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 across UH Mānoa of some 300 faculty specialists 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 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, BA in Pacific Islands studies
Master’s Degrees: MA in Asian studies, MA in Pacific Islands studies, MA in Asian International Affairs
Certificate Programs: Graduate Certificates in Pacific Islands, Asian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Philippine, South Asian, and Southeast Asian studies

Advising
Asian Studies
Undergraduate students
Pattie Dunn, PhD
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Graduate students
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Pacific Islands Studies
Undergraduate students
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Graduate students
Alex Mawyer, PhD
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Email: mawyer@hawaii.edu

Students interested in Asian studies and Pacific Islands studies are urged to consult with the appropriate school advisor listed above and thoroughly check out each website.

Undergraduate Programs
Requirements
- Acquire a minimum total of 120 credit hours.
- Earn at least 45 credit hours in courses numbered 300 or above for the Asian Studies Program; earn at least 45 credit
hours in courses numbered 300 or above for the Pacific Islands Studies Program.

- Fulfill the UH Mānoa General Education Core requirements and additional basic course work 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 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/Research Facilities and Programs

Center for Chinese Studies

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) aims broadly at an increased understanding of contemporary China in light of its history and hopes for the future. It pursues this goal through instruction from 52 faculty members in 30 departments who teach approximately 150 China-related courses; research by faculty, who collectively publish an average of six books and a score of articles on China each year; service publications, such as its quarterly journal China Review International, which provides an overview of current world wide scholarship on China; a website (manoa.hawaii.edu/chinesestudies); and community outreach, conferences, and national and international linkages with institutions such as Peking University, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Zhejiang University, Tongji University, National Taiwan University, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. CCS has housed a Confucius Institute (CI-UHM), funded by the PRC Ministry of Education to promote Chinese language and culture studies in Hawai‘i, since 2006. In 2012 and 2013, the CI-UH Mānoa was named one of the Best CIs of the Year, and in 2014, it was awarded the title of Model Confucius Institute; see manoa.hawaii.edu/confuciusinstitute. From 2007 to 2018, the CI-UH Mānoa also contributed toward CCS’s annual STARTALK Chinese Teacher Training Institute and Student Language Camp, funded through annual grants from the Department of Defense, and, in 2017 and 2018, it cooperated with the College of Social Sciences to offer the annual Mānoa Academy Beijing. By creating a stimulating environment for the faculty and the approximately 100 mainly graduate students specializing in Chinese studies, CCS supplements basic scholarly offerings, 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, the Undergraduate Chinese Flagship Program in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, and the National Foreign Language Resource Center in the College of Languages, Linguistics and Literature.

Furthermore, the Centers for Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies, and Korean Studies together formed a National Resource Center for East Asian Studies (NRCEA), which was supported by major funding from the U.S. Department of Education. Although NRCEA funding will not continue beginning in fall 2019, very substantial support for the Foreign Language & Area Studies fellowships will still be available.

Center for Japanese Studies

The Center for Japanese Studies promotes the study of Japan within a global context, across academic disciplines at UH Mānoa. Japanese studies faculty include 31 professors, 10 Japanese language instructors, 4 library specialists, and a chanoyu (tea ceremony) instructor who offer over 100 courses in 16 instructional or department units to approximately 2000 students annually. An integral part of CJS is the Dr. Sen Soshitsu International Way of Tea Center, which serves to perpetuate tea culture by offering tea practicum courses and coordinating tea-related outreach projects. CJS is in charge of the Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship grant which provides generous scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students who study East Asia (China, Japan, and Korea) at UH Mānoa. The center has a multi-year Japan Foundation grant (2016-2019) “U.S.-Southeast Asia-Japan Collaboration and Exchange Initiative” which offers professional development opportunities for Japanese studies scholars and training for graduate students who are based at universities in Southeast Asia. At UH Mānoa, the role of the center is to act as a coordinating body for Japanese studies at UH Mānoa and as a clearinghouse for inquiries related to the field; in this role, CJS offers student scholarships and faculty professional development funding, provides student advising, sponsors seminars and conferences on Japan, sponsors visiting scholars, coordinates a summer student internship program in Ehime (along with the Japan-America Society of Hawai‘i), and administers partnerships with overseas research institutes.

