

# Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will Balfour only come to SHSU once a year to sale official rings?
  - No, Balfour makes every effort to be on campus multiple times during the year.
  - Eligible students receive an email notification of the ring sale dates. Flyers are posted on bulletin boards around campus announcing the upcoming ring dates approximately one month prior to the event.
2. Do I have to order my ring through Balfour?
  - Yes, Balfour is the official ring provider for Sam Houston State University. You may order your ring any time online at [balfour.com](http://balfour.com), by phone (1-866-BALFOUR), or at the University Bookstore located in the Lowman Student Center (LSC).
3. How many hours do I have to complete to purchase a ring and participate in the ring ceremony?
  - A minimum of 75 credit hours. Masters and Doctoral students may order a ring at any time during their study.
4. Can I still purchase my ring if I missed the ring sale days on campus?
  - You may order your ring at any time online at [balfour.com](http://balfour.com), by phone (1-866-BALFOUR), or at the University Bookstore in the LSC
5. What exactly takes place at the SHSU Ring Ceremony and what is the dress attire?
  - Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. and the ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m. The ceremony is approximately 1 hour long. Students should dress in business attire.
6. When is the deadlines to RSVP for the ceremony?
  - The deadline to order your ring and have it shipped to the Office of Alumni Relations in time for the ring ceremony is approximately eight (8) weeks prior to the ceremony. In addition, you must also preregister and verify the correct spelling of your name via the alumni website, [alumni.shsu.edu](http://alumni.shsu.edu), at least one week prior to the ceremony.
7. If I order my ring now, do I get my ring or do I have to wait until the ring ceremony?
  - Sam Houston tradition is that all rings spend the night in Sam Houston's home on the museum grounds the night before each ring ceremony. If you are not able to participate in the ring ceremony, rings may be picked up the day after the ceremony at the Office of Alumni Relations, located in the John R. Ragsdale Visitor and Alumni Center. Rings not claimed will be returned to Balfour and then shipped to the address you provided at the time of your order.
8. How do I know if my information will be accurate in the program?
  - We utilize the official ring order list from Balfour; so that all individuals who ordered a ring, regardless if they participate in the ceremony will be recognized in the printed program.

9. Why do I need to register before the ceremony and what does that mean?
- Students are required to RSVP online to reserve their space at the ceremony. Registration must be completed prior to the ceremony. The day of the event, students are required to check-in approximately 1 ½ hours prior to the start of the ceremony.
10. When does the online registration open each semester?
- Online registration typically opens 4-5 weeks in advance of each ceremony. You will receive an official printed invitation in the mail, as well as multiple e-mails, notifying you that online registration is now open.
  - All students that plan to attend the ring ceremony must pre-register and verify their information is correct, as well as provide the correct pronunciation of their name.
11. Online registration asks for my guest count?
- This number is only for informational purposes of the event planning committee. This is only an estimate and does not need to be 100% accurate.