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, Master of 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
Moore 407
1890 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
Tel: (808) 956-7814
Email: pdunn@hawaii.edu

Graduate students
Young-A Park
Moore 321
1890 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
Tel: (808) 956-9125
Email: yapark@hawaii.edu

**Pacific Islands Studies**

Undergraduate students
Julie Walsh, PhD
Moore 211
1890 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
Tel: (808) 956-2668
Email: jwalsh@hawaii.edu

Graduate students
Alexander Mawyer, PhD
Moore 210
1890 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
Tel: (808) 956-2670
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.
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 30 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 with an enrollment of 3,000 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 (worth $351,000 annually) which provides generous scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students who study East Asia (China, Japan, and Korea) at UH Mānoa. The center just completed a multi-year Japan Foundation grant (2016-2019) “U.S.-Southeast Asia-Japan Collaboration and Exchange Initiative” which offered 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 41 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 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, the Teaching Oceania Series, 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 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Lakshadweep, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Tibet. The center was founded in 1985 with the main purpose of promoting interdisciplinary research on South Asia and the diaspora, as well as assisting undergraduate and graduate students in the humanities, arts, language and linguistics, social sciences, business, and applied sciences to focus on the societies and cultures of the region. The center’s activities include colloquia, invited lectures and workshops, an annual spring symposium, cultural education, and community building. For this, the center works together with universities around the world, as well as local institutions, such as the Honolulu Museum of Art and Shangri La. The center also facilitates study and research abroad 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 many geographical regions and disciplinary foci. For more information, visit www.hawaii.edu/csas/, and follow CSAS on Facebook (www.facebook.com/UHCSAS/), Twitter (twitter.com/UManoa), and Instagram (@csasuhmanoa) to receive job alerts and event announcements.

**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 newsletter 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**

Moore 416
1890 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
Tel: (808) 956-6085
Fax: (808) 956-2682
Web: manoa.hawaii.edu/asianstudies/

**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-Truth, 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)
* Y. Park, PhD—anthropology, East Asia (Korea)
* A. Stir, PhD—ethnomusicology, South Asia (Nepal)

**Area Centers: Directors and Faculty**

* P. Arboleda, PhD—Director, Philippine Studies
* T. U. Baik, PhD—Director, Korean 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

* Graduate Faculty
Asian studies are advised by an undergraduate studies advisor. Director or designated faculty. Undergraduates majoring in Asian studies are advised by an undergraduate studies advisor. The framework within which students can design individual plans of study to suit their particular goals.

**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)
- 9 credit hours focused on one or more additional Asian countries or regions

ASAN courses used to satisfy General Education Core requirements may not be used to satisfy major requirements or vice versa.

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

For information on a Bachelor Degree Program Sheet, go to www.manoa.hawaii.edu/ovcaa/programsheets/.

**Minor Requirements**

There are no required courses for acceptance into the Asian Studies minor program. Attendance in ASAN 201-202 (Introduction to Asian Studies) is recommended.

Students must complete 15 credit hours including:

- ASAN 310 Asian Humanities or 312 Contemporary Asian Civilization (3 credits)
- ASAN courses numbered 300 and above (minimum 6 credits)
- Asia-related courses in disciplines other than the major field numbered 300 and above (maximum 6 credits)

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

The Asian Studies undergraduate advisor will identify Asia-related courses in various disciplines and assist in planning schedules and preparing minor forms.
Graduate Study

Master of Arts in Asian Studies (MAAS)

The MAAS is an interdisciplinary program designed for students who wish to deepen their understanding of a particular geographical and cultural region of Asia or the interactions between Asian regions. The MA in Asian Studies is offered as Plan A (thesis) or Plan B (non-thesis). Proficiency in an Asian language is required for completion of the degree.

