Strategically located and with a multicultural heritage, the state of Hawai‘i has always been uniquely international in outlook. Reflecting this perspective, the School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies (SHAPS) represents the ongoing commitment of the University of Hawai‘i to enhance international awareness and intercultural understanding throughout the educational experience. In fulfilling this commitment, SHAPS has become the largest resource facility for Asian and Pacific studies in the world.

Established in 1987, SHAPS offers academic programs in Asian studies, Hawaiian studies, and Pacific Islands studies. SHAPS also houses the Centers for Chinese Studies, Hawaiian Studies, Japanese Studies, Korean Studies, Pacific Islands Studies, Philippine Studies, Russia in Asia, South Asian Studies, and Southeast Asian Studies, as well as a program for Buddhist studies. Through these centers and programs, SHAPS helps to coordinate the efforts of some 300 faculty specialists throughout the University who offer more than 600 courses related to Hawai‘i, Asia, and the Pacific.

Research supported by SHAPS appears in a wide range of journals, monographs, and occasional papers published by its centers and programs. Complementing these publications are the volumes in the SHAPS Library of Asian Studies and the SHAPS Library of Translations, published in association with the University of Hawai‘i Press.

Research and publications, specialized training and instructional programs, conferences, symposia, resources development, and a full schedule of co-curricular activities and cultural programs are all a part of the School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies. Students electing to focus their studies on Hawai‘i, Asia, or the Pacific at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa will discover a unique learning environment especially appropriate to the understanding and appreciation of the peoples and cultures of the region.

**Degrees and Certificates**

**Bachelor’s Degrees:** BA in Asian studies, BA in Hawaiian studies

**Master’s Degrees:** MA in Asian studies, MA in Pacific Islands studies

**Certificate Programs:** Certificates in Pacific Islands, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Philippine, South Asian, and Southeast Asian studies

**Advising**

Moore 315
1890 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
Tel: (808) 956-2699
E-mail: chizuko@hawaii.edu

Students interested in Asian studies and Pacific Islands studies are urged to consult a school adviser through SHAPS Student Academic Services Office at the above address and telephone number. Those interested in Hawaiian Studies
should visit the Hawaiian Studies office at the Center for Hawaiian Studies, 2645 Dole Street, Room 209A, or call (808) 973-0989.

Undergraduate Programs

Requirements
- Acquire a minimum total of 124 credit hours.
- Earn at least 60 credit hours in non-introductory courses. These may be upper division courses (courses numbered 300 or above) or 200-level courses that have an explicit college-level course prerequisite.
- Fulfill the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa General Education Core requirements and additional basic course work specified by the degree program.
- Complete writing intensive courses as specified by the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa.
- Fulfill requirements for the major.
- Earn at least a 2.0 GPA for all UH Mānoa registered credits.

Prospective students interested in the BA in Asian studies, BA in Hawaiian studies, or the BA in liberal studies (with an emphasis in Pacific Islands studies) should contact the respective department or refer to the program listing in the Catalog.

Graduate Programs

Prospective students interested in the MA in Asian studies or the MA in Pacific Islands studies should contact the respective program or refer to the program listing in the Catalog.

Instructional and Research Facilities and Programs

Center for Chinese Studies
The Center for Chinese Studies aims broadly at an increased understanding of contemporary China in light of its history and its hopes for the future. The Center pursues this goal through instruction from 41 faculty members in 23 departments who teach more than 200 China-related courses; research by faculty, who publish an average of six books and a score of articles on China each year; service publications, such as its semiannual journal China Review International, which provides an overview of current world wide scholarship on China, a website (www.chinesestudies.hawaii.edu) that provides access to databases for national resources on China; and community outreach, conferences, and national and international linkages with institutions such as Peking University in Beijing and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

By interdepartmental cooperation and by creating a stimulating environment for the faculty and the 250 students specializing in Chinese studies, the Center actively supplements the offering of the basic scholarly disciplines at both undergraduate and graduate levels and focuses attention on the University’s significant resources for the study of China. These include the Asia Collection in Hamilton Library, the Wong Audiovisual Center in Sinclair Library, and the multimedia collection of the Language Telecommunication Resource and Learning Center.

