why SHSU?

This is a university that thinks big but feels small. With a student population of over 17,000, SHSU prides itself with creating a close community. Current students and alumni alike attest to the warm, supportive environment found all over the SHSU campus. Faculty members are more than professors—they are mentors, advisors, informal tutors, and personal links to great career connections.

Sam Houston State University has something—and then some—for everyone. No matter where you look, you will find ways to have fun, make great friends, enjoy the arts, serve others, and challenge yourself.

An education from Sam Houston State University prepares graduates to be a vital part of the world. It gives them the theoretical and practical knowledge to understand and solve challenges. It equips them with the experience and confidence to become effective leaders. It develops in them a heart for service to their communities. It gives them the tools they need to have an impact—as new graduates and for the rest of their lives.

There are many ways to learn more about Sam Houston State University, but the best way is to come visit campus and experience it for yourself.

The Dance Program at Sam Houston State University delivers a dynamic, challenging experience that integrates creativity, performance and scholarly pursuits designed to prepare each student for a 21st century career in dance.

Intensive study in concert dance techniques, abundant performance opportunities, concerts to showcase student choreography, guest artist residencies, and a solid academic foundation: this is the dance experience at SHSU.
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance

Finding Your Potential

Graduates of the Dance Program at SHSU perform with professional dance companies, including Pilobolus, The Houston Met, and Blue Lapis Light. Others have gone into commercial entertainment: dancing for theme parks, cruise lines, and musicals. Our alumni are successful choreographers, company directors, and studio dance teachers. SHSU dancers are also well represented as dance teachers in high schools throughout Texas.

PROGRAM ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Admission to the Dance Program requires an audition. A schedule of audition dates, information, and applications are available on our website. Approximately $25,000 in performance-based scholarships is awarded each year.

Students may apply for non-degree specific scholarships by filling out the ScholarX online application. Transfer scholarships are also available for students who would like to continue their academic career at Sam Houston.

CURRICULUM

SHSU Dance majors pursue the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. They may elect to earn a minor and certification in Secondary Education through the Department of Education.

The curriculum includes four increasingly challenging levels of Ballet, Modern Dance, and Choreography. Other required courses include Dance and Technology, World Dance, Pilates, Folk and Social Dance, Pedagogy, Laban Movement Analysis, Criticism and Analysis, and Repertory. Students may also elect to study Contact Improvisation, Jazz, Tap, Hip Hop, and Pointe.

FACILITIES

The Dance Program is housed in the beautiful James and Nancy Gaertner Performing Arts Center. Dance majors enjoy use of four spacious studios, a 160-seat dance theater, dressing rooms with showers and lockers, a fully equipped costume shop, an 18 station Mac lab, and a Pilates conditioning studio.

“Dance is the hidden language of the soul.”
- Martha Graham