

University of Houston System
Summary of New Academic Programs
Academic, Research and Student Success Committee
Thursday, November 21, 2024

Component	Program	Proposed Implementation Date	Purpose	Comments
UHV	Masters in Cybersecurity	Fall 2025	The University of Houston – Victoria requests approval to establish a Master of Science in Cybersecurity. The proposed degree is 30 semester credit hours and will train students in key areas of cybersecurity, equipping them with the ability to make ethical decisions, manage risks, and implement security policies effectively. Through this program, students will learn to assess threats, develop policies, and apply risk mitigation strategies in a fast-evolving digital landscape. These skills will prepare graduates to enter careers in cybersecurity, where the ability to balance privacy, security, and legal requirements is essential for success. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 33% increase in Information Security Analyst positions from 2020-2030. As of June 2023, there were over 663,000 open cybersecurity positions nationwide, with only 69 workers available for every 100 job openings. The Texas Workforce Commission predicts that by 2028, the demand for Information Security Analysts in Texas will increase by approximately 39%. Seven public institutions in Texas offer related Cybersecurity programs, including Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas A&M University-San Antonio, University of Houston, University of North Texas, University of Texas at Dallas, University of Texas at San Antonio, and University of Texas at Tyler. The program expects to generate revenue in the third year of operation.	Online
UHV	Bachelor of Science in Aviation Science	Fall 2025	The University of Houston – Victoria requests approval to establish a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Science. The proposed degree is 120 semester credit hours and will provide students with marketable skills and knowledge so that they are prepared to meet the needs of the aviation industry, both on the ground and in the air. The proposed program, supported by a \$3.1 million appropriation from the Texas Legislature in 2023, will promote the efforts of the UH System to grow in national competitiveness by meeting a critical industry need, advancing student achievement and success, and serving the diverse Houston metroplex and Texas. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts a 5.6% growth in the total number of commercial pilots and a 19.3% growth in the total air transportation workers by 2032, with about 16,000 annual openings for commercial pilots over the same period. Based on the report, the 2023 median pay for airline and commercial pilots is \$171,210 per year with more than 142,600 employed in this occupation. Eight programs share characteristics with the Aviation Science program at UHV: Angelo State University, Baylor University, LeTourneau University, Schreiner University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas A&M University – Central Texas, Texas Woman’s University, and University of North Texas. The program expects to generate revenue in the first year of operation.	In-Person
UHV	Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design	Fall 2025	The University of Houston – Victoria requests approval to establish a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design. The proposed degree is 120 semester credit hours and will provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary to use visual media to communicate different ideas in a global and diverse world. This program prepares students for careers in design, digital communication, print communications, marketing, public relations, advertising, and other fields that use visual media for effective communication. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the mean hourly wage of graphic designers is \$28.32 per hour, or a median annual wage of \$58,910. Additionally, there were 270,900 graphic designer jobs in 2022, with a projected job growth outlook of 3% (“as fast as average”). The Texas Workforce Commission indicates that 2,871 graphic designers will be needed in the Austin area by 2031, while MyTexasFuture.org predicts the growth for graphic designers across the state of 10.3%, with a median salary of \$47,557. St. Edward’s University, Wayland Baptist University, and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi offer a B.A. in Graphic Design. Numerous institutions have graphic design programs that grant a B.F.A. credential including the University of Houston, Houston Christin University, Sam Houston State University, and West Texas A&M University. The program expects to generate revenue in the fourth year of operation.	Hybrid
UH	Ph.D. in Statistics and Data Science	Fall 2026	The University of Houston requests approval to establish a Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics and Data Science. The proposed degree consists of 71 semester credit hours to be completed over five years. The program provides training in statistical theory, data analysis, and computing, with a focus on modern statistical methods for big data. Students will develop expertise in areas such as machine learning, data mining, Bayesian statistics, and statistical computing, and will have the opportunity to apply these skills to real-world problems. Graduates of the program will be well-equipped to pursue careers as statisticians, data scientists, or faculty members in academic institutions. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the employment of statisticians to grow 32% and data scientists by 35% from 2022 to 2032, much faster than the average for all occupations. The National Association of Colleges and Employers survey found the median starting salary for Ph.D. graduates in mathematics and statistics was \$110,000 in 2023, compared to \$84,000 for those with a master’s degree and \$70,000 for those with a bachelor’s degree. Rice University offers a small Ph.D. program in statistics, which focuses on theoretical and applied statistics. UT Health in Houston offers a Ph.D. program in biostatistics only, which prepares students to apply statistical methods in health-related fields. UT Austin, Texas A&M University, UT Dallas, Southern Methodist University, UT San Antonio and Texas Tech University offer Ph.D. programs in statistics that cover a wide range of statistical topics and specializations, from theoretical to applied statistics. The program expects to generate revenue in the fourth year of operation.	In-Person