

THE FINAL 79

Your guide to the final 79 days of your undergraduate journey.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Office of the Registrar, Sam Center, SHSU Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Career Success Center, Financial Aid & Scholarships, Graduate & Professional School, Campus Activities & Involvement, Student Financial Services, and more.



Sam Houston State University
Student & Family
Experience
Student Affairs



GRADUATION READY

- [Schedule an appointment](#) with SAM Center to verify you are on-track to graduate.
- [Apply to graduate](#). Application fee is \$50 before **January 28**; and is \$80 after.
- Ensure transfer credits are processed by the [Office of the Registrar](#) by **May 11** at noon.
- Monitor your graduation status through your [DegreeWorks](#).
- Verify spelling of your full name in [MySam](#) and if needed, submit [Name Change Request Form](#).
- Verify your Permanent Legal Address in [MySam](#) by **April 30** to ensure diploma is mailed correctly.
- Set reminder: [Diplomas](#) will be mailed to you about 8 weeks after commencement.

COMMENCEMENT READY

- Check the [commencement schedule](#) for your ceremony date and time.
- [Reserve](#) your eight Commencement guest tickets using your SAM ID starting March 2 at 10 AM. Graduates will be notified if additional guest tickets become available.
- [Watch video](#) on how to prepare for the ceremony.
- [Order your cap and gown](#) through Herff Jones by **April 9**.
- [Watch video](#) on how to wear your cap and gown.
- Invite family & friends to ceremony and share the [live webcast link](#) with those who can't come.
- [Request](#) commencement accommodations at least two weeks before your ceremony.
- On Commencement Day, arrive at the Recreational Sports Center (RSC) for check-in at least **one hour before** your scheduled ceremony with your cap and gown; purses and bags are not permitted. See [Graduation Checklist & Student FAQ](#) for more information.

RECORDS & ADMINISTRATION READY

- Resolve outstanding balances in full via [MySam](#) or [Student Account Services](#).
- Complete [Exit Counseling](#) (if required). Contact our [Financial Aid & Scholarships](#) for assistance.
- Check your eligibility for the [Tuition Rebate Program](#) and apply (if eligible) by **May 8**.
- [Request official transcript\(s\)](#) for graduate school applications, job applications, etc.
- Take the [First Destination Survey](#) to share your post-graduation plans with SHSU.

CAREER READY

- Meet with the [Career Success Center](#) to finalize your resume and cover letter.
- [Schedule a mock interview](#) for personalized practice and feedback.
- Refine your LinkedIn profile with the help of the pros at the [Career Success Center](#).
- Use the Career Success Center's [job search resources](#) to help you apply for positions.
- Visit [Tripod's Thrift Store](#) for professional clothing.
- Attend a [Career & Internship Fair](#) scheduled this semester.
- Identify 3-5 professional references by getting input and guidance from the [Career Success Center](#) on who to ask, how to format your references page, and how to request recommendation letters.
- Schedule your free background report through [Student Legal & Mediation Services](#) in CampusConnect to see what employers may find.
- Complete [Competencies #7 & #8](#) in Career Success Center's Learning Lounge on Blackboard.
- Complete the [4th Year Success](#) module in the Career Success Center's Learning Lounge on Blackboard.

GRADUATE SCHOOL READY

- Explore graduate programs by visiting the SHSU Graduate & Professional School [website](#).
- Attend a Graduate & Professional School admissions event for your academic college of interest and explore programs, meet representatives, and get help with your application. Events will be late March through mid-April, but watch the [events calendar](#) for details as they're posted.
- [Schedule and prepare](#) for your graduate entrance exam (varies by program).
- [Register](#) by **March 16** to present or attend the Undergraduate Research Symposium on April 18.
- Boost your Fall 2026 grad school plans at SHSU by applying for the [ASPIRE Program](#) by **May 15**.
- Attend the Graduate Research Showcase on April 14. See [events calendar](#) for more information.
- [Apply to the SHSU Graduate & Professional School](#) through ApplyTexas and complete all required steps by **May 15** for Summer 2026 or by **August 1** for Fall 2026.

FINANCIAL & WELLNESS READY

- [Schedule a consultation](#) with Student Money Management to understand your student loan repayment options and next steps.
- [Schedule a Senior Wellness Checkup](#) with the Student Health Center to check in on your overall wellbeing before graduation.
- [Make an appointment](#) with Student Money Management to create a post-grad budget plan for managing your finances after college.
- Watch the "[Health Insurance FAQs](#)" video from Student Wellness to learn how health insurance works and how to avoid unexpected medical expenses.

BEARKAT PRIDE

- Attend Senior Night at the Men's Basketball game and tailgate on February 28 at 12:00 PM at Johnson Coliseum.
- Order your official SHSU ring by **March 6** to participate in the Ring Ceremony on May 1.
- Complete Ultimate Bearkat requirements by **March 31** and attend the Induction Ceremony on April 29, where you will receive a medal to wear at Commencement. For more information, contact Campus Activities & Involvement at GetInvolved@shsu.edu or 936-294-3861.
- Attend the Grad Cap Decorating Party on April 1 from 12:00-3:00 PM in LSC 230.
- Take Last Day of College photos with the Academic Success Center on April 28 from 11:00–2:00 PM in Parker Plaza.
- Share your favorite SHSU memory and/or advice for incoming students on social media using #BearkatGrad.
- Register by **May 4** to participate in Bell Tower Bound on May 6 at 6:00 PM in Parker Plaza.

ALUMNI READY

- Leave your Legacy by contributing to the SHSU Class of 2026 Senior Class Legacy.
- Follow @shsualumni on social media.
- Attend Decal Day on April 24 to drive through and get your alumni car swag. More details to be shared on the Alumni Events Calendar.
- Purchase a life membership with the SHSU Alumni Association at a discounted rate.