

1. GENERAL

- 1.01 Unless otherwise prohibited by law, a resident of Texas is entitled to apply for admission to and enroll as an undergraduate student in any public institution of higher education under Texas Education Code (TEC) Section 51.931 (Right to an Academic Fresh Start).
- 1.02 In their semester of application or re-application only, undergraduate applicants may elect to use the University's Academic Fresh Start program to have all undergraduate course work completed at Sam Houston State University or elsewhere five (5) or more years prior to the semester of admission removed from consideration by the University for any academic purpose including, but not limited to, admission application review, cumulative grade point average, academic classification, academic standing, course prerequisites, degree requirements, eligibility for graduation, and honors standing.
- 1.03 Undergraduate applicants who elect to invoke this policy under the provisions of Texas Education Code (TEC) Section 51.931 and who enroll as students may not receive any credit for any undergraduate courses undertaken five (5) or more years prior to signing the Academic Fresh Start agreement.

2. PROCEDURE

- 2.01 Students electing to seek admission at Sam Houston State University under the provisions of TEC 51.931 may not choose which credit hours are to be counted or ignored. All undergraduate course credits or grades earned by the applicant five (5) or more years prior to the start date of the semester in which the applicant seeks to enroll shall be ignored if the student makes use of this policy.
- 2.02 Sam Houston State University applicants electing to use the Academic Fresh Start program shall acknowledge the following provisions of the policy:
 - a. Courses removed from consideration under provisions of the Academic Fresh Start program shall not be removed from the student's transcript. Instead, the SHSU transcript shall note that these courses shall not be considered for any academic purpose under the provisions of TEC 51.931 and this policy statement.

- b. Participation in the Academic Fresh Start program may have implications for financial aid, veteran's benefits, and the cost of tuition. The applicant bears sole responsibility for investigating such implications prior to signing the agreement.
- c. The Academic Fresh Start program applies only to undergraduate courses. There is no similar program for disregarding graduate or professional courses.
- d. Academic Fresh Start may be used only once.
- e. Applicants shall be required to sign a copy of the attached agreement in the Office of Admissions if they elect to use the Academic Fresh Start program under the provisions of TEC 51.931. Once a student accepts the provisions of Academic Fresh Start, the agreement may not be revoked.
- f. Students must meet current admission requirements prior to acceptance into Sam Houston State University.

APPROVED: <signed>
Alisa White, Ph.D., President

DATE: 12/18/2025

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: March 17, 1994
Reviewer(s): Academic Affairs Council

Review Cycle: Five years*
Review Date: Fall 2030

Approved: _____ <signed> _____
Sumanth Yenduri, Ph.D.,
Provost and Sr. Vice President
for Academic Affairs

Date: _____ 12/10/2025

*Effective January 2018, Academic Policy Statements will be reviewed on a rotating 5-year schedule. To transition to a distributed review load, some policies may be reviewed prior to the 5-year timeframe, with subsequent reviews transitioning to the 5-year schedule.

**ACADEMIC POLICY STATEMENT 940317 ATTACHMENT
ACADEMIC FRESH START AGREEMENT
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

(Last Name) (First Name) (M.I.) (SAM ID)

(Mailing Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

(Semester/Year Applied for Admission)

(Semesters to be Ignored – *To be completed by the Registrar's Office*)

I, _____, understand and accept the provisions of the Academic Fresh Start legislation (Texas Education Code Sec 51.931 and Academic Policy Statement 940317). I acknowledge that I will not receive consideration or credit for any undergraduate courses or grades earned five (5) or more years prior to the start date of the semester or summer session in which I seek to enroll at Sam Houston State University. I certify that I have provided Sam Houston State University with a complete and accurate record of my academic history to date.

Furthermore, I understand that once I accept the provisions of Academic Fresh Start, I may not revoke that decision.

Note: After the provisions of Academic Fresh Start have been accepted, the current admission requirements must be met prior to acceptance into Sam Houston State University.

Student Date

Director of Admissions Date

Registrar Date