why SHSU?

This is a university that thinks big but feels small. With a student population of over 18,000, 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 College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University is the only school in Texas, and one of only a few in the nation, to offer a bachelor’s degree in Victim Studies.

The Victim Studies Program teaches students how to provide short term solution-based counseling to victims.
**Be an Advocate**

Graduates of Sam Houston State University’s Victim Studies Program are prepared to work in a wide array of careers with victims of crime, including victim service agencies, police departments, correctional facilities, child protective services, programs serving at-risk youth, and legal advocacy for victims.

“There is a growing awareness of the need to integrate victims into the criminal justice system,” said Dr. Leana Bouffard, a professor in the College of Criminal Justice and Director of the Crime Victims’ Institute. “In the past, victims didn’t have much of a voice. Now there are victim advocacy groups and community service agencies for victims.”

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

The College of Criminal Justice offers over 40 scholarships. Additionally, applicants are considered for a number of non-degree specific scholarships upon completion of the ScholarX online application. Transfer scholarships are available for students who would like to continue their academic career at Sam Houston State University.

**COURSEWORK**

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees in Victim Studies are multidisciplinary degrees consisting of core curriculum from the College of Criminal Justice and additional/ elective courses from other departments.

The difference between the BA and BS degrees is that the BA requires foreign language courses, while the BS requires more social science. Victim Studies majors are required to take five core Criminal Justice courses as well as six credits in victim-specific classes—including Child Abuse and Neglect, Family Violence, and Crimes Against Women or the Elderly—as well as victim services classes—such as Trauma, Victims Rights, and Interviewing.

In addition to the core curriculum, the electives include two courses in social justice and three additional offerings in Criminal Justice, Sociology, and Psychology.