School of Pacific and Asian Studies

Administration
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Web: www.hawaii.edu/shaps/
Interim Dean: Edward Shultz

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

Established in 1987, SPAS offers academic programs in Asian studies and Pacific Islands studies. SPAS also houses the Centers for Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies, Korean Studies, Okinawan Studies, Pacific Islands Studies, Philippine Studies, South Asian Studies and Southeast Asian Studies. Through these centers and programs, SPAS helps to coordinate the efforts of some 300 faculty specialists throughout UH Mānoa who offer more than 600 courses related to Asia and the Pacific.

Research supported by SPAS appears in a wide range of journals, monographs, and occasional papers published by its centers and programs. Complementing these publications are monographs, translations, and journals published by SPAS or one of its centers in association with the UH 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 Pacific and Asian Studies. Students electing to focus their studies on Asia or the Pacific at UH 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 Degree: BA in Asian studies

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

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

Advising

Asian Studies
Pattie Dunn
Moore 416
1890 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
Tel: (808) 956-0827
Email: pdunn@hawaii.edu

Pacific Islands Studies
Terence Wesley-Smith, PhD
Moore 215
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Students interested in Asian studies and Pacific Islands studies are urged to consult with the appropriate school advisor listed above.

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**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 UH Mānoa General Education Core requirements and additional basic coursework specified by the degree program.
- Complete writing intensive courses as specified by UH 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 or the BA in interdisciplinary 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 54 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 annual 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 and Beijing Foreign Studies University in Beijing, the National Taiwan University in Taipei, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

By interdepartmental cooperation and by creating a stimulating environment for the faculty and the 150 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.

The center is also home to one of about 20 Confucius Institutes (CI) in the nation, with funding from the PRC Ministry of Education. The CI focuses on pre- and in-service training of Chinese language educators, developing innovative language learning opportunities for students, and projects that promote teaching and learning about Chinese culture. The work of the CI has been enhanced by major grants from the Freeman Foundation, the College Board, and the National Security Language Initiative.

**Center for Japanese Studies**

The Center for Japanese Studies (CJS) seeks to promote a deeper understanding of Japan within a global context. Faculty include 37 professors, 17 language instructors, 2 library specialists, and a chanoyu instructor who offer approximately 150 courses in 16 department units. An integral part of the center is the Dr. Sen Soshitsu International Way of Tea Center, established in 2001, which serves to perpetuate tea culture by offering tea practicum courses and coordinating tea-related outreach projects. Other important activities include the administration of student-exchange programs with Kyoto University, Doshisha University (Kyoto), Nanzan University (Nagoya), Sophia University (Tokyo), Hiroshima University, and the University of the Ryukyus; coordination of the Japanese Studies Endowment which makes grants to support faculty and graduate student research; publication of the newsletter J-Current, and the Guide to Japanese Studies at the University of Hawai‘i. In addition, the center acts as a coordinating body for Japanese studies on campus and as a clearinghouse for inquiries related to the field; sponsors visiting colleagues; and arranges lectures and performances for visiting scholars and artists.

**Center for Korean Studies**

The Center for Korean Studies coordinates and develops UH Mānoa’s resources for the study of Korea. The 17 faculty members affiliated represent the disciplines of history, language and literature, economics, political science, sociology, business, 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, Korean Studies; and coordinates UH Mānoa 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 UH Mānoa library’s Korean collection.

**Center for Okinawan Studies**

The Center for Okinawan Studies (COS) was established in 2008, and has the distinction of being the first center of its kind outside of Japan. COS is a coordinating unit with a mission to promote Okinawan Studies. It strives to enhance the study and understanding of the history, culture, environment, and societies of the Okinawan/Ryukyuan peoples, including diaspora. COS is committed to supporting the research and teaching of Okinawa/Ryukyu-related subjects by its faculty/staff and students, as well as providing outreach to the general community in the form of workshops, lectures, seminars, and conferences. It also administers the student-exchange program with the University of the Ryukyus. Collaborative works with
the University of the Ryukyus are also being planned for future projects.

**Center for Pacific Islands Studies**

The Center for Pacific Islands Studies coordinates aspects of the Pacific-related activities within UH Mānoa 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 UH Press, the Pacific Islands Monograph Series, and *The Contemporary Pacific: A Journal of Island Affairs.*

**Center for Philippine Studies**

The Center for Philippine Studies at UH Mānoa is the only university center offering a comprehensive academic program for Philippine studies in North America. With an interdisciplinary faculty based 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. UH Mānoa has the largest concentration of internationally known Philippine specialists and experts in various disciplines. The center serves as the Secretariat for the International Committee on Philippine Studies.

