

New Faculty  
Spotlight  
Dr. Meagan Hinze  
Department of  
Chemistry



Kyra Rost

College of Science and Engineering Technology

Sam Houston State University

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Dr. Meagan Hinze is the new Assistant Professor in the Chemistry Department at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Hinze obtained her bachelor's degree from Butler University, located in Indianapolis, Indiana. Dr. Hinze then earned her master's degree and PhD from Cornell University, a private research university located in Ithaca, New York. After obtaining her PhD, she moved to Ann Arbor, MI for a postdoctoral fellowship within the Life Sciences Institute at the University of Michigan. She currently teaches the lab and lecture sections for Organic Chemistry 1. Dr. Hinze chose to begin working at SHSU because of the diversity of the students here. She also believes that SHSU has vast amounts of opportunities for teaching, research, and working with students.

Dr. Hinze's interest in chemistry began to spark in high school and continued throughout college because she had strong female science teachers, who always encouraged her to go further. Because of them, she was motivated to obtain a degree in chemistry. Now, she believes her biggest academic achievement would be the students she has mentored. She loves seeing the spark her students get and seeing them grow into their own people by discovering their interest in the subject. Seeing students get that spark or "ah ha" moment inspires Dr. Hinze every day. Her advice for undergrad students who have a variety of interests is to learn when to say no. It was a piece of advice once given to her during her undergraduate years, to know when to say no to people asking you to do too many things. Whether in your personal or professional life, learn and acknowledge your limits.

Dr. Hinze's research interests are in biocatalysts and small molecule synthesis. She is currently in the process of setting up her lab and hopes to start research by the end of fall 2019. In spring 2020, she will officially began working with an undergraduate student on research.

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# *Fun Facts*

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What was your first job?

“I worked at the local children’s museum on the weekends.”

What is your favorite music genre?

“I enjoy listening to Indie alternative music from the early 2000s.”

Do you have a favorite TV show, or movie?

“Yes, my favorite show would be Star Trek: The Original Series and then my favorite movie would be The Thin Man.

How do you spend your free time?

“I love cooking! I like to make things from scratch such as jams, bread and spicy things like lentils and curry.”

What are your favorite books?

“My favorite academic book is *The Elements of Synthesis Planning* by Hoffmann, it’s a small book but packs a powerful punch. I also enjoy fantasy books, that’s my favorite genre.”

What is your favorite holiday & why?

“I don’t have a favorite holiday because my family doesn’t always celebrate the individual holiday on the designated day. We pay more attention to being together.”

### Where was the best place you have ever been?

“Culturally, I would say Germany. I studied abroad there after high school and during college. I have gone back on several occasions to visit my host families and to spend time with my host sister. However, in regards to scenery, Kings Canyon National Park in California might win.”

### Did you participate in any organizations/ clubs in college?

“I was a part of an Environmental Concerns organization and the German Club.”

### If you could change history, what would you change?

“I would give underrepresented female scientists a louder voice, so that other generations would know about them and their contributions to science.”

### What is your typical schedule?

“I usually plan for the day by making a to-do list and comparing it to the list of the previous day. I also make weekly and semester goals. It is very satisfying for me to complete something on my list.”