Center for Korean Studies

The Center for Korean Studies coordinates and develops UH Mānoa’s resources for the study of Korea and Koreans abroad. The 43 faculty members affiliated with the center represent the disciplines of anthropology, music, business, communication and communicology, economics, English, ethnomusicology, history, language and literature, linguistics, law, political science, social work, sociology, and urban planning. The center promotes interdisciplinary and intercultural approaches to the study of Korea. It regularly conducts scholarly conferences, sponsors research projects, offers presentations by distinguished
specialists, hosts visiting scholars from other institutions, and publishes monographs and an interdisciplinary journal, Korean Studies. The center also offers scholarships for students engaged in Korea-related studies. It houses a small collection of books, journals, and audio-visual materials as an adjunct to Hamilton Library’s Korea resources. The collection also includes a number of important archival and manuscript collections related to Korean-American relations and to the history of Korea and Koreans in Hawai’i.

**Center for Okinawan Studies**

The Center for Okinawan Studies (COS) was established in 2008, and has the distinction of being the only center of its kind outside of Japan. COS is a coordinating unit with a mission to promote the study of the Ryukyu archipelago, Okinawa, and the Okinawan diaspora by encouraging the development and offering of both credit and non-credit courses in the performing arts, history and social sciences, language and culture. 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 lectures, workshops, seminars, and conferences. COS also works toward strengthening connections and partnerships with people and institutions worldwide including universities in Okinawa, Japan, and the U.S.

**Center for Pacific Islands Studies**

The Center for Pacific Islands Studies brings together people and resources to promote an understanding of the Pacific Islands and issues of concern to Pacific Islanders. Its innovative instructional program is regional, comparative, and interdisciplinary in nature. After 60 years of offering the nation’s first and only MA program for the study of the Pacific Islands, the center launched a BA program in 2011. 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 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 on 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 in Hawai’i and in the diaspora, through academic course offerings, library resources, lectures and seminars, scholarly conferences, research and publications, visiting faculty, international exchange programs, cultural presentations, outreach with the Filipino community in Hawai’i and in the homeland, institutional linkages, and other professional activities. UH Mānoa has a large concentration of internationally known Philippine specialists and experts in various disciplines. The center has served as the Secretariat for the International Conference on Philippine Studies (ICOPHIL), and works closely with the Philippine Studies Conference in Japan (PSCJ) held every four and three years, respectively, and with the Philippine Studies Group of the Association for Asian Studies in the U.S. every year. For more details, visit www.hawaii.edu/cps.

**Center for South Asian Studies**

The Center for South Asian Studies at UH Mānoa serves as an intellectual hub in the Pacific for research on and learning about a highly diverse region that encompasses Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep, and the Maldives Islands. The objective of the center, since its creation in 1985, is to promote interdisciplinary research on South Asia and the diaspora, and assist undergraduates and graduate students in the humanities, arts, social sciences, and applied sciences to focus on societies and cultures of South Asia and the South Asian diaspora.

The center’s activities include colloquia, invited lectures and workshops, an annual spring symposium, cultural education, and community building. The center also facilitates study and research in South Asia for undergraduate and graduate students.

The library’s South Asia collection is ranked among the top ten in the U.S. The center draws on the expertise of more than 40 distinguished faculty members whose research interests spread over India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Nepal. For more information, visit www.hawaii.edu/csas/, and for continuing news and events, “Like” CSAS on its Facebook page: www.facebook.com/UHCSAS/.

**Center for Southeast Asian Studies**

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) acts as a coordinating body for Southeast Asian studies throughout the university. With more than 55 affiliated faculty members distributed through 21 departments, the center interacts with the largest concentration of Southeast Asia specialists in the U.S.

CSEAS is responsible for administering and awarding the Foreign Language and Area Study (FLAS) Fellowships and the Luce Fellowships for research and language training in Southeast Asia. Support to grow the Southeast Asia Collection at Hamilton Library also plays a major part in our long-term project support.

