



# Federal Compliance and Student Consumer Information Notification

In compliance with federal law, the following notification regarding consumer information is sent each semester to all enrolled students and employees. This notice contains links and information the University is legally required to convey to you, and we strongly encourage you to read it. If you require a paper copy of this entire notification, you may download a copy from the [Student Consumer Information Page](#) or contact the HSU Financial Aid Office at 325-670-1050 or emailing [financialaid@hsutx.edu](mailto:financialaid@hsutx.edu).

Additional Student Consumer Information can be found on the [HSU Website](#). Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## 1. [ABOUT HARDIN-SIMMONS UNIVERSITY](#)

- [Cost of Attendance](#) - COA is the amount it will cost a student to go to school. HSU calculates their COA to show the total cost for the school year (fall and spring semester). The COA is the estimate of tuition and fees, cost of housing and meals (or living expenses), cost of books, supplies, travel, loan fees, and miscellaneous expenses. Adjustments can be made to a student's COA with proper documentation.
- [Withdrawal Process](#) - Students who wish to drop courses or withdraw from the University must secure the proper form(s) from the Registrar's Office and contact the Financial Aid Office.
- [Return of Title IV Funds](#) - When a student withdraws, is expelled, or ceases to be a student at Hardin-Simmons University, the University is required by the Department of Education to determine what portion, if any, of that student's financial aid is to be refunded to the financial aid program(s) in which that student participated.
- [Refund Policy](#) - Refunds will be made upon complete withdrawal from the University. (Does not apply to "Dropping Individual Classes.") This refund policy applies to **tuition only**. Any institutional loans or grants will be pro-rated along with the charges as seen by following the provided link. No tuition is refunded for individual courses dropped after the 8th day of a term (16 week Fall and Spring terms only). If a student is only taking one class, that would be considered withdrawing and the refund policy for such would apply.
- [Academic Programs](#) - Academic Program (Educational Programs, Instructional Facilities, and Faculty) [Undergraduate Catalog](#); [Graduate Catalog](#)
- [Accreditation and Licensure](#) - Hardin-Simmons University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral degrees.
- [Disability Related Services/Facilities](#) – HSU recognizes disability as a valued aspect of diversity and embraces access as an opportunity for hospitality, equity, and social justice.
- [Study Abroad Credit Policies](#) - Hardin-Simmons University's International Studies program provides access to international academic programs that foster an understanding of the global community. [International Studies Program](#)



- [Written Arrangements with Other Institutions](#) – Please visit the HSU Registrar regarding pathways for students to transfer courses. [Transfer Course Equivalencies](#); [Community College Partnerships](#); [Academy Course Share](#)
- [Copyright Infringement Policies](#) - It is the policy of Hardin-Simmons University that faculty, staff, administrators, and students shall strive to obey Intellectual Property laws and licenses.
- [Transfer of Credit Policies](#) - Current Hardin-Simmons students wanting to take a course(s) at another institution will need to complete the **Application for Acceptance of Non-Residence Work** form prior to registering for the course(s) with another school.
- [Student Body Diversity](#) – When James B. Simmons contributed to the founding of Hardin-Simmons University, it was his belief that education should be available to all students no matter their race, gender, or social class.
- [Institution Vaccination Policy](#) - Texas legislation mandates that every new student and new transfer under the age of 22 to any Texas university, regardless of living on campus or off campus, will be required to have a Meningitis Vaccination.
- [Teach-out Plans](#) – Whether a program is closing or not, students will be able to finish that program at HSU. This is also known as a “teach out.”
- [Adverse Action Brought Against the Institution](#) - When an enforcement action or prosecution is brought against a school by a state or federal law enforcement agency and a final judgment, if rendered, would cause an adverse action by an accrediting agency against the school; revocation of state authorization; or limitation, suspension, or termination of title IV eligibility is possible. To learn more students may contact the [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges \(SACSCOC\)](#)
- [Individuals/Offices Responsible for Disseminating Consumer Information](#) – Students & Employees may reach out to the following staff or offices for Consumer Information. Tera Gibson, Director of Human Resources at [Tera.Gibson@hsutx.edu](mailto:Tera.Gibson@hsutx.edu); Stacey Martin, VP for Student Life at [smartin@hsutx.edu](mailto:smartin@hsutx.edu); or the Financial Aid Office at [financialaid@hsutx.edu](mailto:financialaid@hsutx.edu)

## 2. [AVAILABILITY OF INSTITUTIONAL AND FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID](#)

The Student Financial Aid Office provides a comprehensive program that includes academic-based scholarships and need-based scholarships, as well as grants, loans, and part-time campus employment designed to help eligible students meet expenses while enrolled at Hardin-Simmons University. Additional information can be found at [How to Apply for Financial Aid](#), or the Financial Aid Office at [financialaid@hsutx.edu](mailto:financialaid@hsutx.edu)

## 3. [STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES](#)

The HSU Financial Aid Office (FAO), in partnership with students (and students' parents) provides federal, state, and institutional funds to help defray the cost of education. Student financial aid recipients have several responsibilities and rights as a recipient of financial aid.



#### 4. [RETENTION RATES](#) (per Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System)

Hardin-Simmons University is required to report the overall graduation rate, also known as the “**Student Right to Know**” or IPEDS retention rate. Graduation rates and retention rates are available through College Navigator.

#### 5. [PLACEMENT RATES FOR DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS](#)

To learn more about HSU student success please contact the HSU Career Services Office. Career Services has been utilizing Handshake, a student employment platform since 2019 and have been aggregating success data from the Handshake platform. They are able to pull information upon request. Contact Career Services by calling 325-670-1166 or email them at [careerservices@hsutx.edu](mailto:careerservices@hsutx.edu).