Center for Hawaiian Studies
The Center for Hawaiian Studies is committed to perpetuating the legacy of Hawaiians through instruction, research, community outreach, and student services. Established in 1970 and made a center in the School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies in 1987, it is the only academic program in the world focusing on the history, culture, and traditions of the Hawaiian people. The center offers a BA in Hawaiian studies; promotes research in Hawaiian language, culture, history, and politics; offers a wide array of student services to all students of Hawaiian ancestry; and coordinates an active program of outreach to the out-of-school Hawaiian community. On-campus resources include the Kānewai taro garden and the Hawaiian and Pacific Collections at Hamilton Library. Off-campus resources include the State Archives, Bishop Museum, other private collections, and the unique availability of an ancient and rich native culture still present from Niʻihau to the Big Island of Hawaiʻi. The native Hawaiian view is emphasized in the major.

Center for Japanese Studies
The Center for Japanese Studies includes 40 professors, 20 language instructors, and two library specialists who offer approximately 200 courses in 20 departments. Important activities of the center include administration of the student exchange program with Doshisha, Nanzan, and Sophia Universities, among others; coordination of the Japanese Studies Endowment Fund, which makes grants to support faculty and graduate student research, and publication of the quarterly newsletter J-Current and the Guide to Japanese Studies at the University of Hawai’i, published every three years. The center also acts as a coordinating body for Japanese studies on campus and as a clearinghouse for inquiries related to the field; it sponsors visiting colleagues; and it arranges for lectures, performances, and receptions for visiting scholars and artists.

Center for Korean Studies
The Center for Korean Studies coordinates and develops the University’s resources for the study of Korea. The 18 faculty members affiliated with the center represent the disciplines of history, language and literature, economics, political science, sociology, communication, urban planning, theater and dance, and ethnomusicology. The center promotes interdisciplinary and intercultural approaches to Korean studies; conducts scholarly conferences; sponsors research projects; presents specialists and visiting scholars in colloquia; publishes scholarly works and an interdisciplinary journal,
Asian Studies

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Faculty

*R. D. Trimillos, PhD (Chair)—ethnomusicology, Southeast Asia, Japan
C. Allen, PhD—history, Korea
*B. Andaya, PhD—history, Southeast Asia, Malaysia, Indonesia
*B. Aquino, PhD—political science, Philippines
*M. Aung-Thwin, PhD—history, Southeast Asia (Burma)
*R. Brown, JD, LLM—law, China
*L. Carlile, PhD—political science, Japan
*D. Gladney, PhD—anthropology, China, Muslims
*E. Harwit, PhD—political science, East Asia (China)
*R. Kwok, PhD—urban and regional planning, East Asia (China)
*S. Minichiello, PhD—history, Japan
*C. Ning, PhD—Chinese literature, China
*S. O’Harrow, PhD—oriental philology, Southeast Asia (Vietnam)
*E. Porter, EdD—higher education administration, China
G. Satsuma, PhD—history, Japan
*M. Sharma, PhD—anthropology, South Asia (India)
*E. Shultz, PhD—history, Korea
*R. Valliant, PhD—history, Russia and East Asia

*Korean Studies and coordinates University resources on Korea and researches the activities of Hawai’i’s Korean community. The center maintains a special collection of personal libraries and private papers of distinguished scholars on Korea. It also has a small collection of books, journals, audiovisual materials, and other documents as an adjunct to the University library’s Korean collection.

Center for Pacific Islands Studies

The Center for Pacific Islands Studies coordinates aspects of the Pacific-related activities within the University and promotes further study of the region. The center sponsors an annual conference and a seminar series that features a variety of visitors en route to and from other Pacific Islands. The program publishes a bimonthly newsletter, a series of occasional papers, and, in collaboration with the University of Hawai’i Press, the Pacific Islands Monograph Series, South Sea Books, and The Contemporary Pacific: A Journal of Island Affairs.

Center for Philippine Studies

The Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa is the only university center offering a comprehensive academic program for Philippine studies in North America. With an interdisciplinary faculty in various departments, it promotes a broad understanding of Philippine society and culture, including Filipinos overseas, through course offerings, library resources, lectures and seminars, scholarly conferences, research and publications, visiting faculty, international academic exchanges, cultural presentations, outreach with the Filipino community in Hawai’i, and other professional activities. UHM has the largest concentration of internationally known Philippine specialists and experts in various disciplines.

Center for South Asian Studies

The Center for South Asian Studies supports courses, provides opportunities for intensive study of societies and cultures of South Asia, and promotes faculty research and interaction across departmental lines to foster comparative and interdisciplinary research in the region. This area includes contemporary Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives Islands, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and, for some purposes, Afghanistan and Tibet. The center initiates and supports outreach activities to the Mānoa campus, as well as to the wider Honolulu community.