Locally, CSEAS acts as a clearinghouse initiating and publicizing events on the campus with a Southeast Asia focus including a twice-monthly speaker series and its popular website and well-developed social media profile. The center has a strong commitment to outreach programs with its support of Indonesian theatre/dance performance. More information on UH Mānoa Center for Southeast Asian Studies can be found at www.cseshawaii.org.

**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 *Wayang Listrik* theatrical training and performance. The centers’ outreach programs take UH Mānoa expertise into the community and K-12 schools.
Asian Studies

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1990 East-West Road
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Tel: (808) 956-6085
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Faculty
*C. Clayton, PhD (Chair)—anthropology, East Asia (China)
*P. Abinales, PhD—political science, Southeast Asia (Philippines)
*B. Andaya, PhD—history, Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Indonesia)
*M. Aung-Thwin, PhD—history, Southeast Asia (Myanmar)
*L. Carlile, PhD—political science, East Asia (Japan)
K. Govella, PhD—political science
*E. Harwit, PhD—political science, East Asia (China)
*R. Kwock, PhD—urban and regional planning, East Asia (China)
*Y. Park, PhD—anthropology, East Asia (Korea)
*A. Stirr, PhD—ethnomusicology, South Asia (Nepal)

Area Centers: Directors and Faculty
*P. Arboleda, PhD—Director, Philippine Studies
*S. Bhatawadekar, PhD—Director, South Asia Studies
*L. Carlile, PhD—Director, Japanese Studies
*M. Ishida, PhD—Director, Okinawan Studies
*D. Yang, PhD—Director, Chinese Studies
*T. U. Baik, PhD—Director, Korean Studies
F. Magdalen, PhD—Associate Director, Philippine Studies
*C. Ning, PhD—Associate Director, Chinese Studies
*M. Stark, PhD—Director, Southeast Asian Studies
P. Rausch, MA—Associate Director, Southeast Asian Studies
*G. Satsuma, PhD—Associate Director, Japanese Studies

Emeritus
B. Aquino, PhD—political science, Southeast Asia (Philippines)
E. Shultz, PhD—history, East Asia (Korea)
M. Sharma, PhD—anthropology, South Asia (India)
R. Trimillos, PhD—ethnomusicology, Southeast Asia (Philippines)

Cooperating Faculty
The academic program of the Asian Studies Program (ASP) is facilitated and enhanced by the participation and support of the affiliate faculty of seven centers focused on Asia in the school: Chinese, Japan, Korean, Okinawan, Philippine, South Asian, and Southeast Asian studies.
These resources are enhanced by the close cooperation and academic relationship between the ASP and the East-West Center.

Degrees and Certificates Offered: BA (including minor) in Asian studies, MA in Asian studies, MA in Asian International Affairs

The Academic Program
Asian Studies is an academic field that places the region we call Asia at the center of interdisciplinary inquiry. It encompasses both historical and contemporary perspectives on the geography, history, politics, economics, legal systems, languages and literatures, religious and belief systems, and expressive cultures of Asia. At UH Mānoa, this means students can focus on one of six specific geocultural regions—China, Korea, Japan, the Philippines, South Asia, or Southeast Asia—or incorporate specific interests into a program of study that emphasizes the connections and interactions between these regions (Inter-Asia). The Asian Studies faculty are trained in fields as diverse as history, anthropology, political science, law, language and literature, ethnomusicology, performing arts, and urban and regional planning. In addition to the faculty in Asian Studies, there are more than 250 Asia specialists on the faculties of departments and programs throughout the campus. Several hundred courses on Asia (or with substantive Asia content) are taught at UH Mānoa, a unique strength the Asian Studies Program draws on in crafting its BA and MA degrees. The academic program in Asian Studies offers a robust framework within which students can design individual plans of study to suit their particular goals. Finally, competency in an Asian language commensurate with the student’s focus and level is considered fundamental, and is a required part of the program.

