

## Huntsville-Sam Houston State University Relationship: An Overview

Sam Houston State University (SHSU) is located in Huntsville, Texas about 70 miles north of the Houston-Galveston metropolitan area. It is situated on Interstate Highway 45, the major roadway connecting Houston with Dallas-Fort Worth, and is built on hills which are the highest point of land between the two major cities.

The University represents a major and vital force in the area. This importance can be seen in (1) the number of its people residing and working in the area; (2) the geographic area and improvements owned and controlled by the University; (3) the total economic impact of the expenditures by the University and its people, and by the visitors to the area attracted by the University, on the local retail business scene; (4) the addition to the local credit base; (5) the contributions made to the local infrastructure through taxes paid; (6) the contributions by the people of the University to local churches and charities; and (7) the intangible contributions by the University to the quality of life in the area.

Enrollment (Fall 2003) at SHSU was 13,460 students. A summary profile of student demographics (based on Fall 2002 data) is given below:

### SHSU DEMOGRAPHICS - Fall 2002

SHSU Students	Male	Female	Beginning Freshmen	New Transfers	Beginning Graduates
<b>AVERAGE AGE</b>	<b>23.01</b>	<b>22.37</b>	<b>18.25</b>	<b>22.80</b>	<b>30.87</b>

ETHNIC CATEGORY	Male	%	Female	%	Total
White	4,018	41.3%	5,700	58.7%	9,718
Black	713	39.6%	1,089	60.4%	1,802
American Indian	28	50.9%	27	49.1%	55
Hispanic	509	41.6%	715	58.4%	1,224
Asian/Pacific Islander	57	44.2%	72	55.8%	129
International	94	57.7%	69	42.3%	163
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,419</b>	<b>41.4%</b>	<b>7,672</b>	<b>58.6%</b>	<b>13,091</b>

COLLEGE	Male	%	Female	%	Total
Arts & Sciences	1,874	42.3%	2,558	57.7%	4,432
Business Administration	1,409	51.6%	1,320	48.4%	2,729
Criminal Justice	802	53.3%	704	46.7%	1,506
Education & Applied Science	1,334	30.2%	3,090	69.8%	4,424
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,419</b>	<b>41.4%</b>	<b>7,672</b>	<b>58.6%</b>	<b>13,091</b>

*Note 1: Average Age is for Undergraduates Only.*

Classification	Male	%	Female	%	Total
Freshman	1,295	42.8%	1,731	57.2%	3,026
Sophomore	1,146	43.5%	1,490	56.5%	2,636
Junior	1,079	42.5%	1,462	57.5%	2,541
Senior	1,275	42.2%	1,744	57.8%	3,019
<b>TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE</b>	<b>4,795</b>	<b>42.7%</b>	<b>6,427</b>	<b>57.3%</b>	<b>11,222</b>
Graduate	449	31.4%	979	68.6%	1,428
Doctoral	65	47.1%	73	52.9%	138
Post-Bac	110	36.3%	193	63.7%	303
<b>TOTAL GRADUATE</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>33.4%</b>	<b>1,245</b>	<b>66.6%</b>	<b>1,869</b>
<b>UNIVERSITY TOTAL</b>	<b>5,419</b>	<b>41.4%</b>	<b>7,672</b>	<b>58.6%</b>	<b>13,091</b>
Housing	Male	%	Female	%	Total
Off Campus	4,432	42.5%	6,007	57.5%	10,439
On Campus	987	37.2%	1,665	62.8%	2,652
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,419</b>	<b>41.4%</b>	<b>7,672</b>	<b>58.6%</b>	<b>13,091</b>

The number of faculty and staff (including part-time workers) is approximately 1200. The University is major piece of the total Huntsville's population of 36,410 (2003 estimate from The Texas State Data Center) and Walker County's population of 63,882 (estimated 2003 from The Texas State Data Center). SHSU is the second largest employer in the area, accounting for one-sixth of the all locally-based jobs. The university's annual payroll for fiscal year 2004 will be \$32.7 million.

Sam Houston State's impact on the local retail economy during 2002/2003 amounted to over \$107 million. This aggregate can be classified as follows: (1) \$87 million in off-campus expenditures by students, faculty and staff; (2) \$3.8 million from people coming to town to visit local students, faculty, and staff; (3) \$5.5 million from visitors drawn to Huntsville for various SHSU related attractions; and (4) \$11 million from direct SHSU spending in local Huntsville .

Of the 74% of the faculty who live in the local area, most (85%) are buying their home and paying a median monthly house payment of \$860. The remaining 15% are paying monthly rents of \$580 (median).

Staff members also are likely to be living in the local area (77%). About half (46%) of them are buying their home, and they are paying \$600 per month in house payments. Staff who are renting are pay monthly rents of \$430 (median).

Only slightly fewer (72%) of the students are living in the local area. Students are likely (48%) to be renting, and are paying \$470 per month. About one-fourth (25%) of the students are staying in the dorms on campus, while 14% are buying their homes; 11% are living with their parents and 1% are living in a fraternity or sorority house.

One-fifth (19.5%) of the faculty have bought a new car during the past year, paying an average of \$21,745 each. Staff members were almost as likely (13.1%) to have bought a new car; they paid \$19,075. A few students (3.3%) bought cars averaging around \$15,000 each.

Further detail of the direct impact of faculty, staff and students on selected local retail sectors (restaurants, grocery, and gasoline) is presented below:

	Restaurants		Grocery		Gasoline	
	Visits per Week	Average Expenditure	Visits per Week	Average Expenditure	Visits per Week	Average Expenditure
Faculty	2.9	\$15	1.6	\$57	1.5	\$16
Staff	2.8	\$14	1.4	\$65	1.4	\$18
Students	2.4	\$11	0.9	\$30	1.1	\$13

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