



## Frequently Asked Questions COP 2023 Program

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### General Program Questions

#### 1. What is COP & What Do We Do?

COP provides an alternative pathway for individuals who desire to attend the UHM but who lack the minimum requirements for admission. COP provides a free, intensive 6-week summer academic and residential program, which is designed to prepare individuals for a successful freshman year at the UHM. Participants are required to live on-campus and enroll in classes focused on upgrading academic and social skills. Room, board, textbooks, and instructional expenses are covered by COP. Participants who successfully complete the COP program requirements are admitted to the UHM in the fall semester and advance to COP's First-Year Academic Program.

During the First-Year Academic Program, students enroll in classes on a full-time basis and attend group meetings and individual appointments with COP advisors. "One-stop advising" is available at the COP office on issues related to registration, career planning and exploration, financial aid, on-campus employment, and other concerns. The COP office also serves as a "home base" on campus where students can do their homework, use computers, meet friends, or just hang out. During the First-Year Academic Program students are fully responsible for their college-related expenses.

#### 2. What are the eligibility criteria for COP?

- Hawai'i resident  
See UH Definition of Hawai'i Residency online at: <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/admissions/financing/residency.html>
- U.S. citizen, national, or person holding a permanent visa
- High school cumulative GPA of at least 2.00 at time of application
- A high school diploma by June 2023.
- Earned no more than 12 college credits above the 100-level and hold a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 at time of application.

#### 3. Who is the program for?

Applicants who meet the additional criteria below will be given priority consideration; however, COP encourages all eligible applicants to apply.

- Lack the minimum requirements to gain admission to UHM
- Intend to enroll as a full-time student at UH Mānoa
- Able to demonstrate eligibility for need-based funding as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Be the first person in their family to attend a university

**4. When will the COP online application be open? When is the application deadline date?**

The 2023 COP online application will be available October 2022. The deadline for the COP 2023 Summer Program application is DECEMBER 9, 2022. All supporting documents are due DECEMBER 16, 2022.

**5. Where can I access the COP online application?**

You may access the COP online application at: [www.hawaii.edu/cop](http://www.hawaii.edu/cop)

**6. What is the timeline for the COP summer program application?**

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| ● December 9, 2022        | Online Application Deadline                     |
| ● December 16, 2022       | Supporting Document Deadline                    |
| ● January – February 2023 | Initial Interviews                              |
| ● February – March 2023   | Final Committee Interview & “Rolling” Selection |
| ● Early April 2023        | Final Selection Status                          |

**Eligibility Questions**

**7. What are the requirements for guaranteed regular admission to UHM?**

You may review UH Mānoa’s freshman admission requirements online at: <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/admissions/freshman.html>

**8. 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, your cumulative GPA needs to be a 2.00 or above at time of application.

**9. 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 2023, 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.

**10. I do not live with my parents, but with my legal guardian. Whose information do I provide on the COP application?**

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.

**11. I’m not sure how to answer the bona fide Hawai’i resident criteria.**

My parent is in the military and has been stationed at Pearl Harbor for the past three years and my other parent works at Ala Moana. Am I considered a Hawai’i resident?

Not necessarily. Check the residency requirements online at <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/admissions/financing/residency.html>. In Section 5 of the online UH System application you will be asked to declare your residency status.

**12. I have been living here in Hawai'i with a relative 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/financing/residency.html>. In Section 5 of the online UH System application you will be asked to declare your residency status.

**13. My child already graduated from a Hawai'i high school last year. Can they still apply?**

Yes. As long as the applicant graduated from high school they can apply to the program. If they went to a community college or university and accumulated 12 or more transferable credits, they would be ineligible.

**14. My child will be graduating from a high school on the mainland this year. Can they still apply?**

If the applicant meets all of the eligibility requirements they may apply.

**15. 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. However, at the time of application your early college cumulative GPA must be a 2.0. Also, please be aware that COP will be offering History 151 as the college credit course in the 2023 Summer Residential Program.

**16. Can I come to COP if I am currently at a community college?**

If you have a 2.0 cumulative GPA at the time of application and will have 12 or less transferable college credits at the end of the spring 2023 semester, you can still participate in COP.

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

**18. Is there an age limit for COP applicants?**

No. However all COP applicants will need to have earned their high school diploma by June 2023.