Advising
Graduate students are advised by the appropriate area director or designated faculty. Undergraduates majoring 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 SPAS. 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
- 45 upper division credits of 300+ courses

Major Requirements
- Total of at least 36 credit hours of Asia-related course work
- ASAN 201 and 202, 310 and 312, and 3 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, communicology, 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)
Plan A (Thesis) Requirements
The MA Plan A degree in Asian Studies requires:
1. A minimum of 30 credit hours. Of these, at least 12 must be earned in courses numbered 600 or higher (excluding 699 and 700), and at least 6 in ASAN 700 Thesis Research.
2. Full-time study for a minimum of two academic semesters or equivalent.
3. Proficiency in an Asian language relevant to the region of specialization, equivalent to completion of the third year of study (301-302). An entering student who has achieved this level and can demonstrate proficiency through examination may, in consultation with the area advisor, count up to 9 credits of advanced language study (at the 401 level or above) toward the 30 required credits for the degree.
4. Two introductory graduate seminars (ASAN 600 C, I, J, K, P, S, or Z): one in the region of specialization, taken at the beginning of the student’s program, and another in a different region.
5. A graduate research seminar in the student’s region 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 region of specialization. No more than 9 credit hours in one discipline will be counted. A maximum of 9 credits may be taken outside the region of focus, after consultation with the academic advisor.
8. Satisfactory completion of a master’s thesis and an oral examination on the thesis given by the students’ three-member faculty committee.
9. With advance approval from the graduate program, up to 6 credits of 699 (directed reading) courses may be applied toward the MA. 699 courses may only be used for electives, not as a substitute for required courses.

Plan B (Non-thesis) Requirements
The MA Plan B degree in Asian Studies requires:
1. A minimum of 30 credit hours. Of these, at least 18 must be earned in courses numbered 600 or higher (excluding 699 and 700).
2. Full-time study for a minimum of two academic semesters or equivalent.
3. Proficiency in an Asian language relevant to the region of specialization, equivalent to completion of the third year of study (301-302). An entering student who has achieved this level and can demonstrate proficiency through examination may, in consultation with the area advisor, count up to 9 credits of advanced language study (at the 401 level or above) toward the 30 required credits for the degree.
4. Two introductory graduate seminars (ASAN 600 C, I, J, K, P, S, or Z): one in the region of specialization, taken at the beginning of the student’s program, and another in a different region.
5. A graduate research seminar in the student’s region of concentration (ASAN 750).
6. A minimum of 3 additional credit hours in Asian Studies.
7. A minimum of 21 credit hours of interdisciplinary study related to the candidate’s region of specialization. No more than 9 credit hours in one discipline will be counted. A maximum of 9 credits may be taken outside the region of specialization, after consultation with the academic advisor.
8. One credit of ASAN 695 Plan B Culminating Experience, which shall include presentation of a portfolio consisting of
two revised seminar papers or one expanded seminar paper, and satisfactory completion of an oral examination based on the papers by the student’s three member faculty committee.

With advance approval from the graduate program, up to 9 credits of 699 (directed reading) courses may be applied toward the MA. 699 courses may only be used for electives, not as a substitute for required courses.

Certificate Programs
Graduate Certificates
The Asian Studies Graduate Program offers Graduate Certificates in the following areas: Asian Studies, Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies, Korean Studies, Philippine Studies, South Asian Studies, and Southeast Asian Studies. The graduate certificate programs are open to all students of graduate standing who meet the admissions requirements. Graduate certificates allow professionals and graduate students in discipline-based programs to gain (and demonstrate evidence of) cutting-edge knowledge of Asia or a specific region in Asia. Graduate students in Asian Studies may also apply to the Graduate Certificate Program to enhance their understanding of an Asian region outside their area of focus for the MA.

Certificate Requirements
1. At least 15 credits of course work at UH Mānoa about the region of the certificate program. Of these, at least 9 credits must be at the 600 level or above (excluding 700).
2. ASAN 600 Approaches to Asian Studies.
3. ASAN 750 Research Seminar in Asian Studies.
4. At least two years in the language (or one of the languages) of the certificate program. The student must obtain a B grade or higher in the 202 level of an Asian language associated with the region of the certificate program, or take an exam to prove competency at that level. The language requirement can be satisfied prior to acceptance into the program or at the conclusion if the language training is done concurrently. Courses taken to fulfill language requirements do not count toward certificate credit requirements.

Academic advising will be provided by Asian Studies faculty.