**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 UH Mānoa, as well as to the wider Honolulu community.

**Center for Southeast Asian Studies**

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies supports one of the largest Southeast Asian programs in the country. Approximately 70 resident and visiting faculty teach a wide range of courses on Southeast Asia, which include an exceptionally strong program in languages. In addition, the library collection on Southeast Asia is among the largest in the world. The center administers FLAS fellowships and other scholarships available for graduate students and administers faculty and student exchanges with other universities. It maintains an active seminar and conference schedule and works to maintain cross-campus and interdisciplinary communication. Center publications include the Southeast Asia Paper Series and *Explorations,* a student journal. The outreach program oversees conferences, public lectures, a Southeast Asian film series, and develops education materials. Further information is available at www.hawaii.edu/cseas/.

**Campus Events and Community Programs**

SPAS 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 UH Mānoa expertise into the community and secondary schools.

**Asian Studies**

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Web: www.hawaii.edu/shaps/asia

**Faculty**

*M. Aung-Thwin, PhD (Chair)—history, Southeast Asia (Burma)*
*B. Andaya, PhD—history, Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Indonesia)*
*B. Aquino, PhD—political science, Philippines, Southeast Asia*  
*L. Carlile, PhD—political science, East Asia (Japan)*
*C. Clayton, PhD—anthropology, China*  
*E. Harwit, PhD—political science, East Asia (China)*
*R. Huey, PhD—literature, Japan*  
*R. Kwok, PhD—urban and regional planning, East Asia (China)*
*F. Lau, PhD—ethnomusicology, China*  
*C. Ning, PhD—literature, China*  
*G. Satsuma, PhD—history, Japan*  
*M. Sharma, PhD—anthropology, South Asia (India)*  
*E. Shultz, PhD—history, East Asia (Korea)*  
*H. Sohn, PhD—language, Korea*  
*R. D. Trimillos, Ph—ethnomusicology, Southeast Asia (Philippines), Japan*

**Cooperating Faculty**

All graduate faculty who are specialists and offer courses related to the six area centers within Asian studies serve as cooperating faculty in Asian studies. Faculty related to the area centers—the centers for China, Korea, Japan, Okinawa, the Philippines, South Asia, and Southeast Asia—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, Japanese studies, Korean 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.

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* Graduate Faculty
of UH Mānoa, 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 U.S. and in the economy, government and politics, diplomacy, and the arts will relate directly to the academic programs linked to Asian studies.

UH 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 UH 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: 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, and Southeast Asia.

**Advising**

Graduate students are advised by the appropriate area director or designated faculty. Undergraduatesmajoring in Asian studies are advised by an undergraduate studies advisor.

**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 Pacific and Asian 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.

**Program Requirements**

- Earn at least a 2.0 GPA (C average) for all UH Mānoa registered courses
- Register for all required courses (core, major, minor, and certificates) for a letter grade
- Earn a grade of C (not C-) or better in each course applied to the major, minor, and certificate requirements
- 60 credits of 300-400 level courses

**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 advisor

**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

ASAN courses used to satisfy General Education Core requirements 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 advisor 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 UH Mānoa 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 SPAS—China, Japan, Korea, Okinawa, the Philippines, South Asia, or 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 advisor 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 beyond the fourth-year level for students concentrating on Japan, at the fourth-year level for students concentrating on China or Korea, or the third-year level for students concentrating on the Philippines, 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;
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; Philippine, South and Southeast Asian languages—6 credit hours at the 301 and 302 level (an entering student who has achieved this level and can demonstrate proficiency through examination may select alternate courses equaling 6 credit hours with the consent of the area advisor);
4. An introductory graduate seminar in the particular area of concentration (ASAN 600), taken at the beginning of 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 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. A maximum of 6 credits may be taken outside the country/region of focus, after consultation with academic advisor.
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;
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; Philippine, South and Southeast Asian languages—6 credit hours at the 301 and 302 level (an entering student who has achieved this level and can demonstrate proficiency through examination may select alternate courses equaling 6 credit hours with the consent of the area advisor);
4. An introductory graduate seminar in the particular area of concentration (ASAN 600), taken at the beginning of the student’s program;
5. A graduate research seminar in the particular area of concentration (ASAN 750);
6. 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. A maximum of 6 credits may be taken outside the country/region of focus, after consultation with academic advisor.
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. A maximum of 6 credits may be taken outside the country/region of focus, after consultation with academic advisor.
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

SPAS, 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 UH 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 or ASAN 750 Research Seminar 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)
- Complete all coursework for certificate within a seven year period
  All language competency requirements can be met either through course work 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.

