Graduate Education

Office of Graduate Education (OGE) (formerly Graduate Division)
Dean
Spalding 360
2540 Maile Way
Honolulu, HI 96822
Tel: (808) 956-7541

Associate Dean
Spalding 359
2540 Maile Way
Honolulu, HI 96822
Tel: (808) 956-8950

Graduate Education
Graduate Council
Graduate Assembly
Chairs of the Graduate Programs
Graduate Student Organization
WICHE Regional Graduate Programs
Academic Policies
Student Responsibility
Admission
Application Procedures and Deadlines
Standardized Examinations
Additional Requirements and Information
Classification of Students
Summer Session
Registration
Enrollment Requirements
Credit Hours
Examinations
Grades
Requirements for Continued Registration
Diplomas
Degree Checks
Conferring of Degrees
Transcripts
Certificate Programs
Master’s Degree Programs
Requirements and Procedures for Master’s Degrees
Thesis (Plan A)
Plan B
Examinations (Plan C)
Doctor of Philosophy Programs
Requirements and Procedures for Doctoral Degrees
Examinations

Graduate Student Services
Spalding 353B
2540 Maile Way
Honolulu, HI 96822
Tel: (808) 956-8544
(808) 956-8500
(808) 956-4257 (Voice/Text)
Fax: (808) 956-4261
Email: General Inquiries: graduate.education@hawaii.edu
Current Student Inquiries: graduate.education@hawaii.edu
Web: manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate

Graduate Council
Members of the Graduate Council are appointed by the Faculty Senate. The council advises the dean on graduate courses, programs, and administrative matters.

Graduate Assembly
The Graduate Assembly is composed of the chairs of each graduate program. It functions as an advisory board to the dean on major policy matters and serves as a forum for discussion on matters pertaining to graduate study.

Chairs of the Graduate Programs
The chairs of the graduate programs are appointed by the dean of Graduate Education. The chairs in turn recommend faculty advisors or committees for graduate students working toward advanced degrees. If the dean of Graduate Education concurs, he/she appoints the persons recommended by the chairs.

The chairs of the graduate programs serve as the liaison with Graduate Education in matters of policy, procedural changes, program effectiveness, and general graduate student affairs. They advise on the admission of graduate students, advise graduate students on their degree programs, review graduate student petitions, keep records on their graduate students, and certify that degree candidates have completed all requirements.

Graduate Student Organization
See the “Student Life” section for information on this organization.

WICHE Regional Graduate Programs
See the “Tuition, Fees, and Financial Aid” section for information on these programs.
Academic Policies

The following regulations and procedures governing admission to Graduate Education at UH Mānoa are subject to change without prior notice. Prospective students should consult with the website for updated policies.

Although UH Mānoa attempts to accommodate the course requests of students, course offerings may be limited by financial, space, and staffing considerations or may otherwise be unavailable. Nothing in this Catalog may be construed to promise or guarantee registration in any course or course of study (whether required or elective), nor may anything be construed to promise or guarantee the completion of an academic program within a specified length of time.

Student Responsibility

It is the responsibility of students to know and observe all regulations and procedures relating to the program they are pursuing, as well as those of UH Mānoa and the Office of Graduate Education. In no case will a regulation be waived or an exception granted because students plead ignorance of or contend that they were not informed of the regulations or procedures. Questions on regulations and their interpretation pertaining to studies at the graduate level should be addressed to the Dean, Office of Graduate Education.

Students planning to graduate should familiarize themselves with the dates relating to application for graduation and other pertinent deadlines (see the “Calendar”). It is necessary to apply for graduation by the specified deadline in order to graduate in a particular term, whether or not the student plans to attend the commencement ceremonies.

Students must satisfy the degree requirements of the Catalog in force during the term for which they were admitted; or they may, with the consent of their advisors, meet graduation requirements by complying with the provisions of a later Catalog. Students readmitted to a degree program must meet degree requirements of the Catalog in force at the time of the later admission (or of a subsequent Catalog, as provided above). Aside from degree requirements, all students are subject to the regulations and policies stated in the Catalog currently in force. Exceptions to the regulations contained in the Catalog require the written approval of Graduate Education, unless otherwise stated in the Catalog.

Students admitted to Graduate Education are assumed to be mature adults and are expected to behave accordingly. All written work should observe high editorial standards, and high standards of academic honesty are expected. Though advisory services are provided to assist the student, the student alone is responsible for following the procedures and completing the steps required in the degree program. Requirements of Graduate Education, both procedural and substantive, may be waived only by written request of the student and/or committee concerned and must have written approval of Graduate Education. Petition forms are available in department offices, the Graduate Education Student Services Office, and online at manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/.

Academic Integrity

UH Mānoa has adopted policies and procedures for dealing with academic (and research) misconduct by its students, faculty, and staff. The guidelines, which are available in department offices and in the Office of the Dean of Graduate Education, pertain to the intentional commission of any academic misconduct, including falsification of research results, improper assignment of authorship, plagiarism, deceptive manipulation of experiments or of research procedures, and misappropriation of research funds.

If a graduate student fails to maintain the standards of academic or professional integrity expected in his or her discipline or program, the student’s admission to the program may be terminated. (See “Campus Policies” for further discussion of policy pertaining to academic honesty.)

Research with Human or Animal Subjects

Students intending to conduct research using human or animal subjects should be aware of federal, state, and UH Mānoa regulations and review processes to ensure compliance with protective standards. These regulations cover research funded by non-UH Mānoa sources, sponsored by UH Mānoa, or conducted by or under the direction of any employee or agent of UH Mānoa in connection with his or her institutional responsibilities or using any UH Mānoa property or facility. These regulations also cover research involving the use of UH Mānoa’s non-public information to identify or contact research subjects.

Students and UH Mānoa employees should refer to the “Campus Policies” section for more information on federal research guidelines and check with their respective graduate chairperson for guidance.

Admission

Applicants for advanced degree programs must hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college or university or its equivalent from a recognized foreign institution of higher learning. The standards of the degree in question must be equivalent in both the distribution of academic subject matter and in scholarship achievement requirements to those maintained at UH Mānoa.

All applicants should have outstanding academic records. The evaluation is based on the applicant’s academic record, as well as test scores, the statement of objectives, and where appropriate, professional experience. Applicants may submit unofficial copies of transcripts and test scores while applying for admissions. However, admitted students are required to submit official transcripts and test scores in order to enroll at UH Mānoa.

Completed applications are screened by the Graduate Student Services Office. Applications that meet the requirements of Graduate Education are forwarded to the respective graduate program, where the standards applied may be more stringent than those set by Graduate Education. There the applications are subjected to a more comprehensive and intensive review by the graduate faculty. Where admission is intensely competitive, admission decisions are reached through a comparison of the relative merits of all applicants applying in the program or in an area of concentration, if applicable, for that particular semester. The graduate program then makes a recommendation to Graduate Education either to admit or deny the applicant. The final decision to make a formal offer of admission rests with Graduate Education, which takes into full consideration the recommendation of the graduate program. Admission is valid only for the semester in which the student was accepted.

Applicants may be denied admission for any number of reasons. Some of the more common bases of denial are undistinguished academic records and poor test scores, inadequate
preparation and background for advanced academic or professional study, unclear or unfocused objectives for graduate study, or inability of the program to accommodate all qualified applicants due to limited space or lack of faculty to guide the students in specified areas of interest. It is suggested that applicants consult the chair of the selected program concerning their interests and availability of faculty members in their intended areas of study.

Graduate Student Services Office notifies each applicant of the decision. Official notification of acceptance or rejection is generally mailed between February and June for fall admission, depending on when the completed application is received and when a decision is reached. Most of the notifications are mailed in April and May. For spring, notification is generally between October and December. In programs with intense competition, selections are often made early. Applicants should not make definite arrangements to attend UH Mānoa until they receive formal notice of acceptance from Graduate Education.

