

# Description of the Masters in Hawaiian Language & Literature Program and Guide to Completing Your Application

## CHECKLIST

- UHH Graduate Application
- \$50 Application Fee
- Official transcripts from all colleges (must be received directly from the institution)\*
- Three letters of recommendation\*
- Sample undergraduate academic paper, preferably written in Hawaiian\*
- Successful completion of oral/written exam in Hawaiian language and culture

**\*To be sent directly to the Graduate Division**

**OCT 1 - FEB 1**

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The mission of the M.A. program in Hawaiian Language and Literature is to prepare scholars to carry out research to enhance our knowledge of Hawaiian language and culture in order to ensure their preservation and revitalization. The program draws upon the tremendous wealth of Hawaiian literary resources from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and examines the contemporary use of Hawaiian language and culture.

The M.A. in Hawaiian Language and Literature was UH Hilo's first graduate program and the first to focus on a Native American language in the United States. The program is designed for students who have already achieved fluency in spoken Hawaiian and competency in reading modern and historical Hawaiian texts. Student cohorts are accepted every three years. The program requires a minimum of 36 credits of coursework. Currently, the college offers only a Plan A degree, which requires a thesis.

The program seeks to produce graduates prepared to meet the increasing demand for in-depth knowledge of Hawaiian language and literature in all sectors of contemporary life in Hawai'i. With government promotion of the language mandated by the Hawai'i State Constitution, Hawaiian is the language area of greatest need in Hawai'i public schools. It is the only language besides English used in the public schools as a full medium of instruction. In addition, students are enrolled in Hawaiian language-learning programs in

English-language high schools and throughout the University of Hawai'i system. The substance and growth of such programs depends heavily upon individuals with graduate level training in Hawaiian language and literature.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Apply on line at:

<http://hilo.hawaii.edu/admissions/Apply.php>

The UH Graduate Division receives applications and supporting documents and maintains the applications through final notification. Applications will be accepted up to February 1 for the following Fall semester. Successful applicants must pass an oral/written exam given in mid February at the Hilo campus. Applications that meet all requirements will be forwarded to the Hawaiian Studies Division Admissions Committee for review. Admission decisions will then be sent by the Committee to the Graduate Division, which sends notification to the applicant. If you do not hear from the Graduate Division within 30 days of submitting your application, please call 808-932-7926.

**Admission Status:** The applicant's admission status is valid only for the semester to which the applicant is accepted. Applications for students who do not register, or who withdraw from the University, are voided but retained for a period of one (1) year.

## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university 30 completed upper division credits in courses with a
2. HAW or HAWS alpha, with no grade lower than a "B" and an overall minimum GPA of 3.5
3. completed GRE exam
4. sample undergraduate academic paper (by preference written in Hawaiian)
5. three letters of recommendation
6. success in passing an oral/written entrance exam in Hawaiian language and culture

*Experience in Hawaiian medium classrooms or similar environments where a high level of Hawaiian language is used is recommended.*

**Transfer of Credits:** Up to 12 credit hours may be transferred from an accredited university (if not previously counted toward another degree). Requests for transfer of credits must be made during the first semester enrolled. Only credit hours with a Grade of "B" or better are transferable. Transfer credits must have been completed within seven years preceding the date upon which the M.A. is to be conferred.

**NUMBER CR COURSE TITLE**

**M.A. Classes—Core Requirements (21 credits):**

HAW 630	3	Research Methods in Hawaiian Language / <i>Ka 'akālai Noi 'i 'Ōlelo Hawai 'i</i>
HAW 631	3	History of Hawaiian Language and Literature / <i>Mo 'aukala o ka 'Ōlelo a Mo 'okalaleo Hawai 'i</i>
HAW 654	3	Advanced Hawaiian Grammar / <i>Pilina 'ōlelo Kūlana Ki 'eki 'e</i>
HAWS 663	3	Traditional Hawaiian Literature / <i>Mo 'okalaleo Hawai 'i Ku 'una</i>
HAW 690	3	Study in the Hawaiian Speaking Community / <i>'Imi Na 'auao 'Ae 'oia ma ke Kaiaulu 'Ōlelo Hawai 'i</i>
HAW 700	6	Thesis Research / <i>Noi 'i Palapala Puka</i>

