

# University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS for STUDENTS

Students must meet three sets of requirements to graduate from UHM:

1. General Education Core and Graduation requirements, including credit requirements
2. College or School requirements (e.g., Colleges of Arts and Sciences, School of Nursing)
3. Major requirements (e.g., psychology, accounting)

Only the *General Education Core / Graduation requirements* are discussed in this document.

There are two components to the General Education requirements: Core requirements and Graduation requirements. Core requirements include Foundation and Diversification requirements. Graduation requirements include Focus requirements and Hawaiian or a Second Language.

### UHM GENERAL EDUCATION CORE Requirements

General Education Foundation and Diversification requirements enable students to sample different fields and to select a major.

#### **FOUNDATION courses (12 credits)**

Foundation courses give students skills and perspectives that are fundamental to their success in higher education and should be fulfilled during the first year.

- **Written Communication** (Designated as **FW**), 3 credits  
Introduce rhetorical, conceptual and stylistic demands of writing at the college level.
- **Symbolic Reasoning** (Designated as **FS**), 3 credits  
Engage students in hypothetical reasoning and develop their ability to use appropriate symbolic techniques in problem solving and in presentation and evaluation of evidence.
- **Global & Multicultural Perspectives** (Designated as **FG**), 6 credits (2 courses from different groups)  
Explore global processes and cross-cultural interactions from a variety of perspectives.

#### **DIVERSIFICATION courses (19 credits)**

Diversification courses assure that every student is exposed to different domains of knowledge and multiple methods of inquiry.

- **Arts** (Designated as **DA**); **Humanities** (Designated as **DH**); and **Literatures** (Designated as **DL**), 6 credits from 2 different areas
- **Social Sciences** (Designated as **DS**), 6 credits from 2 different departments
- **Natural Sciences**, 3 credits **biological science** (designated as **DB**); 3 credits **physical science** (designated as **DP**); 1 science **lab** credit (designated as **DY**)

Restriction: Students must take Diversification courses from different departments than Foundation Global & Multicultural Perspectives courses. For example, a student who takes an Anthropology FG course and a Geography FG course to fulfill Foundation requirements cannot use Anthropology and Geography courses to satisfy Diversification requirements.

## UHM GENERAL EDUCATION GRADUATION Requirements

### **FOCUS courses**

Focus requirements assure that students have knowledge and skills that are necessary for living and working in diverse communities. Courses offering focus designations change each semester. Check the *Class Availability* listing on MyUH <[www.hawaii.edu/myuh/manoa](http://www.hawaii.edu/myuh/manoa)> for the most up-to-date information.

- ***Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Issues*** (Designated as **H** or **HAP\*\***), 1 course  
These courses promote cross-cultural understanding between nations and cultures.
- ***Contemporary Ethical Issues*** (Designated as **E** or **ETH\*\***), 1 course  
These courses give students the tools for the development of responsible ethical judgments.
- ***Oral Communication*** (Designated as **O** or **OC\*\***), 1 course  
These courses provide training in oral delivery of individual and group reports.
- ***Writing Intensive*** (Designated as **W** or **WI\*\***), 5 courses (at least 2 at the 300- or 400-level)  
In small writing-intensive classes, instructors work with students on writing related to course topics.

\*\* Focus courses change each semester; students should check *MyUH* before they register to determine which sections have Focus designation(s). Courses are listed in the *MyUH portal's Check Class Availability* section with the designations.

### **HAWAIIAN OR SECOND LANGUAGE courses (competency at the 202 level)\*\*\***

Second language study increases the ability to understand other people and cultures. Students complete the competency requirement by doing one of the following:

- a) Completing through 202 in a single language, after placement in 101,102, 201 or 202);
- b) Demonstrating competence by taking a UHM exam, if one is offered;
- c) Receiving a language-requirement waiver (primarily for native speakers of a language other than English; not available for all languages).

\*\*\*Some colleges/schools have waived or modified this requirement. Students should consult a college/school advisor.

### **Minimum grade requirement**

A D grade or higher (not D-) is required for a course to fulfill General Education and Graduation requirements. The Credit/No Credit option is not allowed for any course taken to fulfill a General Education requirement, with the exception of courses offered only with the CR/NC option.

### **Registration resources and advice** are available at:

- ☺ New Student Orientation – Orientation sessions for freshmen; transition seminars for transfer students: [www.hawaii.edu/nso](http://www.hawaii.edu/nso); phone 956-3667; toll free (888) 700-5420; email [nso@hawaii.edu](mailto:nso@hawaii.edu)
- ☺ First Year Advising Center – Walk-in advising center for freshmen and first semester transfer students: [www.advising.hawaii.edu/artsci/fyac/](http://www.advising.hawaii.edu/artsci/fyac/); phone 956-7273; Queen Liliuokalani Center for Student Services 101
- ☺ Professions Advising Center – Advance planning for students in pre-professional (pre-medical, pre-health and pre-law) [www.advising.hawaii.edu/artsci/pac/](http://www.advising.hawaii.edu/artsci/pac/); phone 956-4045; email [pac@advisors.hawaii.edu](mailto:pac@advisors.hawaii.edu); Hawai'i Hall 102
- ☺ College/School and Major advisors: Listed in the *Catalog* section on General Education Core & Graduation Requirements, [www.catalog.hawaii.edu](http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu)