

# A Guide to Completing the Application for the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Doctorate in Hawaiian and Indigenous Language and Culture Revitalization

## CHECKLIST

- UHH Graduate Application
- \$50 Application Fee
- Statement of indigenous language experience, academic objectives, future plans to revitalize indigenous language of focus
- Sample of written work
- Official transcripts from all colleges (must be received directly from the institution)
- Baccalaureate degree transcripts from international institutions must be submitted to a [transcript evaluation service](#)
- Three letters of recommendation

### For international applicants:

- Passing TOEFL score, if required
- [International Graduate Student Supplemental Information Form](#)

**PRIORITY DEADLINE: DEC. 1**

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The mission of the Ph.D. program in Hawaiian and Indigenous Language and Culture Revitalization is to train well rounded Hawaiian and other indigenous scholars who are prepared to take leadership roles within their communities in indigenous language and culture revitalization.

All students in the doctoral program are required to speak an indigenous language - their "language of focus" - and to further develop their knowledge of that language in courses that explore the similarities and differences among such languages. In addition, students choose two specializations from among the four systematic fields offered in the program, a) Indigenous Language and Culture Education, b) Indigenous Language and Culture in Society, c) Language Planning, and d) Hawaiian Language and Culture. Thus, students who focus on a non-Hawaiian indigenous language will choose two specializations from areas a), b), and c); students who focus on Hawaiian language may choose among all four areas.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The priority application deadline is December 1. Applications received after the priority deadline will only be accepted on a space available basis.

The UH Hilo Admissions Office receives applications. All supporting documents are sent directly to Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language.

Applications that meet initial requirements will be forwarded to the College of Hawaiian Language Admissions selection committee for a comprehensive review and consideration for admission into the program. Admissions decisions made by the committee will be returned to the Graduate Division which sends the final notification to the applicant.

## CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

1. Master's degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum 3.0 grade point average in an approved field of study (e.g., Hawaiian Language and Literature, Indigenous Studies, Anthropology, Languages, etc).
2. Proficiency in and academic knowledge of the applicant's indigenous language of focus, as demonstrated by a taped speech and written essay, with English translation. (The level of proficiency and academic knowledge required will depend on the status of the indigenous language, in terms of how endangered it is and how much linguistic description has been done.)
3. A letter requesting admission to the program which describes the applicant's:
  - a. academic objectives and research interests;
  - b. experience in educational service to his or her indigenous language of focus;
  - c. diversity experience with the contemporary status of an indigenous or threatened language and culture besides the student's own indigenous language of focus. The social and political environment of this additional language should be different from that of the student's language of focus.
  - d. future plans regarding work to revitalize his or her indigenous language and culture.
4. A sample of written work (usually the master's thesis).
5. Course work of at least 6 credits in general linguistics, linguistic analysis, and socio-linguistics.

6. Complete taped interview either in person or by telephone.
7. Three letters of recommendation, at least one of which must focus on the applicant's background in the language and culture of an indigenous people and service to that indigenous community.
8. For second language speakers of English, passing scores on the TOEFL or other evidence of English fluency.

**Transfer of Credits:** Up to 12 credit hours may be transferred from an accredited university (if not previously counted toward another degree). Requests for such 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 Ph. D is to be conferred by UHH.

Regardless of any previous graduate experience, a minimum of 24 credit hours must be taken at UH Hilo before a degree can be granted. A maximum of six credit hours earned under courses designated as "thesis" may be counted toward the Graduate Division's minimum residence requirement.

In cases where a graduate student wishes to take graduate coursework elsewhere for transfer credit during their tenure at UH Hilo, the course work must be *pre-approved* by the student's primary academic advisor and graduate program chair. Petition for transfer of these credits must be completed within a semester of completion of course work.

***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  
[hilograd@hawaii.edu](mailto:hilograd@hawaii.edu)  
[www.uhh.hawaii.edu/academics/graduate](http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/academics/graduate)

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

Ku'u lei Kepa'a  
Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani, UH Hilo  
200 W. Kāwili Street  
Hilo, HI 96720-4091  
Phone: 808-932-7732  
Fax: 808-932-7214  
[kuulei.kepaa@hawaii.edu](mailto:kuulei.kepaa@hawaii.edu)

Apply online at:

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

**All supporting documents should be directed to Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language.**