Center for Southeast Asian Studies

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies coordinates and supports many of the resources at the University related to Southeast Asian studies. The center sponsors lectures and seminars given by the 55 University faculty focusing on Southeast Asia, as well as frequent visitors from the region. It arranges faculty exchanges with Southeast Asian universities and publishes the Southeast Asia Paper Series, which began in 1972. The center also produces a journal, Cakalele, and a student journal, Explorations in Southeast Asian Studies, concerned with the Moluccas. Outreach is a strong component of the center and includes programs for Hawai’i’s public school system and community organizations on a regular basis.

Committee for the Preservation and Study of Hawaiian Language, Art and Culture

The committee was established in 1959 to protect and encourage a deeper knowledge of the language and culture of the native people of Hawai’i. Through the resources and efforts of the committee, more than two hundred projects have been funded in part or in whole over the past 40 years. Examples range from the groundbreaking Hawaiian Dictionary; Hawaiian-English and English Hawaiian, by Mary Kawena Pukui and Samuel H. Elbert, to the Na Kanikau Aloha O Hawai’i, a project currently in progress that documents the adaptation of Hawaiian to the written language in the 19th century, focusing on the kanikau, a chant of mourning and lamentation.

Campus Events and Community Programs

SHAPS and its centers sponsor lectures, colloquia, teacher workshops, conferences, film festivals, concerts, and special events, such as the Grand Kabuki performance, Chinese martial arts performances, and the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute. The centers’ outreach programs take University expertise into the community and secondary schools, and the Center for Hawaiian Studies provides support services for native Hawaiian students.
Cooperating Faculty

All graduate faculty who are specialists and offer courses related to the eight area centers within Asian studies serve as cooperating faculty in Asian studies. Faculty related to the area centers—the centers for China, Korea, Japan, the Philippines, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Russia in Asia, and Buddhist studies—number more than 300; they are too numerous to list here, but they can be found under departmental listings.

Degrees and Certificates Offered: BA in Asian studies, MA in Asian studies, Graduate Certificates in Chinese studies, Korean studies, Japanese studies, Philippine studies, South Asian studies, and Southeast Asian studies

The Academic Program

Asian studies (ASAN) is concerned with the people and countries in the broad arc of Asia extending from Afghanistan in the west to China, Japan, and Korea in the east and including the Philippines and other islands and peninsulas of Southeast Asia to the south. In cooperation with other departments of the University, the Asian studies program offers an opportunity for students to concentrate on the interdisciplinary study of an Asian country or region. Emphasis is placed on learning the language of the chosen area, giving an opportunity for area study and language to progress together.

The growing importance of Asia in the United States and in the economy, government and politics, diplomacy, and the arts will relate directly to the academic programs linked to Asian studies.

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa has made a commitment to the study of Asia far greater than any other university in terms of numbers of languages taught, areas studied, and faculty specialists employed. This provides a unique opportunity to students interested in Asia.

Interdisciplinary graduate and undergraduate programs draw upon the rich resources for the study of Asia at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. The Asian studies program offers courses of its own and also incorporates Asia-related courses taught in the various departments on campus, enabling each student to design a defined program of study tailored to his or her particular interests.

Students in the program may select courses from Asian studies and the following disciplines or areas: anthropology, art, economics, education, ethnic studies, geography, history, linguistics, literature, music, philosophy, political science, population studies, religion, sociology, theater and dance, urban and regional planning, and women’s studies. Competence in an Asian language appropriate to the student’s interests is considered fundamental, and the achievement of language proficiency by graduation is a required part of the graduate degree program.

The graduate program is organized into the following areas: China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Buddhist studies.

Advising

Graduate students are advised by the appropriate area director or designated faculty. Undergraduates majoring in Asian studies are advised by an undergraduate studies adviser.

Undergraduate Study

Bachelor’s Degree

The undergraduate program in Asian studies is designed for students desiring a liberal arts education and a broad background in traditional and contemporary Asian cultures.

Students seeking a BA in Asian studies must meet all the requirements for admission established by the School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies.

Asian studies is normally declared as a major at the end of the sophomore year or beginning of the junior year though students may apply for admission to the program at any time. The formal declaration is made through the school’s Student Academic Services Office.

