SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTIONAL MISSION STATEMENT*

UNIVERSITY MISSION
Sam Houston State University is a multicultural institution whose mission is to
provide excellence by continually improving quality education, scholarship, and
service to its students and to appropriate regional, state, national, and international
constituencies.

UNIVERSITY GOALS
- Promote students' intellectual, social, and leadership growth.
- Recruit and retain qualified, dedicated faculty and support staff.
- Recruit and retain qualified, motivated students.
- Provide the necessary library and other facilities to support quality instruc-
tion, research, and public service.
- Provide an educational environment that encourages systematic inquiry
and research.
- Promote and support diversity and provide for equitable opportunities for
minorities.
- Offer a wide range of academic studies in preprofessional, baccalaureate,
master's, and doctoral programs.
- Collaborate with other universities, institutions, and constituencies.
- Provide instructional research and public service through distance learning
and technology.

HISTORY
Sam Houston State University, located in Huntsville, Texas, serves one of the
most diverse populations of any educational institution in the state. The university is
committed to the development of its creative resources so that it can adapt to the
changing educational needs of its constituency while maintaining the highest quality
in the traditional curricula. The institution was created by the Texas legislature in
1879 as Sam Houston Normal Institute to train teachers for the public schools of
Texas. During the following four decades, instruction was offered in the natural
sciences, agriculture, home economics, manual training, geography, sociology, and
foreign languages. The baccalaureate degree was first awarded in 1919.

The next twenty years witnessed rapid and dramatic changes, including a name
change to Sam Houston State Teachers College in 1923. Two years later, the college
was admitted to membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
(SACS) as an accredited institution of higher learning. The institution began to
expand its programs, and a graduate degree was authorized in 1936, a development
which expanded the curriculum from its sole emphasis on teacher training to empha-
ses on preparation in a variety of fields.

Following World War II, an increase in students and faculty as well as a wide
range of faculty-research activities provided impetus for the emergence of a multi-
purpose institution. By 1960, about 25 percent of the graduating seniors were receiv-
ing degrees in fields other than teaching. Degrees were offered in the social and

*This statement was last updated in 2023.