UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON TRADITIONS

About the University of Houston Cougar Hand Sign

If you are not familiar with the U of H hand sign, you can make it by simply holding your ring finger down with your thumb. This sign, highly indicative of our cougar pride, was actually created by one of our rivals, the University of Texas. In 1953, our live cougar mascot, Shasta, was leaving her cage to go onto the football field for a game between U of H & UT, when she lost one of her fingers on a sharp edge. Some of the UT students saw our injured Shasta and proceeded to taunt us after our loss (28-7) with the cougar hand sign but pointed downward, indicating Shasta’s paw, then missing one finger. In 1968, the cougars went on to play UT again. In defiance of the previous UT taunts, U of H students began using the now-adopted symbol of UH Pride; tying the game 20 to 20. Ten years later, U of H went on to defeat UT in another football game 30 to 0. This solidified the use of the Cougar Paw as a tradition.

About the University of Houston Seal

The seal of the University of Houston is the coat of arms of General Sam Houston, who claimed descent from a Norman knight, Sir Hugh of Padavan, and adopted the heraldic crest. In any event, Gen. Sam Houston’s seal appealed to President Oberholtzer, to Hugh Roy Cullen, and to several other prominent Houstonians when the University of Houston was incorporated. Whether or not they realized just how appropriate the motto “in time” would actually become for a young institution aspiring to greatness is unclear, but the seal was officially adopted by U of H in 1938 in conjunction with the construction of the new campus. The original seal listed 1934, when the school became a four-year university, as the founding date rather than 1927, when Houston Junior College actually originated.

About the University of Houston Colors

The official colors of the University of Houston are Scarlet Red and Albino White. These were the colors of Sam Houston’s ancestor, Sir Hugh of Padavan, and were adopted by the university at the same time as the seal. Scarlet Red represents “the blood of royalty spared due to the timely arrival of Sir Hugh and the blood that is the source of the soul” (Courage & inner strength).

Albino White denotes “the purity and perfections of the heart, mind, and soul engaged in the effort to serve faithfully that which is, by right and reason, justly served” (The good of helping one’s fellow man).
University of Houston – Our History

The Beginning

The University of Houston began life as Houston Junior College on March 7, 1927, with the help of Dr. Edison Ellsworth Oberholtzer. The two-year college was operated and controlled under the guidance of the Houston Independent School District and was located in the San Jacinto High School building on Holman Street. Its first session began June 5, 1927, with an enrollment of 232 students and 12 faculty members, four of them on loan from Sam Houston State University and The University of Texas.

Through the Years

On April 30, 1934, the Houston Board of Education extended the services of Houston Junior College to add two more years of study to its curriculum, making it eligible to become a university, which it did under the name of The University of Houston. The first session for UH as a four-year institution began June 4, 1934, with an enrollment of 682 students. That same year, the first “campus” of the University of Houston was established in the Second Baptist Church at the corner of Milam and McGowen. The following year, UH moved to South Main Baptist Church on Main near Richmond, however, it was in 1936 that the present grounds were acquired through a generous donation of land by Ben Taub and Julius J. Settegast and vast monetary support from the Cullen family.

On June 4, 1939, the Roy Gustav Cullen Memorial Building, which housed UH’s administrative offices, classes and library, was dedicated. Classes were held on the new campus the very next day. The first full up-and-running semester officially began on Sept. 20, 1939, by which point the Science Building across from the Roy G. Cullen had opened its doors. On July 26, 1943, the Board of Education adopted a resolution that established an Advisory Board of the university consisting of 15 members, and on March 12, 1945, the university officially detached itself from the Houston Independent School District.

As the war ended, UH’s enrollment skyrocketed from around 1,100 to over 13,000 students. Trailers and shacks occupied by veterans and their families on the Calhoun side of the campus, known as the “University Village,” remained as visible reminders of the campus facility shortage from 1945 to 1956. After the trailers had cleared, however, some of the barrack-like buildings remained to be used as classrooms in the area of Agnes Arnold Hall and the UC Satellite but were eventually torn down and new buildings were put in their place.