All applicants are required to specify on the application form all current and previous enrollment in any postsecondary institution. Any applicant who fails to inform UH Mānoa of such enrollment or who submits or has submitted any required information or document that is fraudulent or that has been altered without proper authorization may be denied admission to UH Mānoa. If the omissions and/or alterations are discovered after the student is enrolled, enrollment may be canceled and the student may be referred to UH Mānoa’s Student Conduct Committee for possible disciplinary action.

Application Procedures and Deadlines

You may apply for graduate admission by downloading an application form or by electronic application from the website listed below. Specific program information should be obtained directly from the appropriate graduate program. For a listing of graduate programs contact information, visit the website: manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/. Communication should be addressed to the graduate chair of the appropriate graduate program.

For further information on general graduate admissions, write or email the Graduate Student Services Office at graduate.education@hawaii.edu. Business, medicine, and law are not part of the Office of Graduate Education. Applicants should apply directly to the Shidler College of Business, John A. Burns School of Medicine (see the “John A. Burns School of Medicine” section) or to the William S. Richardson School of Law (see the “William S. Richardson School of Law” section).

Application Requirements

Students applying for admission to graduate programs must submit the following:

To Graduate Education
1. On-line application form and application fee—no fee waivers;
2. One official transcript from each postsecondary institution attended, sent directly from the institution to Graduate Student Services or received in a sealed institutional envelope. Transcripts are NOT required for course work completed at any of the UH campuses. The Graduate Student Services Office will obtain UH transcripts on behalf of applicants;
3. Official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or IELTS Academic Modules Test score report, if required (for international applicants, as well as some immigrant and U.S. applicants); and
4. Verification of financial status (for international applicants).

If more than 25 percent of a student’s undergraduate course work at a U.S. institution has been graded under a nontraditional grading system (i.e., pass/fail, credit/no credit, satisfactory/unsatisfactory, etc.), then:
1. Transcripts must be accompanied by official course performance reports, i.e., faculty evaluations (one copy each of transcripts and performance reports);
2. Transcripts from nontraditional grading systems must include course descriptions and grade conversion information; and
3. The applicant must take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test and have the results forwarded to Graduate Education. [Applicants to the Shidler College of Business and the School of Accountancy should take the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) in place of the GRE. Applicants to the School of Travel Industry Management may take the GMAT instead of the GRE.]

To the Graduate Program
1. Letters of recommendation if required by the graduate program;
2. One official transcript from each postsecondary institution attended, sent directly to the graduate program by the institution, if required by the graduate program;
3. Standardized test scores (excluding TOEFL and IELTS) such as GRE, GMAT, if required by the graduate program;
4. Special application forms, statement of objectives and long-range goals if required by the graduate program; and
5. Samples of work (slides, manuscripts, portfolio, or tapes), résumés, and writing samples if required by the graduate program.

For details, refer to the specific graduate program brochure and application instructions. Materials submitted in support of an application are not released for other purposes and cannot be returned to the applicant. Failure to fill out the application completely according to instructions may result in delays and/or file closure.

Application Deadlines

Please refer to the Graduate Education Prospective Student section at manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/ or specific graduate program brochure for specific application deadlines. Each graduate program may have different deadlines and some programs do not have spring admissions.

In many cases, admission offers include financial support, such as assistantships, scholarships, fellowships, and tuition waivers. Frequently, this support is awarded early to highly qualified applicants. Applications are processed by Graduate Student Services Office as early as September 1 for the fall semester and May 1 for the spring semester. It is recommended that a completed graduate admissions application be submitted as early as possible.

International Applicants

International applicants must submit official academic records in the original language accompanied by certified English translations. These translations must bear either the embossed seal or inked stamp of the issuing institution or governmental agency or the original signature of the translator, and they must be complete and exact word-for-word translations of the original documents.
The following lists the minimum academic qualifications expected of international applicants from the following selected countries or areas for admissions consideration. These qualifications must be completed prior to enrollment. Not all regions and countries are represented and admission eligibility is determined upon review of all required application materials.

- Australia, Canada, South Africa: Bachelor’s degree requiring at least four years of study or an honours bachelor degree.
- Baltic and East European States, former Soviet Republics: Diplom, Inzenyr, Magister, Oklevél: diploma requiring four to five years of post-secondary study.
- Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan: Completed master’s degree at the time of application or a four-five year bachelor’s degree such as the B. Engineering, B. Technology, or B. Agriculture.
- United Kingdom and British patterned systems: Honours bachelor degree.
- France or French patterned systems: Maîtrise or title of Ingénieur; four-five year degree.
- Germany: University Diplom, Magister Artium, or Staatsexamen. The vordiplom alone is not sufficient.
- Philippines: Bachelor’s degree from chartered higher education institutions (state universities and colleges) or CHED approved institutions and degree programs or FAAP certified level II or III accreditation status.
- Bologna-compliant three year bachelor degrees will be given consideration.

If admitted, international students must receive two clearances in order to register: (1) University Health Services clearance documenting adherence with health regulations; and (2) International Student Services (ISS) clearance documenting adherence to international student regulations and proof of adequate health insurance. **Note:** International applicants with a non-immigrant visa status other than student status should contact the ISS. Federal restrictions on full-time study may apply.

**Concurrent Pursuit of Multiple Graduate Programs**

Current UH Mānoa graduate students who wish to pursue an additional graduate degree concurrently are required to obtain advance approval from their program chair and the Graduate Dean. Upon approval, students may apply for admission to an additional program after completing one semester of study in their initial program.

Students must submit the Petition to Apply for Concurrent Degree to their current program chair for approval prior to applying for an additional graduate program. It is recommended that the petition be submitted at least two weeks prior to the program’s admission deadline. The petition is located on the Graduate Education website at manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/.

Upon approval from the graduate chair, the student submits the approved petition, a new graduate admissions application, and the application fee to the Graduate Student Services Office. Approval of this petition only grants permission to apply and does not imply admission.

Approval is not required to apply to official dual degrees or to graduate certificate programs. Concurrent doctorates are not permitted and multiple doctoral degrees are generally not permitted. If approved, each degree must be distinct, and representing a unique body of knowledge. Each dissertation must be distinct and not incorporate parts of a previous dissertation.

**Concurrent Graduate Certificates**

Current UH Mānoa graduate students who wish to pursue an additional graduate certificate concurrently are required to apply directly to the Graduate Student Services Office. The Concurrent Graduate Certificate Program application can be downloaded from the Graduate Education website at manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/. The application and application fee must be submitted to the Graduate Student Services Office, 2540 Maile Way, Spalding 353B, Honolulu, HI 96822.

**English Language Institute**

International and immigrant students admitted to UH Mānoa whose native language is not English may be referred to the English Language Institute to determine if they must take the ELI placement examinations. If a student does not fulfill this obligation, ELI will place a hold on the student’s registration. Please refer to the “English as a Second Language” section within the Colleges of Arts and Sciences for additional information.

**Standardized Examinations**

Standardized test application forms are available at the Counseling and Student Development Center, (808) 956-3454. Out-of-state students and applicants from international countries should write to the address designated for each examination (see pertinent section).

Individuals with visual, physical, hearing, or learning disabilities who are required to take either the GRE or GMAT should contact the Educational Testing Service for information regarding special arrangements to take these examinations.

**Graduate Record Examination**

The GRE and subtests may be required by some graduate programs and recommended by others. For the requirements of the individual graduate programs, consult the relevant graduate program descriptions in this Catalog. The GRE General Test (Package 1) is also required by the Office of Graduate Education for students who have completed 25 percent or more of their undergraduate work at a U.S. institution under a nontraditional grading system. Test information is available through the Counseling and Student Development Center, (808) 956-3454. Applicants may request test registration forms directly from Graduate Record Examinations, Educational Testing Service (ETS), Box 6000, Princeton, NJ 08541-6000, web: www.ets.org/gre/. Submit completed registration forms and test fees to ETS at least one month before the examination date.

