College Opportunities Program
Frequently Asked Questions
Summer 2016

APPLICATION FAQs

1. Will I get a confirmation that my COP Online Application was submitted? Yes, you will receive an email confirmation that we have received your COP Online Application.

2. Will I get a confirmation that my Checklist and supporting documents are submitted and complete? No, it is the applicant’s responsibility to make sure that their application packet is complete at the time of submission. Your application packet must contain the Application Checklist that asks if you have included the required documents. Do not submit your Application Packet if you cannot answer YES to items 1-7. See COP Application for more information.

3. I plan to mail my checklist and supporting documents to COP on the deadline date. If I get it postmarked by 4:00 p.m. on the deadline date will you accept my packet? No. Complete application packets must be received in the COP office by 4:00 p.m. on the deadline date. Any applications received after the deadline date will not be processed.

4. After I submitted my application, I realized I forgot to include something. Can I mail or fax it in? Remember, it is the applicant’s responsibility to make sure that their application packet is complete at the time of submission. Your application packet must contain the Application Checklist that asks if you have included the required documents. If you cannot answer YES to items 1-7 do NOT submit your application. See COP Application for more information. COP will only process application packets that are complete. Pieces of an application packet may not be submitted separately. COP will also not accept any application packet or pieces that are emailed or faxed.

5. How long does the personal essay have to be? There is a 1,000 character limit for each essay question on the online application.

6. If I did not take the SAT or ACT can I still apply to COP? You may start the online application, but you will need to report your SAT or ACT scores for your online application to be submitted. If you register and take the ACT on December 12, 2015 or SAT on December 5, 2015, you should be able to retrieve your scores online in time to submit COP’s online application by the January 7, 2016 deadline date.

7. What if I do not know a counselor or teacher well enough to write me a recommendation? Ask the counselor or teacher first. If they say they do not know you well enough to write a letter of recommendation ask if you can meet to provide them with information or supply them with a copy of your resume. If they still say no, thank them and move on to another counselor or teacher. Your college preparatory teacher and grade level / college & career counselor may be from 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. Recommendation from an AVID counselor is acceptable.
ELIGIBILITY FAQs

1. **What are the requirements for guaranteed regular admission to UHM?** You will need to have at least a 2.8 cumulative GPA and be ranked in the top 40% of your class. For the SAT, you will need to score at least 510 on critical reading, math and writing or on the ACT, 22 on English, Math and Writing. Lastly, you will need to complete Algebra II and Geometry. If you don’t meet these requirements, we highly encourage you to apply to COP.

2. **My cumulative GPA will be below a 2.00 when I apply for COP but I know it will go up by the time I graduate in June, can I still apply?** No, at the time of application your cumulative GPA needs to be a 2.00 or above.

3. **Do I need to meet all of the selection criteria to be eligible?** No, but all applicants need to be a bona fide Hawai‘i resident and a U.S. citizen, national or person holding a permanent visa, graduate from high school by June 2016, have a high school cumulative GPA of 2.00 at the time of application, and not have earned more than 12 transferable college credits by the start of the summer program.

4. **I do not live with my parents, but with my legal guardian. Whose information do I provide?** If you have a court document for legal guardianship then provide your legal guardian’s information. Submit a copy of your court ordered legal guardianship document with your Application Checklist. If no court document exists or legal guardianship is granted by way of a Power of Attorney then provide your parent’s information.

5. **I’m not sure how to answer the bona fide Hawai‘i resident criteria.** My dad is in the military and has been stationed at Pearl Harbor for the past three years and my mom works at Ala Moana. Am I considered a Hawai‘i resident? Not necessarily. Check the residency requirements online at http://manoa.hawaii.edu/admissions/undergrad/financing/residency.html. In Section 5 of the online UH System application you will be asked to declare your residency status.

6. **I have been living here in Hawai‘i with my mom’s brother for the past 10 years. My parents pay for all of my living expenses but they live out of the country. Can I still apply to COP?** Check the residency requirements online at http://manoa.hawaii.edu/admissions/undergrad/financing/residency.html. In Section 5 of the online UH System application you will be asked to declare your residency status.

7. **My daughter already graduated from a Hawai‘i-based high school last year. Can she still apply to COP?** Yes, as long as the applicant graduated from high school she can apply to the program. If she went to a community college or university and accumulated 12 or more transferable credits she is ineligible.