An ambitious campus expansion project was completed in 1950 with the dedication of several new buildings: the Ezekiel W. Cullen Building, the M.D. Anderson Memorial Library and the five residence halls that make up the Quadrangle. By 1953, the university was able to boast the largest enrollment in the Southwest and one of the most modern campuses in the nation. On Sept. 1, 1963, the University of Houston officially entered the Texas State System of Higher Education.
1.) The University of Houston Welcome Center
- Visitor/faculty/student parking
- Houses our Office of Admissions, Financial Aid, Student Financial Services, and Academic Records
- Bottom Level has retail including McAlister’s Deli, Tealicious, & University Copy Center
- IMPORTANT FACT! The Cougar One Office is located in the bottom level. The Cougar One Card is the college-wide student ID card, which can hold your meal plan, spending money, allowed copies, and can also grant you access to some of the buildings!

2.) Conrad Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management
- Fully functioning hotel that is open to the public
- Ranked #3 in the nation for its hotel and restaurant management program
- Two restaurants inside, Eric’s and Barron’s
- Large Wine Cellar
- Hospitality Industry’s Hall of Honor

3.) Student Service Center
- Houses our testing services
- Also houses a Career Services Office, which serves students with career help, such as Interviewing & Resume-Building workshops.

Hey y’all, check this out!
If you look to the left of the small fountain, you’ll notice a sidewalk that dead ends onto dirt. This is the only remaining part of Shasta’s Den, the name given to Shasta’s quarters here on campus. Between 1947 and 1989 the University of Houston had real live cougars on campus! Shasta lived in her own building located next to the fountain here. Imagine walking to class or to your dorm and hearing Shasta roar!

A.D. Bruce Religion Center
- Focal point for many on-campus religious activities
- University of Houston students, faculty, and staff often use the center for programs, meetings and other special occasions
- Also has two chapels, one large and one small, available for weddings on the weekends
4.) The Quadrangle
- This residence hall is comprised of five buildings: Law Hall, Taub Hall, Settegast Hall, Bates Hall, and Oberholtzer Hall.
- Offers suite-style living, which means that each room holds two roommates and between each set of two rooms there is a bathroom for the four inhabitants to share.
- The facility has a building for Honors College students only; however, many students choose to live at the Quadrangle.

5.) Roy G. Cullen Building
- Oldest building on campus – first building built on the new acres donated to the University of Houston in 1934; originally housed the Dean’s Office, classrooms, and the library, among other facilities needed by the new university.
- Currently houses our English Department
- Home to our Creative Writing Program, ranked #2 in the nation!

Check this out!
The fountain in front of this building holds sentimental value to the owners of the San Diego baseball team, the Padres. John and Rebecca Moore (for whom the School of Music is named after) were undergraduates at the University of Houston when they frequented this area for lunch. John also proposed to his wife here on campus. When tropical storm Allison hit Houston, the Moores paid over $1 million to restore the fountain to its look of grandeur, in hopes that “someone else would find their enchanted love” on the University of Houston campus.

6.) The College of Education (Farish Hall)
Undergraduate degree programs: Health, Human Development and Family Studies, and Interdisciplinary Studies
- Built around a 360 degree classroom called The Kiva.
- Cool Fact! The architect designed this building so that all the bathrooms, water fountains, stairs, and elevators are located on the exterior along the four corners of the building. Students who need to use any of those need to exit the building and go to one of the four corners.
7.) **The College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences (Agnes Arnold Hall)**
The largest college on campus offering the most majors, housing the following departments:

- Art
- School of Communication
- Communication Science and Disorders
- Comparative Cultural Studies
- Economics
- English
- Health and Human Performance
- Hispanic Studies
- History
- Modern and Classical Languages
- Moores School of Music
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Theatre & Dance

8.) **College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics**
Undergraduate programs: Interdisciplinary Science, Biology, and Biochemistry, Chemistry, Computer Science, Geosciences, Mathematics, and Physics
With Houston’s Medical Center being the largest in the nation, internships and research opportunities are abundant for students choosing to continue a career in this field.