**Evidence of English Language Proficiency**

Applicants whose native language is not English must submit official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic Modules test results. The TOEFL score report and IELTS test results must be from a test taken within the last 2 years. A minimum TOEFL score of 500/61 (paper/internet) or IELTS overall band test result of 6.00 is required. Many programs require higher scores. The minimum score for teaching assistantship applicants is 600/100 for TOEFL and 7.00 for the IELTS.

Applicants who have completed a bachelor’s or advanced degree program within the last five years at a regionally accredited/recognized institution in the U.S., Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Singapore, or United Kingdom need not submit English language proficiency test scores.
Final admission requires submission of the official TOEFL/IELTS results. Applicants should, therefore, obtain the TOEFL Bulletin of Information early to check on the availability of the test and should take the test in time to meet graduate admissions application deadlines.

The TOEFL is administered at centers throughout the world. Applicants who wish to take the TOEFL outside the U.S. should obtain the TOEFL Bulletin of Information for Candidates, International Edition. This bulletin is generally available at U.S. embassies and consulates and at binational educational commissions and consulates abroad. Applicants may also order a bulletin directly from the representative who serves the area or country in which they plan to take the test. For complete information about the TOEFL, visit www.ets.org/toefl/.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

Applicants should contact the nearest British Council/Embassy/Consulate or IDP Education Australia Office in their country for the nearest testing center. It is advised that you also check the IELTS website for the most up-to-date information for testing centers. Web: www.ielts.org/

Additional Requirements and Information

Reapplication

 Newly accepted students who do not register in the program during the semester for which they are admitted or who withdraw from all courses within the designated withdrawal period (see the “Calendar” for designated withdrawal dates) are considered no-shows and their admission status is rendered invalid. A new application is required for readmission consideration.

Change in Graduate Program

Applicants for a change in program are considered in competition with all other applicants to the new field. East-West Center students must consult their program officer before initiating any changes in graduate programs. The applicant must submit a Graduate Admissions application along with all documentation required by the new program (letters of recommendation, transcripts, test scores, etc.) to the Graduate Student Services Office within the standard admission deadlines for the graduate program. [If a change is granted, it becomes effective approximately 60 semester credits (or the equivalent in quarter credits) of work as an undergraduate; 2. A master’s degree with a GPA of 3.0 or better; or 3. A GPA of 3.0 or better in at least 12 credit hours of relevant upper division and/or graduate-level post-baccalaureate work.

Students who have taken courses after receiving a bachelor’s degree and whose GPA for 12 or more credit hours of upper division and/or graduate-level post-baccalaureate work is below 3.0 are not generally admissible even if they meet the minimum GPA requirements in category 1. International students with a GPA of less than a B average in their undergraduate work and/or less than a B average in 12 credit hours of post-baccalaureate work are generally not admissible.

Students whose bachelor’s and/or master’s degrees were incomplete at the time they filed applications for admission are “conditionally admitted” graduate students. They must submit an official transcript certifying completion of their degree to the Graduate Student Services Office. This must be submitted within 60 days after the award of the degree. Registration will be denied for the following semester to those who fail to meet this requirement.

Special Non-degree Graduate Students

Special non-degree graduate students are admitted by the Graduate Education as classified graduate students for a specified program of study, research, or training without degree objectives for a limited period of time (usually one year) under the sponsorship of an educational institution or government agency.

Post-Baccalaureate Unclassified Students

Individuals who wish to take UH Mānoa courses as a post-baccalaureate unclassified (PBU) student, must apply to the Graduate Student Services Office, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, 2540 Maile Way, Spalding Hall 353B, Honolulu, HI 96822. (International applicants on an F-1 Student VISA are not eligible to apply.)
Students must submit an online application, application fee, and an official transcript verifying degree conferral of a bachelor’s degree or advanced degree, from a regionally accredited U.S. college or university or its equivalent from a recognized foreign institution of higher learning. Applicants who received their bachelor’s degree from a foreign institution are also required to submit official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scores or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic Modules test results.

Applicants may download the PBU application from the Graduate Education website at manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/ or complete the graduate online application and select Post-Baccalaureate Unclassified as their intended program. Admission as an unclassified post-baccalaureate student does not constitute admissions as a classified student, nor does it guarantee future admissions as a classified student to a degree program. PBU students may not be eligible for certain benefits and services such as Veterans Affairs benefits, social security benefits, some types of federal financial aid, etc. PBU students are subject to graduate tuition rates. PBU students will need approval to take 600-800 level courses at UH Mānoa.

Summer Session
Students who take course work at the graduate level in a summer session but who have not been admitted to an advanced degree program at UH Mānoa register as post-baccalaureate unclassified students. However, appropriate but limited credit hours earned from summer session courses while in unclassified status prior to admission to Graduate Education are countable toward an advanced degree at the recommendation of the graduate programs involved. See “Post-Baccalaureate Unclassified Students” above.

Application for admission to a summer session should be made to Outreach College, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, 2440 Campus Road, Box 447, Honolulu, HI 96822. Admission to a summer session does not imply or guarantee eventual admission to Graduate Education.

Registration

Regular Registration
Registration dates and instructions are given in the online Registration Guide at www.hawaii.edu/myuh/manoa/, which is available a few weeks before registration each semester. The listing of course offerings with up-to-date class location and meeting times is found at the Check Class Availability website: www.sis.hawaii.edu/uhdad/avail.classes?i=MAN.

Late Registration
Students may register for credit hours through the last day of registration. There is a fee for late registration.

The late registration period is also the final time for classified graduate students to register to audit graduate courses, in accordance with the procedures outlined under “Course Auditing.”

Course Auditing
Classified graduate students may audit courses with the consent of the instructor. An audit approval form, available in the graduate program department office, must be completed and presented for registration. Audit courses are entered on student transcripts with a grade of L and are included in the tuition calculation. Audit courses may not be used for purposes of determining full-time or part-time enrollment status or graduate assistantship eligibility.

Course Changes
Refer to the Registration Guide for complete information regarding procedures for course changes.

Withdrawal from Courses
Refer to the Registration Guide for complete information regarding procedures for withdrawal from courses.

Complete Withdrawal
To withdraw from all courses prior to the beginning of classes, students should consult with the department and follow directions in the Registration Guide.

Continuing students who withdraw from all courses after classes begin must obtain a Complete Withdrawal Form from the Graduate Student Services Office, obtain the necessary signatures as indicated on the form, and turn in the completed form to the UH Mānoa Cashier’s Office, Queen Lili‘uokalani Center for Student Services 105. A semester in which a cancellation or withdrawal is made is considered a semester of nonattendance. Thus, students must petition for readmission or file a renewal application, whichever is appropriate, to return to their studies in the same program. Petitions for readmission and renewal applications are considered along with all new applications for that semester. Students who are readmitted will be subject to the degree requirements in effect at the time of readmission.

Newly admitted students who cancel or withdraw from all courses before the drop period ends (see the Registration Guide for the date) are considered “no shows,” and their admission status becomes invalid. To return, they must reapply for admission. Newly admitted students who withdraw after the drop period (see the Registration Guide for the date) must complete a Petition for Readmission form if they wish to return the following semester. Petitions for readmission are considered along with all new applications for admission for that semester. Students who are readmitted will be subject to the degree requirements in effect at the time of readmission.

Automatic Withdrawal
Faculty will verify attendance of students registered in their courses by the end of the first week of each semester. Students who fail to attend class (“no show”) will be dropped from that class and will have their financial aid recalculated accordingly.
Retroactive Withdrawals

Retroactive withdrawals are partial or complete course withdrawals processed after the semester has ended. UH Mānoa is obligated to ensure the integrity of the transcript as an historical document, which must reflect the actual history of a student’s experience at UH Mānoa. Because of this, the student who is requesting a retroactive withdrawal will need to present a convincing case and provide relevant documentation that supports the existence of circumstances beyond their control that prevented them from initiating the withdrawal request in a timely manner. Any request after two years of the course ending will not be reviewed. Should a retroactive withdrawal be approved, the action will result in the grade being changed to a W. Tuition refunds will not be considered and any academic action applied for that semester will remain on the student’s record. Students who were financial aid recipients during the semester in which they are seeking a withdrawal should check with Financial Aid Services to determine if this will result in a financial obligation or will result in future ineligibility for financial aid.