Pacific Islands Studies

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Faculty

*V. Hereniko, PhD (Chair)—literature
L. Bautista, PhD—sociology
*T. Kabutaulaka, PhD—political science
*T. A. Wesley-Smith, PhD—political science

Cooperating Faculty

*A. Arno, PhD—anthropology
*W. Chapman, PhD—American studies
*D. Chappell, PhD—history
S. Dawrs, MLS—Pacific collections
L. G. Eldredge, PhD—marine zoology
L. Furuhashi, MLS—Pacific collections
J. Goss, PhD—political science
*M. Hamnett, PhD—anthropology
*D. L. Hanlon, PhD—history
L. Hickson, PhD—Pacific Islands studies
*T. L. Hunt, PhD—anthropology
*L. K. Kame’elehiwa, PhD—Hawaiian studies
F. Lesa, MS—Indo-Pacific languages
*N. Lewis, PhD—geography
N. Losch, MA—Hawaiian language
*M. Maaka, PhD—education
*J. Mak, PhD—economics
*J. F. Mayer, PhD—Indo-Pacific languages
*W. C. McClatchey, PhD—botany
D. McGregor, PhD—ethnic studies
*J. Moulin, PhD—music
*J. Osorio, PhD—Hawaiian studies
*Y. Otsuka, PhD—linguistics
A. Pasi, MA—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. Rolett, PhD—anthropology
*N. Silva, PhD—political science
M. L. Simanu-Klutz, MA—Indo-Pacific languages
*C. Sinavaiana, PhD—English
R. Sullivan, MA—English
A. M. S. Taula, MA—Indo-Pacific languages
*T. Tengan, PhD—anthropology
*H. Trask, PhD—Hawaiian studies
*J. Van Dyke, JD—law
*D. Waite, PhD—art
*J. Ward, PhD—Indo-Pacific languages
*G. M. White, PhD—anthropology
*G. T. Young, PhD—Hawaiian studies

* Graduate Faculty
Degrees and Certificate Offered: BA in interdisciplinary studies (Pacific Islands studies), MA in Pacific Islands studies, Certificate in Pacific Islands studies

The Academic Program

Pacific Islands Studies at UH Mānoa is an innovative, interdisciplinary program committed to the production and dissemination of a wide range of knowledge about Oceania. The program focuses on the island societies of this vast region, and the dynamic cultural, social, and political interactions that link them to each other as well as to the rest of the world. It seeks to understand the many worlds of Oceania through multiple conceptual lenses, drawn selectively from a range of academic disciplines and from the knowledge systems of the region itself. Pacific Islands studies promotes active, student-centered approaches to learning and encourages creativity in research and representation of island issues.

With a core and affiliate faculty of about 35 members, and access to one of the finest collections of Pacific materials in the world, the Pacific Islands studies program offers interdisciplinary 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 Interdisciplinary Studies.

Undergraduate Study

Bachelor’s Degree

Students interested in a “major equivalent” in Pacific Islands studies can develop an integrated course of study through UH Mānoa’s Interdisciplinary Studies program with advice from faculty in the Center for Pacific Islands Studies. Prospective candidates should seek further information from the Interdisciplinary Studies program before approaching center faculty.

Graduate Study

Master’s Degree

The MA in Pacific Islands studies is intended for students of the region wishing to transcend established disciplinary boundaries and explore innovative approaches to learning, research, and representation. It is the only program of its kind in the U.S. The MA program includes two options, thesis and MA portfolio. Students selecting the first option complete a scholarly research-based thesis on a Pacific-related topic. Normally this is the preferred option for those planning to enter a doctoral program in the humanities, social sciences, or interdisciplinary studies. Those opting for the MA portfolio demonstrate mastery of a specialty area within the field of Pacific Islands studies through an integrated program of activities including course work, research, and writing. Both options can include performance, multimedia, or creative writing components. Some recent graduates are pursuing doctoral or professional degrees in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Hawai‘i and the U.S. mainland; others are employed in a wide variety of fields, including education, social work, publishing, as well as library and museum work.

Language Requirement

On entry, or before graduation, students are required to have a second-year level of competence in an indigenous language of the Pacific, or a pidgin/creole language such as Tok Pisin, Solomons Pijin, or Bislama. The language should be related to the student’s research interests. Competence in an administrative language of the Pacific such as Spanish, French, German, or Japanese may be used to satisfy the requirement, provided this is not the student’s first language, and there is a demonstrated connection with research activities. Language competence is demonstrated by successful completion of appropriate course work, or through an examination conducted by a suitably qualified individual.

Degree Requirements

All MA students are required to complete a minimum of 33 credits of course work, which must include three core seminars, PACS 601 Learning Oceania, PACS 602 Re/Presenting Oceania: Pacific and American Perspectives, and PACS 603 Researching Oceania: Creative and Conventional Methods of Inquiry. The core seminars introduce students to key issues of learning and research in the field of Pacific Studies. The seminars are taught in sequence, with PACS 601 and PACS 602 offered in the fall, and PACS 603 in the spring. In addition, students take at least two focus courses (6 credits) directly related to their research or specialty interests. 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. Courses are selected in consultation with a faculty advisor to form an integrated program of study that strengthens a student’s general knowledge of the region, as well as providing a particular concentration of interests. Students in both the thesis and MA portfolio plans choose a three-person faculty committee to supervise their work, and to evaluate the final product or products. The MA committee must review and approve a comprehensive thesis or portfolio proposal (usually produced as part of the requirements for PACS 603) before the student embarks on the MA thesis or on major components of the portfolio.

