Student Organizations:

- Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society
- Crime Victim Services Alliance (CVSA)
- Kats for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Lambda Alpha Epsilon American Criminal Justice Association (LAE)
- National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ)
- National Organization of Hispanics in Criminal Justice (NOHCJ)
- Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity
- The Society of Forensic Science (SFS)
A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN VICTIM STUDIES

SHSU’s bachelor’s degree in victim studies, offered by the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, is the only program of its kind in Texas and one of few in the nation. Graduates of this program are prepared to work in a wide array of career areas 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. Victim advocates’ responsibilities include working with the victim to explain legal procedures and available resources, along with encouraging and supporting the victim throughout the court process. They also try to minimize the physical, psychological, and emotional consequences on the crime victim.

“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.”

REQUIREMENTS

Five core criminal justice course are required as well as six credits in victim studies-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 Right, 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.

Minors: This program does not require a minor; however, a minor in human services is commonly chosen and suggested for victim studies majors.

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 Scholarships4Kats online application. Transfer scholarships are available for students who would like to continue their academic career at Sam Houston. SHSU provides a quality education at an affordable cost.

INTERNSHIPS

An integral part of all degree offerings is the opportunity for career exposure. The internship program is designed to provide students valuable work experience, on-the-job training, and a chance to develop a professional networking base for the future. Students in the criminal justice programs are offered unparalleled opportunities to participate in one of the nation’s leading internship programs.