Failure to Withdraw

If students cease to attend classes without officially withdrawing, they will receive final grades at the instructors’ discretion. If the instructor does not award a grade, an F or NC will be assigned.

Denial of Registration

Graduate Education will deny further registration to any student whose course work is below the required level or who is not making satisfactory academic progress.

Enrollment Requirements

Continuing Enrollment

After admission, students must be enrolled at UH Mānoa every fall and spring semester for at least course work, thesis, dissertation, or research credit. Students graduating in summer must be enrolled in at least one session. Students who are neither enrolled nor on approved leaves of absence will be regarded as withdrawn from their degree programs. They will be required to apply for readmission in accordance with established regulations if they wish to resume their studies.

Leave of Absence

A leave of absence for a period of time no longer than one calendar year may be granted to currently enrolled students in good standing (minimum GPA of 3.0) after (1) completion of at least one semester of course work relevant to the degree as a classified graduate student, and (2) upon recommendation of the chair of the graduate program and approval by Graduate Education. The date of return from a leave must be set at the time the leave is requested. Forms are available on the website.

Students must withdraw from courses if requesting a leave of absence. Students not returning from leave on time will be required to petition for readmission to UH Mānoa in accordance with the established regulations. Students who are readmitted will be subject to the degree requirements in effect at the time of readmission.

Students on approved leave do not pay tuition or fees. No leave should be requested if the student will be using UH Mānoa facilities or faculty or staff services. Time on approved leave is not counted against the seven-year limit for completion of degree programs.

Students on probation are not granted an approved leave of absence.

Credit Hours

Course Loads

Sixteen credit hours in a semester and 8 credit hours in a six-week summer session are considered maximum course loads and may be exceeded only with the approval of the graduate chair and Graduate Education. The minimum full-time load for graduate students is 8 credit hours of course work. Courses taken for audit do not count toward determining full- or part-time enrollment status.

Eligible doctoral candidates may be considered as carrying a full academic load (full-time status) when enrolled for 1 credit hour of Dissertation 800.

Eligible master’s candidates may be considered as carrying a full academic load (full-time status) when enrolled for 1 credit hour of Thesis 700F after completing all required credits for the graduate degree including the program’s requirements for Thesis 700.

For graduate assistants, the full-time load is 6 credit hours of course work relevant to their degree. Audit hours do not count toward the minimum. Because their duties ordinarily require 20 hours per week, they are restricted to a maximum of 9 credit hours. However, with special permission from the graduate chair and Graduate Education, graduate assistants may register for 12 credit hours, including audits.

Variable Credit Courses

The number of credit hours obtainable in most courses is stated in this Catalog. Certain courses, designated (V) in Catalog course listings, offer variable credit. Students in these courses usually pursue individual work. The number of credit hours a student will earn in such a course must be approved by the instructor at the time of registration. Students must register for a definite number of credit hours and may earn no more or less than the stated number.

Graduate Credit for Seniors

Seniors at UH may earn credit toward an advanced degree for some courses completed during their last semester as undergraduates provided (1) the courses taken are in excess of the requirement for the bachelor’s degree, and (2) such courses fulfill requirements in the prospective graduate field. A Petition for Submission of Credit Toward an Advanced Degree for Courses Taken by an Undergraduate form is available at the Graduate Student Services Office, Spalding 353B and on the web. It must be approved by the academic advisor, the college dean, and the chair of the department in which the course is offered, and it must be filed with the Graduate Student Services Office during the registration period. The granting of such permission does not guarantee that the credit hours taken will be accepted by a graduate program as fulfilling degree requirements. Courses taken under this rule are counted in the graduate GPA at the time of graduation. Failure to complete the baccalaureate degree as scheduled nullifies any approval granted by the Office of Graduate Education.
Credit by Examination

Graduate students may obtain credit by examination in courses numbered 300-498 (excluding 399) with the approval of the chair of the graduate program, the instructor concerned, and Graduate Education, subject to general UH regulations and procedures. There is no limit on the number of examinations that a graduate student may take during any one semester. Credit may not be obtained by examination in courses numbered 600 or above.

Extension and Correspondence Course Credits

No graduate credit is allowed for extension and correspondence courses.

Undergraduate Deficiencies

Undergraduate deficiencies are courses required by a graduate program, prerequisites, or other requirements for admission that the student did not complete prior to admission. Courses in directed research/reading are not to be used to make up deficiencies.

Transfer of Credits

Credits from institutions other than UH Mānoa or taken as a post-baccalaureate unclassified (PBU) at UH Mānoa can be considered for transfer upon submission of (1) a memo approved by the chair of the graduate program, or (2) the Petition to Transfer/Substitute Credits form, which is available on the web.

Courses being considered from institutions other than UH Mānoa must be accompanied by an official transcript, transcript guide, and course syllabus if substituting for a required course. Doctoral students may not transfer credits. Graduate certificate students may transfer six UH Mānoa PBU credits.

Policy Governing Transfer of Credits from Other Institutions

1. The request for transfer of credit hours must be made during the first semester the student is enrolled in the program.
2. Only credit hours from an accredited university are transferable.
3. Regardless of the number of credits transferred, more than half of the total number of credits used to fulfill master’s degree requirements must be earned at UH Mānoa while enrolled as a graduate student. For example, if the master’s degree requires 30 credits total, 16 or more credits must be earned at UH Mānoa while enrolled as a graduate student.
4. With approval from the graduate program and Graduate Education, up to 6 credit hours of work completed at another accredited institution following advancement to candidacy at UH Mānoa may be transferred, providing such transfer does not exceed the maximum allowable.
5. Credit hours used to obtain a previous degree will not be transferred.
6. No credit hours may be transferred from another institution unless the grade is B- or better. Course grades of S, CR, and P are not transferable.
7. Credit hours to be transferred must have been completed within seven years preceding the date upon which the advanced degree is to be conferred by UH Mānoa.
8. Quarter credit hours are converted to semester hours by using this formula: 2/3 times number of quarter credit hours equals number of semester credit hours (rounding off to the lower whole number). Conversion is done by the Graduate Student Services Office and is calculated for the total credit hours requested for transfer rather than for individual course credit hours.
9. Credit hours earned in international institutions must be certified by the departments as to the equivalent level of the courses being transferred (i.e., whether 300-398, 400-498, or 600-798 level).
10. The minimum residence requirement of full-time study must be upheld regardless of the number of credit hours transferred to UH Mānoa.
11. Transfer of courses to meet practicum, seminar, thesis, or dissertation requirements is not permitted.
12. Extension credits from other universities are not transferable.
13. Directed reading/directed research credits (x99) are not transferable.
14. Transfer credits are not included in GPA calculations except for the final calculations when the student graduates.

If the petition is approved, the units (or UH Mānoa equivalent) will be counted as part of the student’s degree program.

Double Counting

A student who pursues two distinct master’s degrees at UH Mānoa, either simultaneously or consecutively, may apply to have up to 6 credit hours of graduate course work accepted for credit in both degree programs under the following provisions:

1. The courses being double counted are electives in both programs;
2. Written approval of the graduate chairs of both programs (only approval by the second chair is required if the degrees are being pursued sequentially) and Graduate Education is obtained; and
3. The course work for each degree is completed within the prescribed time limits.

Dual Degree

A student in a UH Mānoa-approved “dual degree” program who fails to meet the academic requirements specified for that program will be dismissed from the dual degree program and Graduate Education.