All students must pass the MA written examination, which provides an opportunity to demonstrate understanding of significant issues in the field of Pacific studies, as well as general knowledge of the region as a whole. Students normally sit the examination at the end of the third semester in the MA program. Successful performance on the examination advances the student to candidacy. A student failing the examination may take it one more time. A second failure results in the student being dropped from the program.

Thesis Requirements

Students selecting the thesis option complete 6 credits of focus course work directly relevant to their research interests, and produce a scholarly, research based thesis on a Pacific-related topic. The thesis should demonstrate an ability to conduct independent research and represent a significant contribution to this interdisciplinary field of study. It should address a significant question, issue, or theme, and include a thorough review of relevant written and other resources. Students are expected to cross established disciplinary boundaries and explore topics
using multiple conceptual lenses. The thesis must include a substantial written component that is normally at least one hundred pages (or 30,000 words) in length. It can include performance, creative writing, or multimedia components in dialogue with the text to better communicate the scholarly work.

Students pursuing the thesis option satisfy credit requirements as follows:
- Core seminars (PACS 601, 602, 603) 09 credits
- Focus courses 06 credits
- Elective courses 09 credits
- Thesis credits (PACS 700) 09 credits
- Total 33 credits

At least 15 credit hours of this course work must be in courses numbered 600 and above (excluding PACS 700). Normally, only 3 credits of PACS 699 Directed Reading and Research can be used to satisfy the focus requirement.

MA Portfolio Requirements

Students selecting this option identify and explore a Pacific-related specialty area. Mastery of the specialized subject matter is demonstrated through an integrated program of study that includes 1) 6 credits of focus course work directly relevant to the specialty area; 2) an essay or research report of at least 25 pages in length (approximately 8,000 words) that explores a central aspect of the specialty area; and 3) a substantial performance, multimedia, artistic, or written product directly related to the specialty area. This component of the portfolio will normally complement the essay or research report described above, and can be combined with it to form a single product of at least 50 pages in length (approximately 16,000 words).

Students pursuing the portfolio option satisfy credits requirements as follows:
- Core seminars (PACS 601, 602, 603) 09 credits
- Focus courses 06 credits
- Elective courses 12 credits
- MA projects (PACS 695) 06 credits
- Total 33 credits

At least 18 credit hours of course work must be in courses numbered 600 and above (excluding PACS 695). Normally, only 3 credits of PACS 699 Directed Reading and Research can be used to satisfy the focus requirement. Students earn 3 credits of PACS 695 Master’s Portfolio Project for their work on the essay or research report, and a further 3 credits for the third component of the portfolio.

Performance, Creative Writing, Artwork and Multimedia Options

Innovative approaches to knowledge production are encouraged. MA projects (thesis or MA portfolio) must include a substantial analytical, text-based component, but can incorporate elements of performance (e.g. dance, theater), creative writing (e.g. fiction or poetry), artwork (e.g. painting, photography), or multimedia (e.g. video, audio, digital media). Students intending to include performance, creative writing, artwork, or multimedia components must satisfy the MA committee that they have or will acquire the appropriate proficiencies. The issue of proficiency should be addressed in the project proposal with reference to relevant course work, academic background, or prior experience. Performances must be supervised by members of the MA committee, fully rehearsed, and videotaped for submission, along with the written component, to the center and/or Graduate Division.

MA Committees

All MA students form a three person committee to supervise their work and evaluate the thesis or MA portfolio products. Graduate Division requires that committee members be on the Graduate Faculty at UH Mānoa, although students can petition for exceptions to this rule. The chair and at least one other member should be members of the core or affiliate faculty of the Center for Pacific Islands Studies. Students normally form the committee towards the end of their first year in residence, or after they have prepared a comprehensive thesis or MA portfolio proposal.

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. Applications take the form of a letter to the Pacific Islands studies graduate chair that outlines academic objectives, Pacific-related interests, and the proposed course of study in the primary field. Following a diagnostic interview, the certificate student is assigned a two-person advisory committee consisting of one member of the Pacific Islands studies faculty (as appointed by the graduate chair) and the student’s departmental advisor.

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 or dissertation. The courses must constitute a logically related program of study and are normally chosen from the list of preferred courses prepared by the Pacific Islands studies faculty. Certificate students must take at least one of the MA core courses (PACS 601, PACS 602, PACS 603), and sit the MA written examination. The certificate is awarded upon completion of the advanced degree in the primary field of study.