Major Requirements

- Total of at least 36 credit hours of Asia-related course work
- ASAN 201 and 202, ASAN 310 or 312, and 6 additional credit hours of ASAN courses at the 300 or 400 level
- Two years of an Asian language (excluding conversation or aural comprehension courses), or demonstration of the equivalent level

 Majors must also complete one of the following study plans:

Plan 1:

- 12 credit hours of Asia-related course work from one of the following disciplines or areas: anthropology, art, economics, geography, history, linguistics, literature, music, philosophy, political science, religion, sociology, speech, or theater and dance
- 9 credit hours of Asia-related courses outside the primary field of concentration, as approved by the adviser

Plan 2:

- 12 credit hours of course work on one Asian country or region (e.g., Japan, Southeast Asia)
- 9 credit hours focused on one or more additional Asian countries or regions

If ASAN 312 or other ASAN courses are used to satisfy General Education Core requirements, these courses may not be used to satisfy major requirements or vice versa.

Language study beyond the required level may count toward the major and is encouraged for Asian studies majors.

Minor Requirements

There are no required courses for acceptance into the Asian Studies minor program. Attendance in ASAN 201–202 (Introduction to Asian Studies) is recommended.
Students must complete 15 credit hours including:
- ASAN 310 Asian Humanities or ASAN 312 Contemporary Asian Civilization (3 credits)
- ASAN courses numbered 300 and above (minimum 6 credits)
- Asia-related courses in disciplines other than the major field numbered 300 and above (maximum 6 credits)

It is possible to focus on one particular country or region, such as China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Southeast Asia, or South Asia.

The Asian studies undergraduate adviser will identify Asia-related courses in various disciplines and assist in planning schedules and preparing minor forms.

**Graduate Study**

**Master’s Degree**

The master’s program in Asian studies is designed primarily for students who wish to focus their studies on a particular geographical and cultural region of Asia. Such an approach entails interdisciplinary study.

The MA in Asian studies is offered in Plan A (thesis) and Plan B (non-thesis). Although the University of Hawai‘i does not offer a PhD in Asian studies, Asia-focused PhD programs are available in anthropology, East Asian languages and literatures, economics, geography, history, linguistics, music, philosophy, political science, public health, sociology, theater, and tropical agriculture.

Students who wish to pursue a doctoral degree in any of these fields should contact the appropriate department.

A student’s academic program should concentrate on one of the regions of Asia as represented by the area centers in SHAPS—China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Regarding the latter two, a student may concentrate on a particular country within those regions if sufficient courses are available. The director of each area center or a designated faculty member serves as the graduate student adviser for his or her respective area.

Students without sufficient academic background in Asia-related course work may be required to take certain preparatory courses to make up this deficiency without credit toward the degree. Prospective students should note that the program requires successful completion of course work or demonstrable proficiency in an Asian language at the fourth-year level for students concentrating on China, Japan, or Korea, or the third-year level for students concentrating on South Asia or Southeast Asia. Students enrolling from an Asian country may have the foreign language requirement waived if they plan to concentrate on their native country or region. If they elect to concentrate on a country other than their own, they must fulfill the language requirement as previously stated.

**Plan A (Thesis) Requirements**

The MA Plan A degree in Asian studies requires the following:
1. A minimum of 36 credit hours. Of these, at least 18 must be earned in courses numbered 600 or higher (including 6 credit hours in ASAN 700 Thesis Research);
2. Full time study for minimum of two academic semesters or four six-week summer sessions;
3. A minimum of 6 credit hours in an Asian language equivalent to the following: Japanese—6 credit hours beyond the 401 and 402 level; Chinese—8 credit hours at the 401 and 402 level; Korean—6 credit hours at the 401 and 402 level; South and Southeast Asian languages—6 credit hours at the 301 and 302 level (entering students who have achieved this level and can demonstrate proficiency through examination may select alternate courses equaling 6 credit hours with the consent of their area adviser);
4. An introductory graduate seminar in the particular area of concentration (ASAN 600), taken early in the student’s program;
5. A graduate research seminar in the particular area of concentration (ASAN 750);
6. A minimum of 3 additional credit hours in Asian studies.
7. A minimum of 15 credit hours of interdisciplinary study for students who wish to focus their studies on a particular country or region, with at least 3 credit hours each in the fields of humanities, social sciences, and arts. No more than 9 credit hours in one discipline will be counted.
8. Satisfactory completion of a master’s thesis and an oral examination on the thesis given by the student’s three-member faculty committee.

