong learning environment in support of a diverse faculty and staff who are excellent scholars, educators and professionals.
- **Stimulating Environment** - Promote a stimulating learning environment through the integration of academic settings, campus culture and service
- **Intellectual Transformation** - Increase and develop university resources and infrastructures that support the intellectual transformation of students.
- **Anticipating Needs** - Enhance marketing outreach and visibility to include academic and scholarly activities through consistent and integrated messaging while optimizing communication channels.
- **Data-Driven Decision Making** - Promote efficient data-driven decision making through the integration of centralized data analysis, review and dissemination.
- **Enhanced Outreach** - Cultivate a continually sensitive and proactive response to the ever-changing needs of our constituents.

## BEARKAT

Sam Houston State University's athletic teams have been nicknamed "The Bearkats" since 1923 when the University's name

was changed by the Texas State Legislature from Sam Houston Normal Institute to Sam Houston State Teachers College. (Prior to 1923, the varsity sports teams were nicknamed "The Normals.")

It is doubtful those who coined the "Bearkat" nickname had a particular animal in mind, however. More likely, the name came from a popular local saying of the time, "tough as a Bear-kat!" The late Reed Lindsey, who was a student/athlete in the 1920s and later retired as University registrar, once said that "it was a good fighting name of the time." Since the animal in the saying was thought more mythical than real, the spelling settled upon was "Bearkat."

In the late 1940s, then SHSU president Harmon Lowman attempted to change the SHSU mascot from Bearkats to "Ravens" (after General Sam Houston's Cherokee nickname). Mrs. Vernon Schuder reported that the alumni were polled; she voted for the raven but that "all those old Bearkats beat us out!"

The current Sammy Bearkat mascot character began appearing at SHSU sports events in 1959.

## SCHOOL SEAL

Sam Houston State University has adopted as its official seal a high-contrast image of the statue of General Sam Houston, which stands in front of Austin Hall on the north end of the campus Quadrangle.

Around the image in the seal are the words "Sam Houston State University," two stars, and the year in which Sam Houston Normal Institute was founded — 1879.

