

March 24, 2025

HT 2025 GRADUATION CEREMONY

Huston-Tillotson University is proud to announce that there are nineteen international students who are preparing to graduate during the University's commencement ceremony on May 10, 2025. The nineteen students collectively represent the largest number of international students receiving their degrees from HT in over twenty-five years.

These soon-to-be graduates hail from the nations of Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, and Spain. While one of the students will earn a degree in education, the remainder will graduate with degrees from the School of Business and Technology.

We are extremely proud of our graduating Class of 2025 and wish them all the best in the future.



NOTE: The information on this page is provided as a courtesy of the OIP and is for informational purposes only. It should not be considered legal advice.

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Job scams are on the rise mainly due to the demand for remote work. This demand was created when major companies and the federal government recently gave “return to office” mandates to their employees.

Forbes, the business magazine, writes that “Scammers are getting more sophisticated in their tactics, using AI-generated videos, fake job postings, and fake websites that look like a genuine website that you may be familiar with, to trick you into handing over your personal data and accessing your money.”

If you give scammers your personal data by mistake, they can apply for loans and credit cards in your name or withdraw all of your money in your bank account.

Indeed, an employment listings website, offers **4 tips to protect yourself from job scams:**

1. Do your research

Before applying for a position, conduct thorough research on the company to establish its existence and verify identifying details. Use a search engine to find the employer’s official website and social media pages, which can provide useful information that you can compare against what you find in job listings or emails.

2. Verify website security

You can avoid fake jobs by verifying websites and their security measures. Make sure the web address includes “https://” at the beginning, not “http://.” This verifies that the site is both authentic and secure. You can also determine how long the site has been active and who owns it by inputting its URL into a domain age and website registry tool.

3. Protect your personal information

Keep your bank account information, credit card number, social security number and all other sensitive information safe from strangers online, even if they ask for it. Legitimate employers will not ask for payment card information, and they will not request banking or federal identifying information until they have hired you. If a recruiter or employer asks for these details early on, you should consider terminating your communication with them.

4. Look for complaints

Job sites often have review sections where employees and candidates share the experiences they had with an employer. Search for a potential employer on these sites and see what others have said. Their remarks can disclose whether the employer is legitimate. You can also check the Better Business Bureau (BBB) to find out if the company has negative reviews or claims of fraud.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN)

A. What is a Social Security Number?

The Social Security Number (SSN) is a nine-digit number issued to certain individuals to track income.

B. Are you eligible to apply for an SSN?

F-1 students require a job offer before they are eligible to apply for a Social Security Number. The three main categories of work authorization for F-1 students are

- On-campus employment
- Off-campus work authorization through Curricular Practical Training (CPT), and
- Off-campus work authorization through Optional Practical Training (OPT).

Note: You cannot apply for an SSN without a job offer in writing.

C. How to apply for a Social Security Number?

Step 1: You must be in the U.S. for 10 Days with an 'Active' I-20

Step 2: You must get a Written Proof of Employment (Job Offer Letter)

To be eligible for an SSN, you must provide proof of employment to the OIP advisor who will then issue you an SSN application support letter.

Step 3: Get an in-person appointment with a Social Security Administration Office (SSA)

a. Locating an SSA Office: To find the nearest Social Security Office, you can enter your zip code in the zip code locator below. The SSA office location below is near HT.:

Downtown Austin Location

1029 CAMINO LA COSTA

AUSTIN, TX 78752

Hours: 9 a.m. – 4p.m.

Phone: 866-627-6991

Click this link for a SSA location by zip code (<https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>)

b. Which Documents to bring for your SSA appointment?

When you go to the SSA office to apply, you must bring the following original documents

- Completed SSN application form (<https://www.ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf>)
- Valid Passport
- F-1 Visa (OK if expired).
- Form I-94
- Form I-20 or DS-2019 (must be valid)
- Proof of employment and work authorization

Step 4: SSN Receipt and SSN Card

When you apply for a Social Security Number, you will receive a “receipt,” confirming that you have applied. (If the official does not give it to you, then you need to ask for it.)

Upon getting the SSN receipt, you are eligible to begin work. You do not need to wait for the actual SSN card to arrive. Just show a copy of your SSN receipt to your employer.