Pacific Islands Studies
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Faculty
*T. Wesley-Smith, PhD (Chair)—political science
*L. Bautista, PhD—sociology
*T. Kabutaaulaka, PhD—political science
*A. Mawyer, PhD—anthropology
J. Viernes, PhD—history
J. Walsh, PhD—anthropology

Affiliate Faculty
C. Bacchilega, PhD—English
J. Bayman, PhD—anthropology
T. Brislin, PhD—Academy for Creative Media
*W. Chapman, PhD—American studies
S. Dawrs, MA—Pacific specialist librarian
J. Hamilton Faris, PhD—art and art history
A. Golub, PhD—anthropology
*N. Goodyear-Kaupua, PhD—political science
*V. Hereniko, PhD—Academy for Creative Media
K. Ho’omanawanui, PhD—English
*L. Kame’elehiwa, PhD—Hawaiian studies
E. Kleiber, MLIS, MAS—Pacific specialist librarian
*M. LaBriola, PhD—UHWO, history
*M. Maaka, PhD—education
*J. Mayer, PhD—Samoan language
*B. McDougall, PhD—American studies
D. McGregor, PhD—ethnic studies
*L. Minerbi, PhD—planning community development, Indigenous people
*J. Moulin, PhD—music
K. Oliveira, PhD—Hawaiian language
*J. Osorio, PhD—Hawaiian studies
*C. Perez, MFA—English
*B. Rolett, PhD—anthropology
*N. Silva, PhD—political science
*F. Simanu-Klutz, PhD—Samoan language
*T. Tengan, PhD—ethnics studies, anthropology
*D. Waite, PhD—art and art history

Degrees and Certificate Offered: BA in 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 40 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 BA and MA in Pacific Islands studies and the Certificate in Pacific Islands studies.

Advising
Graduate students may see Terence Wesley-Smith or other designated faculty. Undergraduates majoring in Pacific Islands studies are advised by Julie Walsh.

Undergraduate Study

Bachelor’s Degree
The undergraduate program in Pacific Islands studies is designed for students desiring an interdisciplinary education and an informed understanding of Oceania and issues of concern to Pacific Islanders.

Students seeking a BA in Pacific Islands studies must first complete PACS 108 with a minimum grade of C. Students must also meet all the requirements for admission established by the School of Pacific and Asian Studies.

Pacific Islands 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 academic advisor.

Program Requirements
- Register for all required courses for a letter grade
- Earn a grade of C (not C-) or better in the 36 credit hours of Pacific Islands-related course work applied to the major requirements
- 45 upper division credits of 300+ courses

Major Requirements
- Total of at least 36 credit hours of Pacific Islands-related course work
- PACS 108, 201, 202, 301, 302, 303: 18 credits of PACS core courses
- 9 elective credits selected from a list of courses, including 3 credits in Pacific Islands-related history, anthropology, and other department offerings
- Choose a concentration from 3 choices: 1) Public Policy and Community Development, 2) Contemporary Regional Issues, and 3) Arts, Performance, and Culture
- 6 additional credits selected from a list of concentration-related courses
- 4 semesters of an indigenous Pacific Islands language; native speakers may test out upon demonstration of equivalent level
- PACS 401: 3 credits Senior Capstone experience

PACS courses used to satisfy General Education Core requirements may not normally be used to satisfy major requirements or vice versa. For information on a Bachelor Degree Program Sheet, go to www.manoa.hawaii.edu/ovcaa/programsheet/.

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 30 credits of course work, which must include three core seminars, PACS 601, 602, and 603. 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 602 offered in the fall, and 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 must 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) 9 credits
- Focus courses 6 credits
- Elective courses 9 credits
- Thesis credits (PACS 700) 6 credits
- Total 30 credits

At least 15 credit hours of this course work must be in courses numbered 600 and above (excluding 700). Normally, only 3 credits of 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 credit requirements as follows:

- Core seminars (PACS 601, 602, 603) 9 credits
- Focus courses 6 credits
- Elective courses 9 credits
- MA projects (PACS 695) 6 credits
- Total 30 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 699 Directed Reading and Research can be used to satisfy the focus requirement. Students earn 3 credits of 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 Mânoa, 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 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, 602, 603), and sit the MA written examination. The certificate is awarded upon completion of the advanced degree in the primary field of study.