To receive Financial Aid from SHSU, you must complete these steps:

1. Complete your FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). You will need a FSA ID to electronically sign the application. Parental information may also be required.

2. Check the status of your Financial Aid application online through “My Sam” portal at [www.shsu.edu](http://www.shsu.edu)
   - Log in to “My Sam”
   - Click on the “My Account” tab
   - View the “Financial Aid Requirements” section

3. Once all required items have been received and reviewed for completeness, an award notification email will be sent to your SHSU email account.

4. Accept or decline offered aid online through the “My Sam” portal at [www.shsu.edu](http://www.shsu.edu)
   - Log in to “My Sam”
   - Click on the “My Account” tab
   - Click on “Financial Aid Awards”
   - Select aid year (Academic Year 20YY-20YY)

   Be sure to go through each tab before accepting your awards on the “Accept Award Offer” tab.

5. If all requirements are complete, your aid will automatically disburse to your student account.

6. If a residual balance remains after your financial aid applies to your student account, the residual funds will be distributed according to the refund preference you select at [www.BearkatOne.com](http://www.BearkatOne.com)

Questions?

Contact us:

**Bearkat OneCard Services**

Estill Building, Suite 230

936-294-2273

BearkatOne@shsu.edu

Office hours: 8:00 am-5:00 pm M-F
What benefits are associated with my ID?
Activating the Bearkat OneCard will grant you access to the many benefits offered to the students of Sam Houston State University.

The Bearkat OneCard is used for:
- Meal Plans
- Bearkat Bucks
- Assigned Residence Hall
- Entrance to Athletic Events
- University Sponsored Functions
- Recreational Sports Facility
- Kat Klub
- Newton Gresham Library Services
- Managing Refund Preferences
- Managing Student Payroll Preferences
- Raven’s Nest Golf Course
- University Health Center Services
- Bursar’s Office
- Sam Center (Student Advising)
- Career Services
- Campus Identification

How do I get a Bearkat OneCard?
- Have your photo taken in the Bearkat OneCard Office. (You must present a valid state or government-issued photo ID in order to request a Bearkat OneCard.)
- Have a valid and current address on file with the University.
- Be currently registered for classes.

Once these steps have been completed, your Bearkat OneCard will be mailed to you. Upon receipt, it’s essential you select your refund preference at BearkatOne.com. Selecting your refund preference also activates your campus ID functionality.

Do I have to activate my card?
Yes, you have to activate your card for ID purposes. You will also use your card to choose your refund preference. You will complete the following steps during activation:
1. Grant yourself access to the benefits offered to the students of Sam Houston State University.
2. Select your refund preference.

What is a refund preference and what are my options?
A refund preference is any method you choose to receive money owed to you by SHSU. Refunds can include, but are not limited to: excess Financial Aid money, dropped class refunds, and residence hall deposits.

When you activate your Bearkat OneCard you are presented with two refund options:
- **ELECTRONIC DEPOSIT TO ANOTHER ACCOUNT**
  Money is transferred to another account the same business day BankMobile receives funds from SHSU. Typically, it takes 1 - 2 business days for the receiving bank to credit the money to your account.

- **ELECTRONIC DEPOSIT TO A BANKMOBILE VIBE ACCOUNT**
  If you open a BankMobile Vibe account (upon identity verification), money is deposited the same business day BankMobile receives funds from SHSU.

What is the BankMobile Vibe account?
The BankMobile Vibe account is an optional account designed specifically for students with access to the largest fee-free ATM network, money management tools and a one-of-a-kind recognition program. When you choose a BankMobile Vibe account, your Bearkat OneCard can be used as a Debit MasterCard®. Your BankMobile Vibe account gives you the convenience of a widely accepted debit card with the budgeting control of an FDIC-insured checking account.

How do I make a deposit into my BankMobile Vibe account?
- Direct deposit your paychecks
- EasyDepositSM check capture through the BankMobile Vibe app
- Reload @ the RegisterTM at participating retailers with your Bearkat OneCard and add cash directly to your card at the register
- Transfer money from a 3rd party account into your BankMobile Vibe account 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at no cost

How can I access the funds in my BankMobile Vibe account?
- Withdraw cash from over 55,000 fee-free Allpoint® ATMs. Find an Allpoint ATM near you at www.allpointnetwork.com
- Use the Bearkat OneCard for everyday purchases anywhere Debit MasterCard is accepted

**TWICE THE STRIPES! Twice the Functionality.**
Not only is the Bearkat OneCard your official SHSU ID, but if you turn it over you will see two stripes:
- Use the black stripe for on-campus use.
- If you select or have selected an optional BankMobile Vibe account, use the gold stripe for purchases. Otherwise, not applicable.

1 Up to $500 at most locations. A fee of $4.95 or less is charged by Green Dot per deposit. Reload and balance limits apply. Keep your receipt.