**19. I haven't completed six years of schooling in the U.S. Am I eligible for COP?**

First, are you a Hawai'i 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. (TOEFL (iBT) 61; or TOEFL (PBT): 500). <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/admissions/international/>

You may register for the TOEFL iBT (Internet-Based Test) at: <https://www.ets.org/toefl> or the TOEFL IBT (paper test) at <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/eslhelp>

## Application Questions

### 20. How do I know if my online application was received?

You will receive an email confirmation that we have received your COP Online Application.

### 21. What supporting documents do I need to submit in addition to completing the COP online application?

1. COP Application Checklist
2. COP Signed Agreement & Certification Form
3. Copy of 2023-2024 Student Aid Report
4. COP Recommendation Form from a college preparatory course instructor
5. COP Recommendation Form from a college & career or grade level counselor
6. Official high school transcripts including any assessment scores (e.g. Smarter Balanced Assessment, Pre-ACT)
7. Senior first quarter grades
8. ACT or SAT scores OPTIONAL (A copy of your scores are acceptable and/or scores reported on high school transcript)
9. College Transcript, if applicable

### 22. Will I get confirmation that my Application Checklist and supporting documents are submitted and complete?

No. It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure that their supporting documents are submitted by the deadline date.

### 23. How do I submit my supporting documents?

All documents must be uploaded to COP's Dropbox, clearly identified with applicant and document name, and submitted in pdf file format. Detailed instructions on how to submit documents will be posted on our website.

### 24. 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. All supporting documents must be submitted via COP's Dropbox. Detailed instructions on how to submit documents will be posted on our website.

### 25. How long does the personal essay have to be?

There is a maximum 1,000 characters per question. Please note that you should take more than a few sentences per question to thoughtfully answer each. The essay questions are an important part of the application, and the area where the COP selection committee is able to understand who you are as a whole person.

### 26. If I did not take the ACT or SAT can I still apply to COP?

Yes. The ACT and SAT will be optional for the 2023 COP application.

**27. Am I required to file the 2023-2024 FAFSA?**

Yes. All applicants will be required to complete the 2023-2024 FAFSA. A copy of the applicant's 2023-2024 FAFSA Student Aid Report is a required document due by the deadline date.

**28. Who can complete the COP Recommendation Form?**

The COP application requires two recommendations. The first recommendation will need to be from a college preparatory teacher. Example: English, math, sciences, social studies, or Hawaiian or Foreign Language instructor. The second recommendation will need to be from a high school grade level, college or career counselor. Your recommender cannot be a relative or friend.

**29. 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Recommendation from an AVID counselor is acceptable.

**30. How do you make your selections? Do you look at everything in the application packet?**

Applicants who submit a completed application packet go through a rigorous selection process that may consist of an initial and final committee interview. The selection committee considers everything in the application packet as well as the interviews when selecting applicants for the COP summer program.

**Summer Program Questions****31. Is this program offered at other UH campuses?**

No. COP is only offered at UH Mānoa.

**32. 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 Manoa for the fall semester. Points are earned through scheduled classes and activities.

**33. 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.

**34. 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 and graduate from the UHM with a bachelor's degree.

**35. 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.

**36. Why is it recommended to live in the residential halls the first year?**

To increase the chance for academic success, we recommend 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 are right here on campus. Living on campus also eliminates all the distractions they may experience by living at home.

**37. Will I have to pay to participate in the summer program?**

No. All program costs are covered by a scholarship which will cover room and board, textbooks and instructional costs. Airfare will also be provided for neighbor island program students.

**38. If I have a family trip during the 6-week summer program, am I allowed to miss a few days of school?**

No. 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.

**39. Does COP accommodate individuals with disabilities?**

Yes. However, time is of the essence if special accommodations need to be arranged for the summer program. We strongly recommend informing the program of any accommodations at the time of application.

**My question was not answered in this FAQ – what should I do?**

Please email [copuhm@hawaii.edu](mailto:copuhm@hawaii.edu), providing in as much detail as possible the question you have/issue you are experiencing. We receive a high level of emails and will respond to your inquiry as quickly as we are able. You may also visit our website at [www.hawaii.edu/cop](http://www.hawaii.edu/cop).

*Although uncertainties exist with respect to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), COP continues to plan for the Summer 2023 College Opportunities Program (COP). While our intent is to provide a summer residential and academic experience, COP will offer a summer program that adheres to the UHM guidelines in effect at the time. These guidelines will be based on guidance on COVID-19 from county and state officials in accordance with government orders, recommendations from the Hawai'i Department of Health, and the CDC. As such, COP reserves the right to alter or cancel its summer program at any time and without prior notice. Please also note that the offering of the Summer 2023 College Opportunities Program is contingent upon the allocation of sufficient state funding.*