#### 6. [TYPES OF GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION HSU GRADUATES ENROLL IN](#)

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#### 7. [HSU’S ANNUAL SECURITY AND FIRE SAFETY REPORTS](#)

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act or [Clery Act](#) requires colleges and universities across the United States to disclose information about crime on or around their campuses on Clery geography and produce an annual report available to the public on October 1 yearly. Learn more about crime reporting, campus facility security and access, law enforcement authority, incidence of alcohol and drug use, and the prevention of/response to sexual assault, domestic or dating violence, stalking, and more by clicking the links above.

All enrolled students, campus employees, prospective students, and prospective employees are entitled to request a copy of the Hardin-Simmons University Annual Fire Safety and Security Report. This year’s report is available on the HSU website under [Campus Safety](#). Printed copies may also be requested via e-mail to [police@hsutx.edu](mailto:police@hsutx.edu) or in person from the HSU Police Department and by calling 325-670-1461

#### 8. [HSU’S COMPLETION/GRADUATION RATES AND IF APPLICABLE TRANSFER-OUT RATE OF CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE SEEKING, FIRST-TIME, FULL-TIME, UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS](#)

Institutions must annually make available to prospective and enrolled students the completion or graduation rate of certificate- or degree-seeking, first-time, full-time, undergraduate students. The data are to be available by July 1 each year for the most recent cohort that has had 150 percent of normal time for completion by August 31 of the prior year.

#### 9. [ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT DATA](#) (EADA Report)

Each coeducational institution of higher education that participates in any federal student aid program and has an intercollegiate athletics program



must prepare an Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act (EADA) report and make it available upon request to students, potential students, and the public. HSU's EADA is managed by the Director of Athletics and/or the HSU Institutional Research staff. The report is available upon request via HSU Athletics or can be found on the Consumer Information Page of the HSU Website.

#### **10. STUDENT & PARENT RIGHTS UNDER THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of, and limits access to, student education records. The law affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. The full text of the annual notification can be found at the [Registrar's Office FERPA page](#) or by calling the Registrar's Office at 325-670-1368.

#### **11. ACCREDITATION & LICENSURE PROVISIONS**

Hardin-Simmons University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral degrees. To learn more about HSU's accreditation and accredited programs, click the above link.

#### **12. DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM INFORMATION**

[Drug Free Schools and Communities Act \(DFSCA\)](#) (Section 2)

The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) requires that HSU notify each student and employee of its programs to prevent the illicit use of drugs and the abuse of alcohol by students and employees. Hardin-Simmons University has several programs to combat the misuse and abuse of alcohol and other chemical substances. Please visit Hardin-Simmons [Student Handbook](#) policies, Section 2, Alcohol and Drugs or contact 325-670-1077/325-671-2272 or [tera.gibson@hsutx.edu](mailto:tera.gibson@hsutx.edu) or [smartin@hsutx.edu](mailto:smartin@hsutx.edu).

#### **13. VOTER REGISTRATION & CONSTITUTION DAY ACTIVITIES**

The Texas Secretary of State website answers many questions about voting and allows one to request an application for a voter registration form. – [Register to Vote](#)  
For information about registering to vote outside the state of Texas, please visit the [U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#) for more information.

HSU honors Constitution Day on September 17<sup>th</sup>, each year. Learn more at [Constitution Day at HSU](#).

#### **14. EQUITY, CIVIL RIGHTS, & TITLE IX**

HSU is committed to providing a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and working environments for all members of the University community. Learn more about dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, consent, sexual harassment, domestic violence on more at the link above.

#### **15. PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE NOTICE**

If considering an academic program that leads to a professional license or certification in your state, it is highly recommended that you first seek guidance from your HSU program advisor or the appropriate licensing agency in your home state BEFORE beginning the academic program. Some online programs



may not be available in some states or may not be designed to prepare a student for professional licensure. For additional information please click the link above.

## **16. ETHICS REPORTING**

Hardin-Simmons University has selected StopIt to provide individuals with a simple, risk-free anonymous and/or confidential way to report activities that may involve criminal, unethical, or otherwise inappropriate behavior in violation of HSUs policies. You may report via [Stop!T](#) online.

## **17. NOTIFICATION OF PENALTY FOR MAKING A FALSE ALARM OR REPORT**

Hardin-Simmons University is notifying you of the penalty for the offense of making a false alarm or report involving a public or private institution of higher education. Pursuant to Texas Education Code **51.219** <https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex. educ. code section 51.219>

## **18. TEXTBOOK INFORMATION**

HSU does not differentiate between students receiving Title IV financial aid and those who do not. All HSU students are permitted to charge books and supplies at the HSU Bookstore up through the 8<sup>th</sup> class day or the first disbursement of aid.

Information regarding required and recommended textbooks and supplemental material for courses may be found in a couple of ways.

1. Required materials may be found on specific course syllabi provided by a student's instructor.
2. Required textbooks and materials can be found online through the student's self-service, detailing into student planning and their specific courses.
3. Students can also learn about their textbooks online at the [HSU Bookstore](#)

## **19. HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY ACT REQUIRED DISCLOSURES**

In August of 2008, Congress enacted the Higher Education Opportunity Act (the "Act") to reauthorize the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. Several of the Act's provisions require the University to make specific information available to students and the public. Additional disclosures can be found at the [HSU Student Consumer Information webpage](#) or by calling the HSU Financial Aid Office at 325-670-1050 or emailing [financialaid@hsutx.edu](mailto:financialaid@hsutx.edu)

If you need a written copy of this entire notification, please contact the HSU Financial Aid Office at 325-670-1050 or emailing [financialaid@hsutx.edu](mailto:financialaid@hsutx.edu)