Examinations

The schedule of final examinations is published in the Registration Guide. No examinations (other than laboratory tests and short quizzes) are allowed during the two weeks prior to the final examination period.

Grades

Student achievement is designated by: A+, A, A- (high achievement), B+, B, B- (meets expectations), C+, C, C- (below expectations), D+, D, D- (inadequate performance), F (failure), CR (credit), NC (no credit), NG (no grade and work in progress), S (satisfactory), and I (incomplete). L is the designation given to audited courses. Grades lower than C- may not be used to fulfill requirements for advanced degrees.

The 500 course is offered as a 1-credit course, with credit awarded upon completion of the Plan B requirements. Credit for this course does not count toward meeting degree requirements or toward meeting full-time enrollment status. Students must be registered during the term in which the degree is to be awarded.

An I is given to students who fail to complete a small but important part of a semester’s work before the semester grades
are determined, if the instructor believes that the failure was caused by conditions beyond the student’s control and not by carelessness and procrastination. Students are expected to complete all courses. Therefore, students receiving an I should contact the instructor to determine the steps to be taken to remove the I. The deadline for removing an I received in the fall semester is the following April 1; for removing an I received in the spring semester or the summer session, the deadline is the following November 1.

Instructors who record a grade of I for undergraduate courses (100-499) must also record the grade that will replace the I if the work is not made up by the deadline; that grade is computed on the basis of what grades or other evidence the instructors have, averaged together with Fs for all incomplete work (including the final examination, if it is not taken). This alternate grade may be the appropriate letter grade, or if the course was taken under credit/no credit (CR/NC). (The designation W cannot be used as an alternate grade.)

Instructors who record a grade of I for graduate courses (600-799, excluding 700) have the option of recording an alternate grade to replace the I if the work is not made up by the deadline. This includes courses taken for letter grade or for CR/NC. If the instructor chooses to record an incomplete for a graduate course with no alternate grade, the instructor may (1) allow the grade of I to remain permanently unaltered on the student’s record; (2) submit to the Office of the Registrar a change-of-grade form, with the grade computed on the basis of work completed by the deadline noted above; (3) after the deadline for removing the I, at the student’s request submit a Change of Grade form to the Graduate Student Services Office requesting a conversion of the I to a grade. Such conversions may be permitted on a case-by-case basis only during the two semesters immediately following the semester in which the I was received. After that period, the I will be permanent.

If work for a course in which an I has been assigned is completed prior to the deadline, the instructor will report a change of grade, taking the completed work into consideration. A grade of F or NC, as appropriate, will be assigned in those cases where an instructor has not assigned a grade to a student who has never attended or has ceased to attend class without officially withdrawing.

**Change of Grades**

Grades may be changed only within one full academic year following the end of the semester in which the course was completed. To change a grade, the course instructor completes and submits a Change of Grade form to the Graduate Student Services Office. The instructor must state the reason for the grade change on the form and sign the form. “Additional work submitted” is not an acceptable reason for changing a grade.

**Repeated Courses**

 Solely for the purpose of graduate academic actions in the computing of the GPA of students who retake a course that is otherwise non-repeatable, only the most recent grade will be included.

Students switching from either Plan A or Plan B to Plan C must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all courses completed (300-398, 400-498, 600-798). Credit hours taken under the credit/no credit option (except 699) while under Plan C will not be counted toward degree requirements for either Plan A or Plan B.

**Credit/No Credit Option**

The major purpose of the credit/no credit option is to encourage students to broaden their education by venturing into subject areas outside their fields of specialization without hazarding a relatively low grade. Under the option, students receive grades of CR (credit) or NC (no credit). These do not carry grade points and, therefore, are not computed in the student’s GPA.

The option must be exercised at the time of registration and only under the following conditions:

1. Except as noted, courses taken under the CR/NC option may not be applied toward the requirements for the master’s degree. Only 699 directed reading/research courses may be taken on CR/NC at the option of the graduate program and may be granted credit toward a master’s degree within the limits already prescribed by the Office of Graduate Education (see master’s degree requirements, Plan A and Plan B).
2. A course for which a grade of NC is received may be retaken under the CR/NC option.
3. The CR designation in the non-letter grade system denotes C caliber work or better.
4. The NC designation and the course in which it is received will appear in official records as part of the student’s academic history.
5. The NC designation affects neither the credit hour total nor the grade point total of the student.

**Requirements for Continued Registration**

**Satisfactory Progress**

To remain eligible for further graduate work and to be awarded a graduate degree, students must maintain progress towards completion of their programs and must have a B average (3.0 GPA) for all courses completed at UH Mānoa applicable to the degree. Students must also have a B average for all courses taken as a classified graduate student and for all graduate courses numbered 600 and above.

The Office of Graduate Education disregards grades or credit hours for courses numbered 100-198, 200-298, 399, and 499, except those required to fulfill undergraduate deficiencies.

Satisfactory academic progress in a program also involves maintaining the academic and professional standards expected in a particular discipline or program; failure to maintain these standards may result in termination of student’s admission to the program.

**Fulfillment of Credit Hour Requirements**

Credit hour requirements for graduate degrees can only be fulfilled by grades of A, B, and C. Grades of A, B, C, and CR can be used to make up undergraduate deficiencies. Grades of CR for 699 directed reading or research courses are counted in credit hour requirements within stated rules but are not computed for GPAs. Grades of NC are neither counted nor computed. Grades of D and F are not counted toward the completion of requirements for advanced degrees but are computed in the GPA, along with grades for all courses taken to satisfy undergraduate deficiencies and courses counted toward advanced degrees.

**Probation and Dismissal**

A regular student whose cumulative GPA fails to meet the minimum requirements after completing at least 8 credit hours of course work will be placed on academic probation for the fol-
lowing semester. The student must be registered in the semester he or she is placed on probation.

If admitted by exception for GPA since admission fails to meet the minimum requirements after completing one semester of course work, the student will be placed on academic proba-

All grades for courses taken during the probationary se-
mester, as well as the grades for all previously taken classified
credits, will be included in calculating the GPA at the end of the probationary semester. No extensions of the probationary semester may be granted due to incompletes I.

A student on academic probation who fails to attain the minimum standards at the end of the probationary semester will be denied further registration in that program.

For purposes of these rules, a “semester” is the calendar period, regardless of the number of credit hours taken.

For students pursuing approved concurrent graduate degree programs, the requirements stated above are applicable to both programs but will be applied toward each program independently.

Policy on Reinstatement after Dismissal
To be reinstated to the same program after academic dis-

To be admitted to a new program after academic dismissal or voluntary withdrawal, the student must submit a new appli-
cation to the Graduate Student Services Office and meet the standard admission criteria applicable to the graduate program. Such students will be treated like new students.

Policy on Disciplinary Suspension
To be reinstated to the same program after suspension for disciplinary reasons, the student must submit completed readmission forms to the Graduate Student Services Office and meet the standard admission criteria applicable to the graduate program. Students suspended for disciplinary reasons must adhere to posted application deadlines and may not be re-admitted mid-semester.

Special Non-degree Students
Special non-degree graduate students are not subject to the B average rule.

Diplomas
The Graduate Application for Degree form must be filed at the beginning of the semester (see the "Calendar" for dates and deadlines) in which the student expects to complete the degree requirements. Students can also obtain a Hawaiian language version of their degree. Application forms may be obtained at the Graduate Student Services Office, and the fee paid at the Cashier’s Office or online through the student’s MyUH account.

Degree Checks
A degree check will be made for all students who file a degree application form.

The Office of Graduate Education may delete from the graduation list the name of any student whose final grade report contains either a grade of I (incomplete) or a missing grade, or whose records have any other discrepancies.

