



# Frequently Asked Questions

## COP 2024 Summer Program & First Year Experience

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### GENERAL PROGRAM QUESTIONS

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

##### OUR MISSION

The College Opportunities Program (COP) provides Hawai'i residents admission to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa through our summer and first-year experience. Our program empowers, uplifts, and meets each participant's unique needs while supporting their academic, social, and personal growth.

##### OUR PHILOSOPHY

We are dedicated to fostering a pathway towards higher education for individuals who want to attend the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. We take pride in nurturing positive role models who can inspire and uplift communities that are underrepresented at UHM. At C.O.P., we recognize that structured support is key to success. Our program is tailored to meet the unique needs of each participant, offering a nurturing environment where growth and achievement flourish. Through our statewide entry-level freshman program, we provide an immersive and enriching summer and first-year residential college experience for Hawai'i residents. Those who complete the rigorous requirements of our summer program gain admission to UH Mānoa in the upcoming fall semester and seamlessly transition into our First-Year Academic Program.

#### 2. Who is eligible?

If you meet all of the requirements below, you are eligible to apply regardless of your admission status.

- Be a Hawai'i resident AND U.S. citizen, national, or person holding a permanent visa  
See UH Definition of Hawai'i Residency online at:  
<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/admissions/financing/residency.html>
- A high school graduate or grading senior. Applicants who have earned or will have earned 12 or more semester transferable college credits at the time of application are not eligible for this program. This does not include early college/dual credit classes.
- A cumulative high school GPA of 2.00 at time of application
- Intend to enroll as a full-time student at UH Mānoa.

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

The program accepts Hawaii residents who are denied or may be denied admission and those admitted directly to UHM and are seeking additional support services.

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

The 2024 COP online application will be available **October 2023**. The deadline for the COP 2024 Summer Program application is **JANUARY 11, 2024**. All supporting documents are due **JANUARY 18, 2024**.

**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?**

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| ● October 2023            | Application Opens                               |
| ● January 11, 2024        | COP 2024 Application Deadline                   |
| ● January 18, 2024        | Supporting Document Deadline                    |
| ● January - February 2024 | Testing   |
| ● January - February 2024 | Initial Interviews                              |
| ● February – March 2024   | Final Committee Interview & “Rolling” Selection |
| ● Early April 2024        | Final Selection Status                          |

**ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS**

**7. 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.

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

You may review UH Mānoa’s freshman admission requirements online at: [University of Hawai’i at Mānoa - Undergraduate - Freshman](http://www.hawaii.edu/undergraduate/freshman)

**9. 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.

**10. I’m not sure how to answer the Hawai’i resident criteria.**

Check the residency requirements online at:

<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/admissions/financing/residency.html>

**11. 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 for the program.

**12. 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.

**13. If I have 12 or more credits from taking classes at a community college or university through programs like Early College/Dual Credit 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 2024 Summer Residential Program.

**14. 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 2024 semester, you can still participate in COP.

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

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

No. However all COP applicants will need to have earned their high school diploma or equivalent by June 2024.

**17. 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). 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>

For additional test scores or experiences accepted as measures of English language proficiency go to the following website: <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/admissions/international/>

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

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

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

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

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

### 20. Will I get confirmation that my 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 of January 18, 2024. You may contact the COP office by email ([copuhm@hawaii.edu](mailto:copuhm@hawaii.edu)) or phone (808-956-6186) to check on your application status.

### 21. 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 is posted on our website.

### 22. 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 is posted our website.

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

It would be best to write more than a few sentences per question to thoughtfully answer each question and provide substantial and meaningful responses. Focus on thoroughly addressing the questions and providing insights into your character, experiences, and motivations. The personal essay is an essential part of the COP application and the area where the COP selection committee can understand who you are as a person.

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

Yes. The ACT and SAT are optional.

**25. Am I required to file the 2024-2025 FAFSA?**

Yes. All applicants will be required to complete the 2024-2025 FAFSA which will be available December 2023. A copy of the applicant's 2024-2025 FAFSA Student Aid Report will be required later in the interview process.

**26. 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 can be from a high school grade level, college or career counselor OR another college preparatory teacher. Your recommender cannot be a relative or friend.

**27. 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.

**28. 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 screening and selection process that may consist of testing, 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**

**29. Is this program offered at other UH campuses?**

No. COP is only offered at UH Mānoa.

**30. 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 UHM for the fall semester. Points are earned through scheduled classes and activities.

**31. 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.

**32. 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.

**33. 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 pass the summer program.** If you do not pass the summer program, you will not be admitted to UH Mānoa in the fall semester.

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

To increase the chance for academic success, we recommend that 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.

**35. 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.

**36. 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.

**37. 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. You may also call our office (808-956-6186) and ask to speak with one of our program staff members.