

## Sam Houston State University Veteran Stole Policy

Sam Houston State University (SHSU), through the Veteran Resource Center (VRC) department, shall issue special camo stoles to Veterans and Active Service Members beginning Spring 2016. These special stoles may be worn at SHSU graduation ceremonies. Stoles are orange, camo-tipped with an American Flag and the word Veteran on one side and the SH emblem on the other.

A student must attend the stole ceremony to receive their stole. Invitations to the Stole Ceremony are sent to the students SHSU student email address approximately one month prior to the ceremony. If the student is unable to attend the ceremony they will need to contact the VRC.

- Stoles may be mailed to online only students (distance learning waiver must be on account).
- Only students participating in the graduation ceremonies will be eligible to receive a stole if they did not attend the VRC Stole Ceremony. Students must contact the VRC two days prior to the scheduled commencement ceremonies to make arrangements for the stole to be picked up at graduation.

### Definitions for the purpose of this policy

**Veteran:** Those persons who have served active duty in the US armed forces at least 90 days, other than active duty for training, with an Honorable or Under Honorable Conditions discharge.

**Active Duty:** Full time service in the US armed forces at least 90 days, other than active duty for training.

**US Armed Forces:** Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard

**Reserve Components:** Those military units, collectively known as the Guard and Reserves, whose members generally perform a minimum of 39 days of military duty per year who augment the active duty military when necessary.

**Drilling Status:** Military service including required monthly drill weekends and 15 days of annual training.

**Texas Military Forces:** Those persons meeting the requirements for Texas State Guard, Texas Army National Guard or Texas Air National Guard.

### Exceptions Granted

*To have an exemption granted, the person must meet all of the following mandatory requirements:*

1. Veteran Stoles shall also be issued to those people in the US Reserves or US National Guard who as of the last class day of their semester of graduation or in prior semesters have the following:
  - A 6 year contract or more to service in a US Armed Forces unit **and**
  - Who are in an active drilling status **and**
  - Who have used Federal Veterans Educational Benefits Chapter 1606 Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves for their program of education at Sam Houston State University in a prior semester or during their last semester leading up to Graduation.
2. Those persons serving in the Texas Military Forces (must have proper documentation).

### Exceptions Not Granted

Newly Commissioned Officers (i.e. Cadets, ROTC Cadets, Candidates, or Officer Candidates) cannot obtain a Veterans Stole unless they can submit documentation as listed in the *Documents Required* section of this policy.

### Documentation Required

Veterans or Chapter 1606 students using benefits through the VRC department already have needed documents on file in the VRC department.

Those students not using benefits through the VRC department shall provide the following documentation:

1. Proof of graduation for that semester **and** one or more of the following:
2. Veterans: DD214, member 2 or 4 showing at least 90 days Active Duty excluding training and an Honorable or Under Honorable conditions discharge.
3. Active Duty: Copy of current military orders and Active Military ID. (Must have at least 90 days of active service excluding training)
4. Texas Military Forces: Texas State Guard, Texas Army National Guard or Texas Air National Guard: Copy of current military orders contract and must have served or be currently serving in an active drilling status as enlisted personnel, warrant officer, or commissioned officer as of the last day of class leading up to graduation.
  - a. In the case of discharge, must have an Honorable or Under Honorable conditions discharge.