Components of a Bachelor’s Degree

The first thing you should know is that you need **at least 120 credits** to graduate. Don’t worry, 120 credits does not mean 120 classes! Each class is comprised of a certain number of credits. *Most*, classes are 3 credits.

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**Bachelor's Degree = At least 120 Credits**

- **Major**
  - 30-67 Credits

- **General Education**
  - 37 Credits

- **Hawaii/Asian/PaciMic Requirement**
  - 3 credits

- **Global & Community Citizenship**
  - 3 Credits

- **Writing Intensive**
  - 1-3 Courses

- **Upper Division**
  - 45 Credits

** Most majors require a total of 45 Upper Division credits, however some do not. **Check with your faculty advisor.**
Explaining the Components of a Bachelor’s Degree

What do all those circles mean??
Let’s explore the bubbles a little bit more carefully. The three top most bubbles: General Education, Major and Elective credits comprise all of your classes that make up a Bachelor’s Degree. The other four bubbles: Hawaii/Asian/Pacific, Global & Community Citizenship, and Writing Intensive are Integrative requirements that you will fulfill as part of the upper three bubbles along with the Upper Division.

Electives
If you add up the General Education Requirements and those courses required for your major, you will notice that they do not equal 120 credits. Electives are those courses needed to bring your credit total up to at least 120. Electives can be any course in the UH Hilo Undergraduate Catalog. Be creative, use these to explore your interests or use it as an opportunity to pursue a minor or a second major.

Upper Division
Upper Division Courses are those courses numbered 300 and above. Most majors require a total of 45 upper division credits, however some do not. Check the UH Hilo Catalog or ask your advisor for your specific major’s requirements.

Writing Intensive Requirement
Freshman entering UH Hilo are required to complete three writing intensive courses before they are eligible to graduate. At least one of these courses must be numbered 300 or above. The writing intensive requirement for transfer students varies depending upon year of entry and transfer credits accepted by UH Hilo.

G.P.A.
Students must earn at least a 2.0 cumulative UH Hilo GPA as well as a 2.0 GPA in courses required for the major (a higher GPA may be required for some degrees) and minor (if any).

UHH Semester Hours
Students must earn a minimum of 30 semester hours in the college from which a degree is sought (the College of Agriculture is an exception)