9.) **University Center Satellite**
The Satellite is a smaller version of the University Center. It houses a games room, TV lounge, convenience store, cafeteria, and study and meeting rooms. This is a popular lunch hangout for those students who primarily have classes on this side of campus.

- Left side: Pool tables, arcade games, Smoothie King, and Starbucks.
- Right side: Pizza Hut, Kim Son, Taco Bell, Chick-fil-1a, and a few other eateries to amuse anyone’s appetite.
- Along the back: Student Publications Office, study lounge, computer kiosks.

10.) **Jack J. Valenti School of Communication & School of Theatre and Dance**
- This is also where our Houstonian yearbook and Daily Cougar newspaper are printed. The Daily Cougar is completely student run and is the second most widely read newspaper in the state of Texas only behind the Houston Chronicle.
- Attached to the side of the School of Communication is the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts, which houses the Wortham Theater as well as the School of Theatre and Dance. The school presents around 18 shows each academic year.
11.) The Fine Arts Building

- This building is part of our College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and houses all of our fine arts programs. Students study a range of topics such as printmaking, photography, painting, drawing, and graphic design.
- If you walk into the center of the building you will notice its atrium, filled with greenery and benches. The atrium is a favorite hangout spot for many of our students due to its quiet nature and outdoor atmosphere.
- This building is also home to our Blaffer Art Gallery, which showcases many traveling exhibits and is free for all students to attend.

Check this out!
This building would not have its atrium if it were not for a group of students from the 1960’s. When the land was being cleared for the construction of this building in the 1960’s, a group of U of H students got wind of it and climbed the trees where the building is now located, protesting that tearing down trees was harmful to the environment. The students refused to get down until the university promised that it would place all of the removed trees elsewhere on campus as well as build the new building around an atrium, where trees and nature could grow up through the center. Obviously these students succeeded in their plan, which gave us the atrium that we have today.

12.) Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture
Undergraduate majors: Architecture, Environmental Design, Industrial Design

- We recommend that you take a moment to walk inside of this building because the inside is beautifully designed. Please DO NOT touch the exhibits displayed.
- As you walk in, you will notice the different floors which are divided by student classification (i.e. freshman, sophomore, etc.) and is where the student studios are located.

Check this out!
You will notice the two large marble benches outside of the architecture building. These benches are said to have cost the university $50,000 each! They are a part of our campus beautification program, which means that 1% of the cost that it takes to build each building on campus goes toward beautifying the area around that building. You will notice numerous statues and sculptures as you walk around campus, each of which is part of our program. We were the very first university in the state of Texas to implement such a program and are very pleased with its results.

BATHROOM BREAK RECOMMENDED
Inside the Architecture Building, to the right, down the hall.
13.) The College of Engineering
Undergraduate majors: Chemical Engineering, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Petroleum Engineering

Check this out!
There are two buildings that house our College of Engineering and if you walk just past the first building you will notice a mirrored glass walkway that connects the two buildings. When the glass walkway was first opened it was not mirrored and it is said that many birds lost their lives by flying into the walkway because they could not tell that it was there. It was becoming such an issue that we finally had to mirror the walkway to warn the birds of its existence. You will also notice a large blue wrought iron statue underneath the walkway. This represents a tree and memorializes the birds that lost their lives to the walkway.

14.) The College of Technology

• Oldest college on campus

15.) M.D. Anderson Library & the Honors College
Main library on campus
Construction on a new wing for the library began in the fall of 2002, with completion in 2005. The construction provided almost 200,000 more square feet of usable space, an increased book capacity of 800,000 volumes, and more than tripled the student study spaces.

