



RENU KHATOR • CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

UH System Board of Regents Meeting • August 20, 2026

University of Houston System

Freshmen Applications, Enrollment Up Across the UH System

Freshmen applications and enrollments are up at all our universities. Freshmen applications are up by 50% at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, 17% at the University of Houston and 4% at the University of Houston-Downtown. Transfer applications are also up at UH and UHCL.

Textbook Access Program Saves Money, Improves Outcomes

All UH System students now have access to the “one price textbook” program. An impressive 86% of students used the program last year, resulting in savings of over \$100 million for students in the last four years. This program has a direct impact on student borrowing and helps us keep our average student debt lower than the national average.

Systemwide Adoption of SB 37

In compliance with SB 37, all UH System universities have revised their core curriculum for certification by the Board of Regents.

University of Houston

UH Pilots Residential Colleges

The University of Houston is experimenting with the concept of residential colleges this year, with the launch of a White Coat Residential College for those interested in the medical field and a STEM Residential College for those interested in engineering and sciences. Residential College students are housed on the same floor with a dedicated faculty director providing first-year students with immersive mentorship and academic support. The objective is to reduce drop-out rates and increase students' learning outcomes.

UH Health Launches New Institute

On July 15, the University launched UH Health, a new academic health enterprise, consolidating health education, research, community engagement and clinical care to improve health across Texas. Two weeks ago, UH Health launched the Institute for Digital Healthcare Transformation, a university-wide research endeavor dedicated to developing next-generation technologies to improve healthcare access, delivery and patient outcomes.

UH Secures \$32 Million in NIH Grants

UH received \$32 million in National Institutes of Health grants since May, including a \$18.8 million grant to address the root causes of chronic disease in collaboration with community partners. Other grant research areas include autoimmune diseases and mental health.

Centennial Campaign Surpasses \$860 Million

UH has received \$865 million toward the \$1 billion goal of Can't Stop Houston: The Centennial Campaign as the University prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2027. The campaign is accelerating investments in students, research, faculty and campus transformations that will shape the University's future for years to come.

Expanded Access Through Community Wellness

UH partnered with The Cullen Trust to establish the 3rd Ward Place of Wellness. This community-driven hub increased access to primary and mental health services in Houston's historic Third Ward neighborhood.

Cougar Football Opens the Season Pre-ranked No. 23

Houston Football is opening the season on Saturday, Sept. 5, ranked No. 23 in the AP poll — the team's highest ranking since 2016. It is only the third time since 1992 that the Cougars are ranked in preseason polls.

The University of Houston-Clear Lake

Internationally Recognized Aerospace and Robotics Scholar Joins UHCL

Mahmut Reyhanoglu, Ph.D., became the University of Houston-Clear Lake's new aerospace engineering program director on Aug. 10. The internationally recognized aerospace engineering and robotics scholar has over 160 peer-reviewed publications and extensive NASA-funded research experience.

\$500,000 Grant Expands UHCL Autism Services

UHCL received a \$500,000 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to expand treatment services at its Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities. The funding will help train parents and caregivers to deliver autism interventions at home.

UHCL Expands Paid Learning Opportunities

UHCL is expanding students' paid experiential learning opportunities through a new partnership with Science Applications International Corporation, a NASA contractor. Qualified students will work alongside SAIC professionals, gaining critical experience while contributing to real-world projects and missions.

The University of Houston-Downtown

UHD Names Director of New Center for Crime, Urban Research and Education

Sally-Ann Ashton, Ph.D., recently joined University of Houston-Downtown as the inaugural director of its new Center for Crime, Urban Research and Education. Ashton joins UHD from Prairie View A&M University, where she served as senior research scientist and research division lead at the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center.

UHD Professors Designing App to Assist with College Applications

UHD Associate Professor Yun Wan and Assistant Professor Wei Wei received a more than \$285,000 grant from the Powell Foundation to support the development of an AI-driven app to help underserved Houstonians navigate the college application process.

First-Gen Gators Receive Support from Moody Foundation

The Moody Foundation pledged \$1.3 million to support UHD's First-Generation Gator Program. The initiative provides first-generation students targeted academic support, financial coaching, mentorship and wraparound services.