Conferring of Degrees
Degrees are conferred and diplomas awarded three times annually, in December, May, and August. Students completing their degree requirements may, upon request, receive certification from Graduate Student Services Office that the degree will be conferred at the end of the appropriate semester. Diplomas are issued by the Office of the Registrar. Inquiries regarding diplomas should be addressed to the Office of the Registrar, Queen Lili‘uokalani Center for Student Services, Room 010, 2600 Campus Road, Honolulu, HI 96822 [tel. (808) 956-8010], and not to Graduate Student Services.

Transcripts
Transcripts may be obtained from the Office of the Regis-

Certificate Programs
UH Mânoa offers a number of graduate-level programs that culminate in the awarding of a certificate. These programs are available to classified graduate students who are enrolled in one of the master’s or doctoral degree programs described in this Catalog. In a few areas, applications may be considered from non-degree-seeking students. Certificates require a minimum of 15 credit hours of specified courses and a 3.0 GPA in those courses. Detailed information may be obtained by writing to the appropriate graduate chairs.

Certificate programs are offered in the following fields:
- Advanced library and information science
- Advanced women’s studies
- Chinese studies
- Clinical psychology
- Conflict resolution
- Disability and diversity studies
- Disaster management and humanitarian assistance
- Early childhood Pk-3
- Gerontology
- Global health protection and security
- Historic preservation
- International cultural studies
- Japanese studies
- Korean studies
- Museum studies
- Nursing
- Ocean policy
- Online learning technology
- Pacific Islands studies
- Philippine studies
- Planning studies
- Public administration
- Public policy
- Reading K-12
- Resource management
- Second language studies
South Asian studies
Southeast Asian studies
Telecommunications and information resource management
Urban and regional planning

**Master's Degree Programs**

UH Mānoa confers the degrees of master of architecture, master of arts, master of education, master of education in teaching, master of fine arts, master of geoscience, master of library and information science, master of music, master of public administration, master of public health, master of science, master of social work, and master of urban and regional planning.

Faculty or staff members at rank 3 and above may not be awarded a master’s degree by UH Mānoa in the graduate program administered by the department in which they are employed.

The master of accounting degree is offered through the Shidler College of Business for students who are contemplating careers in professional accountancy.

The master of arts degree is offered through the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, the School of Pacific and Asian Studies, and the Hawai`inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge for advanced course work including research in the following disciplines:

- American studies
- Anthropology
- Art and art history
- Asian studies
- Communication
- Communicology
- Dance
- East Asian languages and literatures
- Economics
- English
- French
- Geography
- Geology and Geophysics
- Hawaiian
- Hawaiian studies
- History
- Linguistics
- Mathematics
- Music
- Pacific Islands studies
- Philosophy
- Political science
- Psychology
- Religion
- Second language studies
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Theatre

The master of education degree is offered through the College of Education for advanced course work including research in the following disciplines:

- Curriculum studies
- Early childhood education
- Educational administration
- Educational foundations

- Educational psychology
- Educational technology
- Special education

The master of education in teaching degree is offered through the Institute of Teacher Education.

The master of fine arts degree is offered through the Department of Theatre and Dance and the Department of Art and Art History for creative endeavors.

The master of geoscience for professionals is offered through the Department of Geology and Geophysics.

The master of library and information science degree is offered through the Department of Information and Computer Sciences as preparation for careers in information services in public, college, school, and technical libraries. Graduates are also prepared for careers in other types of information environments.

The master of music degree is offered through the Department of Music for composition and performance in music.

The master of public administration degree is offered through the Public Administration Program.

The master of public health degree is offered through the Public Health program to provide individuals with a broad background for professional practice in the field of public health at local, state, national, and international levels.

The master of science degree is offered through the Public Health program, the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Education, Engineering, Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and the Schools of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, Medicine, Nursing and Dental Hygiene, Travel Industry Management, and for advanced course work including research in the following disciplines:

- Animal sciences
- Astronomy
- Athletic training
- Atmospheric sciences
- Biological engineering
- Biomedical sciences
- Botany
- Cell and molecular biology
- Chemistry
- Civil and environmental engineering
- Communication sciences and disorders
- Computer sciences
- Developmental and reproductive biology
- Electrical engineering
- Entomology
- Food science
- Geology and geophysics
- Kinesiology and rehabilitation science
- Marine biology
- Mechanical engineering
- Microbiology
- Molecular biosciences and bioengineering
- Natural resources and environmental management
- Nursing
- Nutritional sciences
- Ocean and resources engineering
- Oceanography
- Physics
- Public health
Travel industry management
Tropical medicine
Tropical plant and soil sciences
Tropical plant pathology
Zoology

The master of social work degree is offered through the School of Social Work. The program prepares graduates for counseling individuals, families, and groups; for social policy formulation and community organization; and for research and administration in the human services.

The master of urban and regional planning degree is offered through the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

Requirements and Procedures for Master’s Degrees

The rules and requirements listed below are those of the Office of Graduate Education and must be observed by all students pursuing a master’s degree. Note that some graduate programs have special requirements.

Residence

The minimum residence requirement is two semesters of full-time work or four six-week summer sessions or the equivalent in credit hours applicable to the student’s degree program.

Language Requirements

At the option of the graduate program, the intended candidate for the master’s degree may be required to demonstrate comprehension of one or more foreign languages. For specific language requirements in particular graduate programs, see the appropriate graduate program listed in this Catalog. English is not considered a foreign language in this context. These requirements must be passed before the student can be advanced to candidacy.

Time Allowed

Candidates for the master’s degree will be expected to complete all requirements within seven years after admission into the master’s program. Candidates who fail to complete all requirements within five years of admission will be placed on probation. If not completed after seven years, candidates are automatically dropped from the program. Extensions of time are allowed only upon petition by the graduate chair explaining why more time might be justified.

Types of Master’s Degree Programs

In general, there are three types of programs that students may follow to earn a master’s degree: thesis, Plan B, and examination. Not all plans are available in all programs.

Graduate Student Services uses progress forms to track thesis and dissertation students. These forms are available on the Graduate Education website.

Thesis (Plan A)

Credit Hour Requirements

A minimum of 30 credit hours is required including 18 credit hours of approved course work, excluding 699s and Thesis 700, at least 12 of which must be in courses numbered 600-798; at least one graduate seminar in the major or related field; and at least 6 credit hours of Thesis 700. The thesis research credit requirements are set uniformly for each graduate program by the faculty in that program.

Candidates must be registered in the thesis research course (700) each semester during which the thesis is being written. Candidates who accumulate the maximum number of thesis research credit hours, but fail to complete the thesis must register for a minimum of 1 credit hour of thesis research at the beginning of the term in which all requirements for the degree will be completed.

Thesis Requirement

When a thesis proposal has been approved by the student’s committee, the chair of the graduate program sends to the Graduate Student Services Office a Student Progress Form II (approval of thesis topic). The student may then enroll in the thesis research course (700) at the beginning of the next term. Students must register for Thesis 700 during the announced registration period. Failure to make satisfactory progress on a thesis does not entitle a student to a refund of tuition.

Upon request by the thesis committee, relevant work done by the student in directed reading/research (course 699) may be utilized as part of the thesis research. In such instances, the total credit hours for such directed reading/research (course 699) and thesis research (700) to be applied toward the minimum requirement for the degree shall not exceed the maximum total credit hours specified for thesis research in the graduate program.

The thesis committee is made up of three members of the graduate faculty.

The chair of the thesis committee is primarily responsible for directing and guiding the candidate’s research and writing activities. It is the student’s responsibility to keep all members of the committee informed of the scope, plan, and progress of both the research and the thesis. The committee members approve via Progress Form II and Progress Form IV (signature page). Guidelines for thesis preparation are available on the Graduate Education website.

The electronic submission of the thesis is required. Submit a pdf file on a disc (two discs if publishing with ProQuest Information and Learning). Theses must be deposited with the Graduate Student Services Office by the specified deadline (see the “Calendar”).