**Plan B (Non-thesis) Requirements**

The MA Plan B degree in Asian studies requires:
1. A minimum of 36 credit hours. Of these, at least 18 credits must be earned in courses numbered 600 or higher;
2. Full-time study for minimum of two academic semesters or four six-week summer sessions;
3. A minimum of 6 credit hours in an Asian language equivalent to the following: Japanese—6 credit hours beyond the 401 and 402 level; Chinese—8 credit hours at the 401 and 402 level; Korean—6 credit hours at the 401 and 402 level; South and Southeast Asian languages—6 credit hours at the 301 and 302 level (entering students who have achieved this level and can demonstrate proficiency through examination may select alternate courses equaling 6 credit hours with the consent of their area adviser);
4. An introductory graduate seminar in the particular area of concentration (ASAN 600), taken early in the student’s program;
5. A graduate research seminar in the particular area of concentration (ASAN 750);
6. A minimum of 3 additional credit hours in Asian studies.
7. A minimum of 21 credit hours of interdisciplinary study related to the candidate’s country or region, with at least 3 credit hours each in the fields of humanities, social sciences,
and arts. No more than 9 credit hours in one discipline will be counted.
8. Presentation of a portfolio consisting of two seminar papers, and satisfactory completion of an oral examination based on the papers given by the student’s three-member faculty committee.

Certificate Programs

Graduate Certificates

SHAPS, through its Asia focused centers, offers graduate certificates in the following areas: Chinese studies, Korean studies, Japanese studies, Philippine studies, South Asian studies, and Southeast Asian studies. Regularly enrolled graduate students in non-Asian studies disciplines receive a certificate for completing a program of study that focuses on a particular Asian country or region. MA students in Asian studies also receive a certificate for completing studies in their area of concentration.

Certificate Requirements

- 18 credits of course work, in a defined program of study, at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa within the chosen certificate area
- Of these, 15 credits must be at 300-level or higher from at least two major divisions (social sciences, humanities, or arts), with no more than 9 credits in a single division, and at least 9 credits in graduate level courses (600 level or higher)
- ASAN 600-Asian Studies Seminar: Scope and Methods, in the chosen certificate area
- A research paper in the chosen certificate area and an oral examination based on the paper; or a thesis or dissertation related to the chosen certificate area in the student’s major discipline
- Language requirements:
  - For the Japanese certificate, 4th year competency (JPN 407)
  - For the Chinese and Korean certificate, 3rd year competency (CHN 301/302 or KOR 301/302); and
  - For the remaining regional certificates, 2nd year competency (201/202 language courses of the chosen certificate area)

All language competency requirements can be met either through course work in or equivalency examinations in the chosen certificate area. Language courses do not count towards certificate credit requirements.

Academic advising is provided by the center of the student’s chosen certificate area.

Hawaiian Studies

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2645 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822
Tel: (808) 973-0989
Fax: (808) 973-0988
Web: www.hawaii.edu/shaps/

Faculty

L. Kame‘eleihiwa, PhD (Chair)—Hawaiian mythology, history, land tenure, literature, traditional navigation
C. L. Andrade, PhD—traditional navigation, Mālama ‘Āina: traditional resource management, indigenous geography, Hawaiian music
A. Drexel, MFA—Hawaiian art, history, mythology, land tenure
J. N. Goodyear-Ka‘opua, BA—Hawaiian and Pacific history
L. Ohai, MA—La‘au Lapa‘au: Hawaiian medicinal herbs, horticulture
J. Osorio, PhD—politics of identity in the Hawaiian kingdom, colonization in the Pacific
H. Trask, PhD—native political movements in Hawai‘i and the Pacific, literature and politics of Pacific island women, Hawaiian history and politics, third world and indigenous history and politics
K. G. T. Young, PhD—class and culture in native Hawaiian society, contemporary politics in Hawai‘i and the Pacific

Degree Offered: BA in Hawaiian studies

The Academic Program

The Center for Hawaiian Studies (HWST) offers a bachelor’s degree with a choice of six areas of concentration: traditional society, arts, history, modern society, language, and natural environment. Third-year fluency in Hawaiian language is required, as well as some familiarity with Hawaiian literature, culture, politics, and economics. The native Hawaiian view is emphasized in the major.