A student’s academic program should concentrate on one of the following regions: China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, South Asia, Southeast Asia, or Inter-Asia. Students without sufficient academic background in Asia-related course work (including the relevant language) may be required to take certain preparatory courses to make up this deficiency without credit toward the degree. Prospective students should note that the program requires successful completion of course work or demonstrable proficiency in an Asian language at the third-year level. Students who are fluent in an Asian language may, with proof of proficiency, have the foreign language requirement waived if they plan to concentrate either on that region or on Inter-Asia. If they elect to focus on a different region, they must fulfill the language requirement as stated above. If the foreign language requirement is waived, students must still fulfill the total number of credits required for the degree.

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 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 specialization (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 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.

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).
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 specialization (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 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.

Master of Asian International Affairs (MAIA)

The Master of Asian International Affairs is designed for working professionals whose careers would be enhanced by a deeper understanding of contemporary Asia and the multifaceted (cultural, historical, social, and political) determinants and impacts of Asian nations’ engagement with their neighbors and the world.

Geared towards students with at least two years of professional experience, the program includes courses on area studies and applied theory, and culminates in a capstone experience in which students apply their knowledge either to a project in their own field or to a collaboration with professional partners working on real-world issues.

In this way, graduates of the program will be better positioned to work productively across cultural boundaries on questions of national and global importance, and to make well-informed decisions in a global environment in which Asia is increasingly central.

Required courses will be offered at night, on weekends, or online, to accommodate the schedules of working professionals. There is no Asian language proficiency requirement. Students will be assigned an academic advisor who can help them design a study plan that meets their individual needs.

Degree Requirements

- Minimum of 30 credit hours. At least 18 must be earned in courses numbered 600+ (excluding 699 and 700), and not more than 14 credits may be taken online.
- Two core thematic seminars, chosen from among four options (ASAN 626; 629; 687; and 689)
- Two core area seminars, chosen from among three options (ASAN 630; 651; and 654)
The MAIA capstone course (ASAN 710), which allows students to gain course credit for work on a real-world problem or issue. There are two options:

- **ASAN 710 Option 1** allows students to work with a UHM faculty member to apply the knowledge they have learned to a project relevant to their workplace or career goals;
- **ASAN 710 Option 2** assigns individuals or small teams of students to collaborate, under the supervision of a UHM faculty member, with members of the security, diplomacy, advocacy, or industrial sectors in Hawaii as they work to address a carefully defined real-world problem or issue.

15 credit hours of elective courses in the Asian Studies Program or in other departments in UHM. All 15 credits of electives must be Asia-related, unless they provide important theoretical or methodological training, in which case the student may petition to include up to 6 credits of non-Asia-related courses.

With advance approval from the graduate program, up to 6 credits of 699 (directed reading) may be applied toward the MAIA. 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

Moore 212  
1890 East-West Road  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
Tel: (808) 956-7700  
Fax: (808) 956-7053  
Web: www.hawaii.edu/cpis/

**Faculty**

- T. Wesley-Smith, PhD (Chair)—political science
- L. Bautista, PhD—sociology
- T. Kabutaulaka, 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-Kaopua, PhD—political science
V. Hereniko, PhD—Academy for Creative Media
K. Ho’omanawanui, PhD—English
L. Kame’elehiwa, PhD—Hawaiian studies
E. Kleiber, M.A.S, M.AS—Pacific specialist librarian
M. LaBrizola, 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
R. Rolett, PhD—anthropology
N. Silva, PhD—political science
F. Simanu-Klutz, PhD—Samoan language
T. Tengan, PhD—ethnic studies, anthropology
D. Waite, PhD—art and art history

**Emeritus Faculty**

D. Hanlon, PhD—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 Alexander Mawyer 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/programsheets/.

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

Students pursuing the thesis option satisfy credit requirements as follows:

- Core seminars (PACS 601, 602, 603) 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 credits 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 Mānoa, although students can petition for exceptions to this rule. The chair and at least one other member should be members of the core or affiliate faculty of the Center for Pacific Islands Studies. Students normally form the committee towards the end of their first year in residence, or after they have prepared a comprehensive thesis or MA portfolio proposal.

Certificate Program

Certificate in Pacific Islands Studies

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

Students applying for the certificate must have previously been admitted to 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.