General Examination

At the option of the faculty of the graduate program, a general examination may be required before a student is advanced to candidacy for a master’s degree. All students within a particular graduate program must take the examination if it is required. The examination is usually given during the first semester of residence. It is designed to reveal the quality of the student’s preparation for advanced work in the program and the ability of the student to pursue graduate work at the master’s level. The examination also enables the student’s committee or advisor to assist in planning a program that will overcome any deficiencies in the student’s background.

A student who passes the examination may be recommended for advancement to candidacy for the master’s degree. A student who fails the general examination may repeat it once upon approval by the graduate program. However, students failing the general examination a second time are dropped from the program.

In graduate programs not requiring a general examination, the student may be advanced to candidacy upon the recommendation of the advisor and/or the graduate faculty of the program concerned. It is assumed that in these cases the recommenda-
tion for advancement to candidacy will be based on some evaluation of the student’s potential performance other than a general examination. Students who are denied advancement to candidacy are dropped from the program and lose their status as classified graduate students.

Final Examination

A final oral examination covering the thesis and related areas may be required by individual graduate programs. All Plan A students within a particular graduate program must take the examination if it is required at all. It should be held prior to the specified deadline before the end of the term during which the degree is conferred. It is conducted by the thesis committee and is open to all graduate faculty members. As an alternative, the committee chair may have the candidate present results of the thesis at a departmental graduate seminar, but all members of the thesis committee must be present.

Students failing the final examination may repeat it only once upon petition approved by the graduate program. Notification should be sent to the Graduate Student Services Office via the Form II of a second attempt. Students who fail the final examination a second time are dropped from the program and lose their status as classified graduate students. If the graduate program does not require a final examination, the chair of the graduate faculty concerned reports the completion of all degree requirements on Student Progress Form III.

Plan B

Credit Hour Requirements

A minimum of 30 credit hours is required. A minimum of 18 credit hours must be earned in courses numbered 600–798 (excluding Thesis 700) including at least one graduate seminar in the major program or in a related program. Not more than 9 credit hours in directed reading/research (course 699) may be applied to meet degree requirements. This degree plan typically includes a final project, practicum, or similar culminating experience.

When the student is advanced to candidacy, the chair of the graduate program appoints a program advisor or a program committee made up of members of the graduate faculty. The program advisor/committee advises the candidate and approves a coherent program of courses for the candidate.

Candidates must be enrolled during the term in which they complete the requirements for the degree; regular course work or the appropriate Master’s Plan B Studies 500 may be used to meet this requirement. The 500 course is offered as a 1-credit course with a mandatory grading of S/NG but does not carry credit toward meeting degree requirements.

General Examination

At the option of the faculty of the graduate program, a general examination may be required before a student is advanced to candidacy for a master’s degree. All students within a particular graduate program must take the examination if it is required at all. The examination is usually given during the first semester of residence. It is designed to reveal the quality of the student’s preparation for advanced work in the program and the ability of the student to pursue graduate work at the master’s level. The examination also enables the student’s committee or advisor to assist in planning a program that will overcome any deficiencies in the student’s background.

A student who passes the examination may be recommended for advancement to candidacy for the master’s degree. A student who fails the general examination may repeat it once upon approval by the graduate program. However, students failing the general examination a second time are dropped from the program.

In graduate programs not requiring a general examination, the student may be advanced to candidacy upon the recommendation of the advisor and/or the graduate faculty of the graduate program concerned. It is assumed that in these cases, the recommendation for advancement to candidacy will be based on some evaluation of the student’s potential performance other than performance in the general examination. Students who are denied advancement to candidacy are dropped from the program and lose their status as classified graduate students.

Final Examination

At the option of the faculty of the graduate program, a final examination may be required of Plan B candidates for the master’s degree. If required, it is designed to determine the candidate’s achievement in the graduate program at the master’s level. This examination has several possible forms. It may be a seminar appearance, a written comprehensive examination, an oral examination, some equivalent, or a combination of these. If a final examination is required by the graduate program, it must be given prior to the established deadline before the end of the term during which the degree is conferred.

Students failing the final examination may be permitted to repeat it only once upon approval by the graduate program. Notification should be sent to the Graduate Student Services Office via the Form II of a second attempt. Students failing the examination a second time are dropped from the program and lose their status as classified graduate students.

Examination (Plan C)

Neither a thesis nor a certain number of credit hours is required by this plan. The student must demonstrate competence by examination and must meet the minimum residence requirement of two semesters of full-time study.

A preliminary conference will be held to discuss the student’s objectives and how to meet them and to determine the general program the student will follow to prepare for the required examinations. The conference will be conducted by the chair of the graduate program or by a designated member of the graduate faculty. The plan of study developed at this conference may include course work and/or independent study and research. Plan C is available in second language studies, linguistics, mathematics, natural resources and environmental management, physics, and tropical plant and soil sciences. Each graduate program specifies its own requirements in addition to the following:

Candidates must be enrolled during the term in which they complete the requirements for the degree; regular course work or the appropriate Master’s Plan C Studies 500 may be used to meet this requirement. The 500 course is offered with a mandatory grading of S/NG but does not carry credit toward meeting degree requirements.

General Examination

A general exploratory examination (oral and/or written) will be given to determine if the intended candidate should be admitted to candidacy for the master’s degree under Plan C and to ascertain weaknesses in the student’s academic preparation. This
examination is designed to reveal the quality of the student’s preparation for advanced work in the program and the ability of the student to pursue graduate work at the master’s level. The examination will be conducted by the student’s interim advisor and the graduate faculty of the program or a committee thereof consisting of at least three members of the faculty. It is given during the first semester of residence and is from one to two hours in length. A student who fails the general examination may repeat it upon approval by the graduate program. Notification should be sent to the Graduate Student Services Office via the Form I of a second attempt. A student who fails the general examination a second time is dropped from the program and loses classified graduate student status.

**Final Examination**

A final examination or series of examinations, written and oral, will be given to determine the candidate’s comprehension of the graduate program at the master’s level. Since there are no course requirements for this plan, the final examinations will be designed to give the student opportunity to demonstrate a level of achievement consonant with the level of achievement required by Plans A and B. It is assumed that many students will prepare themselves for the examinations by taking courses recommended by advisors.

Specifications for the number of written examinations required, what they cover, and the amount of time required for each (two or more hours for written examinations and one or more for the oral portion) are set forth in the statement of requirements in each graduate program. The written examinations may be given by the candidate’s committee or by an examination committee of graduate faculty members constituted for that purpose.

The oral portion of the final examination follows the written portions and must be held prior to the specified deadline before the end of the term during which the degree is conferred. It is conducted by the candidate’s committee and is open to all members of the faculty. The examination must be announced in the weekly *News@UH*. It may be scheduled on any working day during normal working hours. Arrangements for the final examination must be made at least three weeks prior to the date of examination for fall and spring semesters, and four weeks prior to the date of the examination for the summer.

Candidates failing the final examination may be allowed to repeat it upon approval by the graduate faculty concerned. Notification should be sent to the Graduate Student Services Office via the Form II of a second attempt. Students failing the final examination a second time are dropped from the program and lose their status as classified graduate students.

**Doctor of Philosophy Programs**

Faculty or staff members at rank 3 and above may not be awarded a doctoral degree by UH Mānoa in the graduate program administered by the department in which they are employed.

The doctor of philosophy (PhD) degree is awarded only for the most distinguished scholarly achievement. The quality of a candidate’s work is judged by a variety of means, culminating in a set of comprehensive and final examinations and a dissertation. The dissertation describes completed research and must be a significant original contribution to knowledge in the candidate’s chosen program. The additional, special requirements in any given graduate program prepare the candidate for the examinations and successful completion of the dissertation.

Candidates are accepted only in graduate programs in which the teaching staff, library, laboratory equipment, and cooperative relationships with other research institutions make it possible to offer training.