Undergraduate Study

Bachelor’s Degree

Major Requirements

A 3.0 in all courses for the major.
- Total of 35 credit hours
- 23 credit hours in the following required courses:
  - HAW 301 and 302
  - HWST 207 or 351
  - HWST 270, 341, and 342
  - HWST 343 or 390 or 490
  - HWST 478 or MUS 312 or MUS 412 or MUS 478
- 12 credit hours of approved courses in one of these concentrations:
  - Kumu Kahiki: Comparative Polynesian and Indigenous Studies
Before beginning work on the major, students should have completed HAW 101, 102, 201, and 202; HWST 107; and BOT 105. Specific programs should be determined through consultation with program advisers. Majors should be interviewed by the program adviser by the end of the sophomore year.

### Pacific Islands Studies

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1890 East-West Road  
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Web: www.hawaii.edu/cpis/

**Faculty**

* D. L. Hanlon, PhD (Chair)—history  
* A. Arno, PhD—anthropology  
J. Barnwell, MSL—Pacific collections  
* W. Chapman, PhD—American studies  
* D. Chappell, PhD—history  
L. G. Eldredge, PhD—marine zoology  
L. Furuhashi, MLS—Pacific collections  
* M. W. Graves, PhD—anthropology  
* M. Hamnett, PhD—anthropology  
* V. Hereniko, PhD—literature  
L. Hickson, PhD—Pacific Islands studies  
* T. L. Hunt, PhD—anthropology  
* L. K. Kame‘elehiwa, PhD—Hawaiian studies  
F. Lesa, MA—Indo-Pacific languages  
* H. Leslie, PhD—anthropology  
* N. D. Lewis, PhD—geography  
* M. Maaka, PhD—education  
* J. Mak, PhD—economics  
* J. F. Mayer, MA—Indo-Pacific languages  
* W. C. McClatchey, PhD—botany  
D. McGregor, PhD—ethnic studies  
* J. Moulin, PhD—music  
* J. K. Osorio, PhD—Hawaiian studies  
* Y. Otsuka, PhD—linguistics  
A. Papalii—Indo-Pacific languages  
* K. M. Peacock, PhD—Pacific Collection curator  
* A. B. Robillard, PhD—social science and political economics of health services development in Oceania  
* B. V. Rolleid, PhD—anthropology  
* C. Sinavaiana, PhD—English  
V. Tanielu—Indo-Pacific languages  
K. Teiwa, PhD—anthropology  
* H. Trask, PhD—Hawaiian studies  
* F. Untalan, DSW—public health  
* J. Van Dyke, JD—law  
* D. Waite, PhD—art  
* J. Ward, PhD—Indo-Pacific languages  
* T. A. Wesley-Smith, PhD—political science  
* G. M. White, PhD—anthropology  
R. Wiri, PhD—Indo-Pacific languages  
G. T. Young, PhD—Hawaiian studies  

**Degrees and Certificate Offered:** BA in liberal studies (Pacific Islands studies), MA in Pacific Islands studies, Certificate in Pacific Islands studies

### The Academic Program

Since the establishment of the Pacific Islands studies program in 1950, the University of Hawai‘i has made a special commitment to the Pacific Islands region, its peoples, and their environment. On the Mānoa campus alone, some 200 faculty members (including a large number in the natural sciences, physical sciences, and tropical agriculture) have teaching and research interests related to the Pacific region. In addition, the University’s Hamilton Library houses one of the finest collections of Pacific materials in the world. With a core faculty of 40 members drawn from a wide variety of academic disciplines, the Pacific Islands studies program offers multidisciplinary programs of study leading to the MA in Pacific Islands studies and the Certificate in Pacific Islands Studies. A “major equivalent” in Pacific Islands studies is available through the BA program in liberal studies.

The University of Hawai‘i is the only university in the United States to offer an MA in Pacific Islands studies. The MA in Pacific Islands studies is intended for students who desire a multidisciplinary degree focused on the Pacific Islands region (Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia). The Certificate in Pacific Islands Studies is designed for students pursuing advanced degrees in other areas and whose course of study includes a substantial component of Pacific-related courses and research. The objective of the certificate is to provide recognition of this expertise and to encourage further study in the Pacific region. Undergraduate students who wish to focus their studies by integrating courses in anthropology, history, geography, Indo-Pacific languages, etc. with work in Pacific Islands studies may earn the BA in liberal studies (Pacific Islands studies).

