

Verification of Student Identity

Sam Houston State University has a dual point process in place to confirm the identity of distance education and correspondence learners, to ensure that the student registering for a course is the same person who subsequently engages in participation in the course, as well as ultimately receiving appropriate academic credit for the same.

Principally, the student verification process is initiated through the use of a secure login and password, which is provided to all registered students of the university. Beyond the secure login and password protocol, all Sam Houston State University online and correspondence courses are equipped with facial recognition and voice recognition software through the technological implementation of third party software applications in the learning management system, which is utilized to deliver both distance and correspondence courses at the institution.

Secure Login and Pass Code

Sam Houston State University assigns each student a secure network account with a unique username and password at the point of acceptance into the university. Prior to any point of access to the student information system (Banner) or the learning management system (Blackboard), the student must authenticate, via Centralized Authentication Service (CAS) on the MySam portal, to gain access to resources in these systems.

Password management is supported by the [User Accounts Password Policy:IT-02](#) which provides regulatory expectations around account holder responsibilities, as well as length and complexity of passwords, which are required to be reset every 3 months.

Click [here](#) for additional information on the Login and Password Process.

ProctorFree and Student Verification

Sam Houston State University has licensed ProctorFree, an on-demand, automated online proctoring service that deters cheating in an online testing environment, as well as provides Student Identity Verification at no cost to the learner.

Using biometric and machine learning technologies, this innovative technology leverages facial and voice recognition software for identity verification of distance education and correspondence students.

At this time ProctorFree can be used with Macintosh OSX 10.8+ and Mavericks 10.9.x . In Windows operating systems, ProctorFree software is compatible with Microsoft Windows Vista, Windows 7 and Windows 8 (preference for 8.1).

ProctorFree is also available on IE, Firefox, Chrome and Safari on Windows machines, and on Safari and Firefox on Macintosh machines. Chrome on Macintosh is not supported at this time for the use of ProctorFree.

Identity Verification Software and ADA Compliance

The ProctorFree identity verification software layers on top of web pages and learning management system operations, making it accessible to, and tested with, the Freedom Scientific JAWS screen reader. The applications can be managed, installed and operated using only a keyboard, and without the influence or use of a mouse.

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