The doctor of philosophy is offered in the following areas:

- American studies
- Anthropology
- Astronomy
- Atmospheric sciences
- Botany
- Business administration
- Cell and molecular biology
- Chemistry
- Civil and environmental engineering
- Clinical research
- Communication and information sciences
- Computer science
- Developmental and reproductive biology
- East Asian languages and literatures
- Economics
- Education
- Educational psychology
- Electrical engineering
- English
- Entomology
- Epidemiology
- Geography
- Geology and geophysics
- History
- Linguistics
- Marine biology
- Mathematics
- Mechanical engineering
- Microbiology
- Molecular biosciences and bioengineering
- Music
- Natural resources and environmental management
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Ocean and resources engineering
- Oceanography
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political science
- Psychology
- Second language studies
- Social welfare
- Sociology
- Theatre
- Tropical medicine
- Tropical plant and soil sciences
- Tropical plant pathology
- Urban and regional planning
- Zoology

**Doctor of Education**

The degree of Doctor of Education (EdD) is awarded for distinguished academic preparation for professional practice in the
field of education. The quality of a candidate’s work is judged by a variety of experiences, culminating in an internship, a set of comprehensive and final examinations, and a dissertation. The dissertation is based on a selected research problem and is a significant part of the candidate’s field experience or internship.

**Doctor of Public Health**

The degree of Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) is awarded for distinguished academic preparation for professional practice in the field of public health. The quality of a candidate’s work is judged by a variety of means, culminating in a set of comprehensive and final examinations and a dissertation. The dissertation must be a significant original contribution to knowledge in the field of public health practice. Required course work is designed to prepare the candidate for the examinations and the dissertation.

**Doctor of Nursing Practice**

The degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is awarded for distinguished academic preparation for professional practice in the field of nursing. Candidates must progress through course work and a series of capstone experience culminating in a final project. The student must produce a tangible and deliverable academic product that is derived from practice immersion experience and is reviewed and evaluated by the faculty.

**Requirements and Procedures for Doctoral Degrees**

**Time Allowed**

Doctoral students are expected to complete all requirements within seven years after admission into the doctoral program. Candidates who fail to complete all requirements within seven years of admission will be placed on probation and are subject to dismissal at any point after, but automatically after 10 years. Extensions of time are allowed only upon petition by the graduate chair explaining why more time might be justified.

**Credit Hour Requirements**

There is no minimum number of required course credit hours set for doctoral degrees. Registration in courses by doctoral students is governed by (1) the judgment of advisors or faculty in charge of the relevant program of study as to the importance of particular course work to the training and preparation of the candidate for the writing of examinations and/or the dissertation; (2) residence requirements; and/or (3) provisions of graduate assistantships, fellowships, or scholarships. For information regarding required or recommended courses, see the section appropriate to the graduate program.

**Language Requirements**

At the option of the graduate program, intended candidates for the doctoral degree may be required to take a written examination to demonstrate comprehension of one or more foreign languages. To pass the examination they must be able to read research materials in their graduate program at a reasonable speed. English is not considered a foreign language in this context.

No limit has been placed on the number of times students may take the examination. However, it must be passed before students can be advanced to candidacy and take the comprehensive examination.

**Doctoral Committee**

The doctoral committee may be selected at any time after a student becomes an intended candidate. The chair of the graduate faculty of the program recommends to Graduate Education appointment of a doctoral committee consisting of at least five members of the graduate faculty. The committee must include one graduate faculty member from another field of study. This university representative must be a full member of the graduate faculty. The majority of the committee and the committee chair must be from the graduate program in which the degree program is offered. This committee, appointed by Graduate Education, prescribes for the candidate a course of study in preparation for the comprehensive and oral examinations described below. It also approves the dissertation research topic and the dissertation itself.

It is the student’s responsibility to select an appropriate dissertation topic coinciding with the expertise and interest of a graduate faculty member who is willing to work with him/her.

**Examinations**

Doctoral candidates must pass the following examinations:

**Qualifying Examination**

A qualifying examination may be required by some graduate programs. The purpose of this examination is to determine whether to encourage students to proceed in a doctoral program and, if encouraged, to enable advisors to assist students in planning a program that will familiarize them with the requisite knowledge and techniques of their chosen graduate program. Graduate programs requiring this examination give it early in the intended candidate’s program (often coinciding with the master’s final examination). It may be oral and/or written and is conducted by a special examination committee appointed by the graduate chair of the graduate program or by the student’s doctoral committee. A student who fails the qualifying examination may repeat it once at the discretion of the graduate faculty concerned. However, students failing the qualifying examination a second time are dropped from the program and lose their status as classified graduate students.

**Comprehensive Examination**

The comprehensive examination is an important step in the sequence of study toward the doctoral degree. This examination covers the major graduate program and work fundamental thereto and minor fields as may be required by the graduate program. Its purpose is to ascertain the student’s comprehension of the chosen graduate program.

The examination is given only after the student has completed the foreign language requirement, if any, and when, in the judgment of the graduate faculty, the student has had sufficient preparation in the graduate program either through course work or other individual study and research. The comprehensive examination may be either oral or oral and written. It is conducted by a committee of the graduate faculty.

A student who fails the comprehensive examination may repeat it once at the discretion of the graduate faculty concerned. A student who fails the examination a second time is dropped from the program and loses classified graduate student status.

The student who passes the examination is eligible, at the option of the various graduate programs, to receive a UH Mānoa certificate indicating that all requirements of the doctorate except for the dissertation have been completed.
Final Examination

A final examination in defense of the dissertation may also cover related subjects and is required of all candidates for the doctoral degree. The examination is oral and is conducted by the candidate’s doctoral committee. It is never less than one hour in length. Arrangements for the final examination must be made at least two weeks prior to the date of examination, since an announcement must appear in the News@UH. The examination must be held while UH Mānoa is in session and must be open to the public.

A candidate who fails the final examination may be allowed to repeat it upon approval by the graduate faculty concerned. Notification should be sent to the Graduate Student Services Office via the Form II of a second attempt. A candidate who fails the final oral examination twice is dropped from the program and loses classified graduate student status.

A candidate who passes the examination, and who has met all other requirements, will be awarded the doctoral degree at the end of the appropriate term.

Dissertation

The doctoral dissertation for the PhD is expected to be a scholarly presentation of an original contribution to knowledge resulting from independent research.

An essential aspect of dissertation research is the free and full dissemination of research results. Moreover, all dissertations must be publicly defended in an oral examination. Therefore, proprietary or classified information is not suitable for a dissertation; data which cannot be made public at the time of the final defense should not be incorporated into the student’s research.

When the dissertation topic has been approved by the doctoral committee, it will notify the Graduate Student Services Office through submission of Student Progress Form II. The candidate may then register for the dissertation research course (800) during the next registration period.

A candidate should look to the chair of his or her doctoral committee for primary direction regarding research methods and the preparation of results. It is the joint responsibility of the chair and the student to see that all members of the committee are kept informed of the scope, plan, and progress of both the research and the dissertation. Guidelines for preparation of the dissertation can be obtained on the Graduate Education website.

Copies of the completed dissertation must be submitted to committee members at least four weeks prior to the date of the final oral examination. Please check with Graduate Student Services (or the website) regarding the submission procedures for thesis and dissertations.

A majority of the members of the doctoral committee, including the committee chair, must approve both the dissertation and the oral defense of the dissertation. A minority member has the right of appeal to Graduate Education for a final decision. The chair must ensure that the final form of the dissertation, including revisions and amendments agreed upon, is acceptable to a majority of the committee. The committee members express their approval on the Student Progress Form III and Student Progress Form IV (formerly signature page).

Candidates must be registered in the appropriate dissertation research course (800) during the term in which the work for the degree is completed. Failure to make satisfactory progress on the dissertation does not entitle a student to a refund of tuition.

The graduate chair of a program has the privilege of being an ex officio member of all doctoral committees in the field.

All doctoral students are required to publish their dissertation (in its entirety) with ProQuest Information and Learning or an equivalent publishing firm suggested by the student and approved by Graduate Education.