1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this academic policy statement is to provide the general criteria for the classification of an academic department as a School at Sam Houston State University.

2. GENERAL

Each proposal for establishing a school must be reviewed and approved by the Council of Academic Deans, the Academic Affairs Council, the Academic Policy Council, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the President, and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs prior to submission to the Board of Regents.

3. CRITERIA

3.01 The administration of the academic unit must present a convincing case regarding the benefits of being known as a “School.” One of the benefits should include the potential for substantial external endowment.

3.02 To alter the classification of an academic department to an academic school, the academic unit should meet most of the following criteria:

a. The proposed academic unit should offer at least four academic specializations that may be related, but are academically separate.

b. The proposed academic unit should offer both undergraduate and graduate degrees.

c. The academic programs within a proposed school should be primarily of a professional nature. The proposed academic unit, its degree programs, or its graduates should be accredited (or eligible for accreditation in the case of program graduates) by a nationally recognized professional organization(s).

d. The faculty of the proposed academic unit and the unit itself should have regional or national reputations for excellence in teaching, scholarly activity, and professional service.

e. The proposed academic unit should have at least 20 full-time tenured or tenure-track professors and over 200 students enrolled as majors.
CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

This academic policy statement (APS) has been approved by the reviewer(s) listed below and represents SHSU’s Division of Academic Affairs’ policy from the date of this document until superseded.

Original: November 18, 2008
Reviewer(s): Academic Policy Council

Approved: /signed/  Date: 04-25-09
David E. Payne
Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs

*ENY = Even Numbered Year