### Undergraduate Study

#### Bachelor’s Degree

The study of Micronesia, Melanesia, and Polynesia, including Hawai‘i and New Zealand, might integrate courses
in anthropology, history, geography, Indo-Pacific languages, religion, etc. with work in the Center for Pacific Islands Studies. Prospective students should contact the department for further information on the BA in liberal studies (Pacific Islands studies) program.

Graduate Study

Master’s Degree

The MA in Pacific Islands studies is intended for students of the region who wish to transcend established disciplinary boundaries and explore innovative interdisciplinary approaches to learning, research, and writing. Plan A (thesis) and Plan B (non-thesis) are offered. Students selecting Plan A complete a scholarly research-based thesis on a Pacific Islands–related topic. Those opting for Plan B must also demonstrate an ability to conduct independent research and produce a final research paper that is substantial in nature and represents a contribution to the field of study. Some recent graduates are pursuing doctoral degrees in traditional disciplines; others are employed in a wide variety of fields, such as education, social work, publishing, and library and museum work.

Admission Requirements

Applicants should have some knowledge of the physical features, cultural characteristics, and history of the region, as well as some familiarity with contemporary issues and concerns. Normally, 18 credits, or the equivalent, of appropriate Pacific-related course work are expected to satisfy this requirement. In exceptional cases, a student may take prerequisites concurrently with courses meeting degree requirements.

On entry, or before graduation, students are required to have a second-year level of competence in a foreign language. The language can be indigenous or an administrative language of the Pacific. It must be a second language and related to the student’s research interests.

GRE scores, a writing sample, and three letters of recommendation must be submitted when applying for admission.

Degree Requirements

All MA students are required to complete a minimum of 33 credits of course work, which must include three core seminars offered by the Center for Pacific Islands Studies:

- PACS 691 Approaches to Pacific Islands Studies
- PACS 692 Research Materials and Design
- PACS 693 Cultural Identities

A list of preferred Pacific-related courses offered across the campus serves as a guide in the selection of other courses that will count toward the degree. These courses are selected in consultation with a faculty adviser to form an integrated program of study that strengthens the student’s general background in the Pacific region, as well as providing a particular concentration of interest. Students in both Plan A and Plan B choose a three-person faculty committee to supervise the production of the thesis or Plan B paper and to evaluate the final product.

By no later than the third semester in residence, all MA students are required to take a general written examination that is designed to determine the adequacy of the student’s general knowledge of the Pacific region, analytical skills, and competence to conduct research. Successful performance on the examination advances the student to candidacy. A student failing the examination may take a repeat examination in one year. A second failure results in the student being dropped from the program.

Plan A (Thesis) Requirements

The student taking the Plan A option is required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours, including the following:

- 24 credit hours of course work, of which at least 15 must be in courses numbered 600 and above (excluding PACS 700). Included in these 24 credit hours are PACS 691, 692, and 693; and
- 9 credit hours of thesis research, a completed thesis, and examination on it.

Plan B (Non-thesis) Requirements

The student taking the Plan B option is required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours of which at least 21 must be in courses numbered 600 and above. Included in the 33 credit hours are PACS 691, 692, and 693.

The Plan B student is also required to demonstrate research capacity by submitting a final paper that is substantial in nature and represents a contribution to the field of study. The paper must be judged acceptable by all three members of the student’s advisory committee.

Certificate Program

Certificate in Pacific Islands Studies

The Certificate in Pacific Islands Studies is designed for students who are pursuing advanced degrees in other areas and whose course of study includes a substantial component of Pacific-related courses and research. The objective of the certificate is to provide recognition of this expertise and to encourage further study of the Pacific region.

Students applying for the certificate must have previously been admitted to the Graduate Division in a field of study. Following the diagnostic interview required of all incoming Pacific Islands studies students, the certificate student is assigned a two-person advisory committee consisting of one member of the Pacific Islands studies faculty (as appointed by the program director) and the student’s field of study adviser.

Requirements

A certificate student is required to have 18 credit hours in Pacific-related courses or 12 credit hours in Pacific-related courses and a Pacific-related thesis/dissertation. The courses are to be taken from the list of preferred courses, as prepared by the Pacific Islands studies faculty. PACS 690 is the only required course; the others must, however, constitute a logically related set of courses.
The certificate student is also required to take the general written examination. As with MA students, the certificate student failing the examination may take a repeat examination in one year. A second failing performance results in termination from the program. The certificate student may take the written examination any semester while in the program.

The certificate is awarded upon the student’s completion of an advanced degree in his or her field of study.