• Second Floor houses our Honors College
• First Floor houses a computer lab
• Students get 500 “free” copies per semester paid for by tuition
• Front Lobby houses a 24/7 lounge

16.) C.T. Bauer College of Business (Melcher Hall)
Undergraduate majors: Accounting, Management Information Systems, Supply Chain Management, Finance, Management, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship.

• Ranked #1 in the nation for its entrepreneurship program
• Houses a live stock ticker inside
• Also houses one of our two Starbucks on campus!

Check this out!
The 1999 movie Arlington Road was partially filmed on campus! Jeff Bridges’ character and his girlfriend are seen walking next to Melcher Hall! Other locations featured in the film include Agnes Arnold Hall and the Technology Annex.
17.) The University Center & Underground
- Features Barnes & Noble Bookstore
- Bowling Alley & Game Room
- Food Court & Several Fast food eateries
- Woodforest National Bank, Shasta Cones Ice creamery
- Hair Salon & Cougar Byte Computer Store
- Chili’s Too Restaurant
- Underground houses the World Affairs Lounge & Student Organizations

Check this out!
If you take a look at the statue in the center of the building, you will notice that it is actually a longhorn with a cougar on its back and an owl resting near its neck. This statue represents the University of Houston Cougars along with two of our rival schools, the UT Longhorns and Rice Owls. Legend states that the cougar is supposed to be attacking the longhorn and chasing the owl, proving that the cougars are number one on this campus.

You will notice that the words “Good” and “Evil” are inscribed on the side of the longhorn, which represents the “good”, University of Houston and our “evil” rivals.

COMING SOON!!
The University Center will soon be receiving a much-needed facelift! Students voted, and by the year 2014, the University of Houston will be saying hello to a new and improved University Center. Check out the architectural renderings on the right! The new UC will include all the same amenities our current UC offers, but will also include state of the art study lounges, and meeting areas for UH cougars!

BATHROOM BREAK RECOMMENDED
Inside University Center, on the first floor between the Chili’s too & the University Center Games Room.

The following are some important buildings not on your route that might be of interest to the group or individuals on the tour:

Justin Dart, Jr. Center for Students with DisABILITIES
- Provides accommodations and support services to students who have any type of temporary or permanent health impairment, physical limitation, psychiatric disorder, or learning disability
- The University of Houston strives to maintain an accessible campus for students with disabilities, including accessible parking, curb cuts, ramps, and wide doors
Robertson Stadium & John O’Quinn Field
- Originally named Houston Public School Stadium, the field served as the football stadium for all Houston-area public schools
- In 1970, UH bought the stadium and re-christened it Robertson Stadium
- A 1998 renovation added seating at the ends of the stadium, made possible by lowering the entire field 9 feet.
- The stadium has played host to several music artists, including ZZ Top in 1972, the Beach Boys in 1974, and Pink Floyd and Alice Cooper in 1980

*Check this out!*
In the long-running show *Reba*, Steve Howey’s character receives a scholarship to play for the UH Cougar football team as cornerback! Also, in the 1999 movie *Any Given Sunday*, Jamie Foxx’s character was portrayed as a former UH football player!

Athletics/Alumni Center & Hofheinz Pavilion
- The Alumni Center houses the Cougar Hall of Fame as well as the Yeoman Field house
- Inside is an indoor track & field, as well as the weight room facilities for the Houston Cougars sport team members
- Hofheinz Pavilion is home to Cougar Basketball. It has also been known as the site of 10 or more wins per season for the Lady Cougars
- This multipurpose facility has also been used for concerts and special events
- Currently houses the university’s ROTC Program

Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts
- Includes Lynda Wortham Theater
- Cultivates interdisciplinary collaboration in the performing, visual, and literary arts
- Houses the School of Theatre & Dance
- Forms an alliance between the School of Art, Creative Writing Program, Moores School of Music, School of Theatre & Dance, and Blaffer Gallery, the Art Museum of the University of Houston
Burdette Keeland Design Exploration Center
- Currently used as the wood & model shop for the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture
- Renovated from an existing wood and metal structure within the University of Houston by architect and professor Geoffrey Brune
- Previously used as Houston University’s Automotive Shop in the 1940s, as well as storage