8. **My son will be graduating from a high school on the mainland this year. Can he still apply to COP?** If the applicant meets all of the eligibility requirements have him apply.

9. **If I have 12 or more credits from taking classes at a community college or university through programs like Running Start, Early College or Summer Scholars, am I still eligible for COP?** Yes, since you earned these credits while in high school you are still considered an incoming first year student and are eligible for COP.
10. **Can I come to COP if I am currently at a community college?** If you will not have more than 12 transferable college credits and a 2.0 cumulative GPA at the start of the summer program you can still participate in COP.

11. **If I have my GED can I still apply to COP?** Yes.

12. **Is there an age limit for COP applicants?** Although there is no age limit, all COP applicants will need to have earned their high school diploma by June 2016.

13. **I haven’t completed six years of schooling in the U.S. Am I eligible for COP?** First, are you a Hawaii resident and a U.S. citizen, national or person holding a permanent visa? If yes, you are eligible to apply to COP; however, you may need to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) if the school you attended prior to coming to the U.S. did not use English as the medium of instruction. Your TOEFL score must meet the minimum UHM requirement in order to be considered for COP. (Computer score: 173; Internet Score: 61; or Paper Score: 500)

**SELECTION FAQs**

1. **Do you look at everything in the application packet?** Yes.

2. **How do you select applicants?** Applicants who submit a completed application packet go through a rigorous selection process that may consist of testing along with an initial and final interview. The selection committee considers everything in the application packet as well as the interviews when selecting applicants for the COP summer program.

3. **Am I required to file the 2016-2017 FAFSA?** Yes, all applicants will be required to complete the 2016-2017 FAFSA. Additionally, applicants will need to complete and submit the FAFSA by the UHM March 1st priority deadline.

**PROGRAM INFO FAQs**

1. **Is this program offered at UH Hilo or UH West Oahu?** No, it is only offered here at UH Mānoa.

2. **How do I pass the summer program and get admitted to UH Mānoa in the fall semester?** The six-week summer residential program is structured on a point system. Program students must earn a set amount of points in order to pass the summer program and be admitted to UH Mānoa for the fall semester. Points are earned through scheduled classes and activities.

3. **What happens if I fail the COP Summer Program?** The COP Summer Program provides a pathway for students to gain admission to UH Mānoa if they successfully pass the program requirements. If students do not pass the summer program, they do not gain admission to UH Mānoa. For students who do not pass the summer program, COP counselors will assist them by enrolling at one of the UH community colleges.

4. **If I have already been accepted to UHM, can I still apply to COP?** Yes, however, if you are also selected to COP and you choose to come through COP you will need to decline your UH Mānoa admission offer, come to the COP summer program and pass, and then get readmitted to UHM.
If you do not pass the summer program, you will not be admitted to UH Mānoa in the fall semester.

5. **Why is it required to live in the residential halls the first year?** All COP applicants must agree to live in the residential halls during their first year at UHM. To increase the chance for academic success, we ask that all students live on campus their first year so that they can immerse themselves in the full college experience. Unlike students who commute to campus each day, research suggests that the more students interact with the academic and social systems of the institution (like our students who live on campus) the greater their chances for academic success. The resources they need to support their academic success is right here on campus. Living on campus also eliminates all the distractions they may experience by living at home.

6. **How many students will you be accepting into the COP 2016 Summer Program?** This year we can accept up to 100 students.

7. **I would like to participate in the COP Summer Program but want to know if it is okay that I go somewhere else in the fall semester.** No, COP is looking for students who want to enroll in, and graduate from the UHM with a bachelor’s degree.

8. **Is the summer program really free?** Yes, COP pays all the cost for the 6-week summer program. This includes room and board, textbooks and instructional costs. Airfare will also be provided for neighbor island program students.

9. **If I have a family trip during the 6-week summer program, am I allowed to miss a few days of school?** COP summer program’s policy does not allow for any excused absences. We strongly recommend that applicants facing this situation make a decision to either come to COP or go on the family trip.

10. **Does COP accommodate individuals with disabilities?** Yes.

11. **If I live down the street from the UH Mānoa campus, do I still need to live in the residential halls?** Yes, all COP summer program participants must live in the residential halls during the 6-week program. Additionally, all students will need to live in the residential halls during the first academic year.