**M.A. Elective Classes (at least 6 credits):**

HAW 632	3	Teaching Hawaiian as a Second Language / <i>Ke A 'o 'Ōlelo Hawai 'i i nā Mānaleo 'Ōlelo 'Ē</i>
HAW 694	3	Special Topics in Hawaiian Language / <i>Kumuhana 'Ōlelo Hawai 'i</i>
HAW 699	3	Directed Studies in Hawaiian Language / <i>'Imi Na 'auao 'Ae 'oia ma ka 'Ōlelo Hawai 'i</i>
HAWS 661	3	Advanced Hawaiian Music / <i>Puolo Hawai 'i Kūlana Ki 'eki 'e</i>
HAWS 662	3	Applied Hawaiian Chant / <i>Ke Oli i Loko o Kona Pō 'aiapili</i>
HAWS 664	3	European-influenced Hawaiian Literature / <i>Mo 'okalaleo Hawai 'i Hō 'eulopa 'ia</i>
HAWS 665	3	Ethnological and Historical Narratives / <i>Mo 'olelo Mo 'aukala a Kālaimo 'omeheu</i>
HAWS 694	3	Special Topics in Hawaiian Culture / <i>Kumuhana Mo 'omeheu Hawai 'i</i>
HAWS 699	3	Directed Studies in Hawaiian Culture / <i>'Imi Na 'auao 'Ae 'oia ma ka Mo 'omeheu Hawai 'i</i>

**Undergraduate Classes That May be Taken as Electives for the M.A. Degree (up to 9 credits):**

HAW 425	3	Translation into Hawaiian / <i>Unuhi Hawai 'i</i>
HAW 453	3	Hawaiian Phonetics and Phonology / <i>Hualeo a Puanaleo Hawai 'i</i>
HAW 454	3	Hawaiian Morphology and Syntax / <i>Huamana 'o a Ka 'ihua Hawai 'i</i>
HAW 455	3	Hawaiian: a Polynesian Language / <i>Ka 'Ao 'ao Polenekia o ka 'Ōlelo Hawai 'i</i>
HAW 494	3	Special Advanced Topics in Hawaiian / <i>Kumuhana 'Ōlelo Hawai 'i Kūki 'e Kūikawā</i>
HAWS 431	3	Living Hawaiian Language Communities / <i>Pū 'uo 'Ōlelo Hawai 'i Ola</i>
HAWS 461	3	Pana Hawai 'i
HAWS 462	3	Haku Mele
HAWS 463	3	Introduction to Hawaiian Narrative Literature / <i>'Ikemua i ka Mo 'oka 'ao Hawai 'i</i>
HAWS 464	3	Hawaiian Composition / <i>Mea Kākau Hawai 'i</i>
HAWS 471	3	Mele 'Auana
HAWS 472	3	Hula 'Auana
HAWS 473	3	Oli / Mele Kahiko
HAWS 474	3	Hula Kahiko
HAWS 494	3	Special Advanced Topics in Hawaiian Studies / <i>Kumuhana Mo 'omeheu Hawai 'i Kūki 'e Kūikawā</i>
HAWS 497	3	Hawaiian Studies Seminar / <i>Seminā Puka</i>
KANT 486	3	Hawaiian Culture Before 1819 / <i>Mo 'omeheu Hawai 'i ma mua o ka Makahiki 1819</i>

**36 Credits Minimum Required for M.A. Degree**

**For questions regarding the application process, please contact:**

Māhealani Jones  
UH Hilo Graduate Division  
200 West Kāwili Street  
Hilo, HI 96720-4091  
Phone: (808) 932-7926  
[amyj@hawaii.edu](mailto:amyj@hawaii.edu)  
[www.uhh.hawaii.edu/academics/graduate](http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/academics/graduate)

**For questions regarding program information, please contact:**

Ku'ulei Kepa'a  
Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani  
College of Hawaiian Language  
Phone: 808-932-7732  
Fax: 808-932-7214  
[kuulei.kepaa@hawaii.edu](mailto:kuulei.kepaa@hawaii.edu)  
[www.kahuawaiola.org](http://www.kahuawaiola.org)

Apply online at: <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/admissions/Apply.php>

**All supporting documents should be directed to the  
UH Hilo Graduate Division**