

**Benefits of UHM's
General Education Program**

Flexible

Enriched curriculum

Attention to social needs

Academic Major as an anchor

Graduation in 4 years

Criteria-based transfer policies

On-going assessment

General Education Office &
Mānoa Writing Program

2545 McCarthy Mall, Bilger Hall 104
Honolulu, HI 96822

Phone: 808-956-6660
Web: www.hawaii.edu/gened
Email: gened@hawaii.edu

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**General
Education:
An Overview
For
Faculty & Staff**

General Education Office &
Mānoa Writing Program

The UHM General Education Program

In 1999, the faculty reformed UHM's General Education (GenEd) Program. Since 2001, students and faculty members have benefited from the Program's many positive features.

Greater flexibility. Students choose courses that fit their needs and goals.

Enriched curriculum. Faculty members create new courses or modify existing courses to meet GenEd Foundations or Focus Hallmarks.

Attention to social needs. Students learn about Hawaiian, Asian, & Pacific issues; ethics; oral and written communication techniques.

Academic Major as an anchor. Students make GenEd choices that complement the goals and requirements of their Major.

Graduation in 4 years. Course flexibility, credit for second-language competence, and streamlined requirements make 4-year degrees feasible.

Criteria-based transfer policies. Transfer courses more readily meet GenEd requirements because the decision is based on criteria-governed standards, not course equivalencies.

On-going assessment. Faculty Boards review course proposals to ensure that GenEd Hallmarks are met. They also periodically assess student learning outcomes.

Students consult a College Adviser (not a Major Adviser) for information about GenEd requirements.

The Four Components of the General Education Program

1. Foundations (Core)

Foundations courses give students skills and perspectives that are fundamental to their success in higher education.

Course approval. Departments request a Foundations designation for a course by submitting a proposal to the Foundations Board for review. Courses are approved for a 5-year period and are identified in the *Catalog*. Calls for proposals are issued every Fall.

Requirement. Students must complete

- Written Communication (FW): 3 credits
- Symbolic Reasoning (FS): 3 credits
- Global & Multicultural Perspectives (FG): 6 credits

2. Diversification (Core)

The Diversification requirement assures that every student is exposed to different domains of knowledge and to multiple methods of inquiry.

Course approval. Departments request a Diversification designation via the UHM-1 form. Deadlines coincide with UHM-1 form deadlines. Courses are approved for a 5-year period and are identified in the *Catalog*.

Requirement. Students must complete

- Arts (DA), Humanities (DH), & Literatures (DL): 6 credits
- Biological Science (DB), Physical Science (DP), & Science Laboratory (DY): 7 credits
- Social Sciences (DS): 6 credits

3. Focus

Focus requirements assure that students have knowledge and skills that are necessary for living and working in diverse communities.

Class approval. Individual instructors request a Focus designation by submitting a proposal to the Focus Board(s) for review. (In addition, departments submit Focus class lists to the GenEd Office each semester.) Classes are approved for a 2-year period and appear in each semester's *Schedule of Classes*. Calls for proposals are issued every Fall & Spring.

Requirement. Students must complete

- Hawaiian, Asian, & Pacific Issues (H): 1 class
- Contemporary Ethical Issues (E): 1 class
- Oral Communication (O): 1 class
- Writing Intensive (W): 5 classes

4. Hawaiian or Second Language

Knowledge of a second language increases a student's ability to understand other people and cultures.

Requirement. Students must demonstrate competence at the 202 (or equivalent) level in Hawaiian or a second language. (Some Schools/Colleges have modified this requirement for their students.)

In addition to GenEd requirements, students have to meet College/School requirements and Major requirements.