Engineering Laboratory
- Provides laboratory and researching facilities for the Cullen College of Engineering
- Used as a helicopter hangar during World War II in the 1940s
- Home to the American Institute of Chemical Engineers at the University of Houston (AIChE) and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE)

Campus Recreation & Wellness Center
- Multi-million dollar facilities include 5 gyms (for basketball, volleyball, and badminton); an indoor soccer field; an indoor & outdoor track; indoor Olympic size swimming pool; outdoor recreational pool; weight room; and 3 group class studios
- Students can rent out a locker in the locker rooms per semester or per year for a nominal fee
- Membership to the REC is included for all UH students, and available for purchase for UH alumni, faculty, and staff.

Check this out!
When the Olympics board looked into Houston for the Summer Games of 2012, they considered having all the swimming events at our pool! That would’ve put the world’s greatest athletes on campus!

Science & Engineering Classrooms (SEC)
- Provides state of the art facilities for students studying a wide range of science or engineering subjects available at U of H
- Includes a 300+ seat auditorium and multiple 50+ seat classrooms all with high-tech projectors and Wi-Fi.
- General Purpose classrooms in this building serve a lot of the core-curriculum credits, including College Algebra, Calculus, and Physics
The Cougar Village and The Moody Towers

- These are two more options for dorms that we have on our campus.
- The Cougar Village is only open to Freshman and offers a Suit Style living like the Quadrangle.
- The Moody Towers offer a community style living that is 17 levels high. The floors are separated by gender and everyone shares the same bathrooms and showers.
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the average Student-To-Professor ratio at the University?
A: 21 students to 1 professor

Q: Do freshman have to live on campus?
A: Students are not required to live on campus, but it is highly recommended!

Q: When is the best time to apply to the University?
A: We encourage new students to begin the application process at eight months before the start of the semester. All application information can be found at www.uh.edu/admissions.

Q: How do I apply for financial aid?
A: You must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to receive funds from the university.

Q: Do I have to have a meal plan?
A: If you live on campus you do; they range from $1,350-1,610 per semester depending on which meal plan you choose. If you live in the apartments/lofts or commute then you do not have to have a meal plan, but a commuter plan is available for purchase.

Q: What is cougar cash?
A: Cougar Cash supplements your meal allowance and can be used at all of our retail locations on campus.

Q: Can freshman have cars on campus?
A: Of course! All students, faculty, and staff have the opportunity to purchase a parking permit in order to park on campus.

Q: What if I’m a first generation college student?
A: University of Houston has the Challenger Program which helps those who are first generation college students or for those considered a low income family. The Challenger Program offers tutoring, counseling, academic instruction, financial aid advisement, and social enrichment.

Q: Are there a lot of organization/club opportunities on campus?
A: Yes, we have a great variety of clubs. If you can’t find the club that’s right for you, there is always the option of starting a university-registered club with the help of only 2 more friends!
UH Athletic & Recreational Facilities

Campus Recreation & Wellness Center 713-743-PLAY (7529)
Hofheinz Pavilion 713-743-9450
Athletic/Alumni Center 713-743-9370
Athletics Tours 713-743-9492

UH Residence Halls

Residential Life & Housing Office 832-842-HOME (4663)
The Quadrangle 713-743-6000
The Moody Towers 713-743-6000
Cougar Place Graduate Housing 713-743-6054
Cambridge Oaks Apartments 713-748-2606
Cullen Oaks Apartments 713-748-3707
Bayou Oaks Apartments 713-748-3834
Calhoun Lofts 832-842-LOFT (5638)

UH Admissions & Important Numbers

Office of Admissions 713-743-1010
Academic Advising 832-842-2100
Visit Coordinator’s Office 832-842-9060
Honor’s College 713-743-9010
Lost & Found 713-743-6020