



MASTER OF ARTS IN SECOND LANGUAGE STUDIES

GRADUATE DIVISION

Info About UH Mānoa

UH Mānoa is a land, sea, space, and sun grant research university of international standing with pioneering research and strengths in various areas. These include, but are not limited to: tropical agriculture, tropical medicine, oceanography, astronomy, linguistics, education, cancer, genetics, electrical engineering, volcanology, evolutionary biology, comparative philosophy, comparative religion, Hawaiian studies, Pacific Islands & Asian area studies, and Asian and Pacific region public health. The Mānoa valley serves as a backdrop for a unique and inviting campus. It includes an authentic Japanese tea house and garden located on the East-West Center grounds, a Korean Studies center that is a replica of a Korean king's throne hall, and Ka Papa Lo'i O Kānewai, a Hawaiian cultural research and outreach program centered on the cultivation of Hawaiian taro. UH Mānoa is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Why pursue an M.A. in Second Language Studies at UH Mānoa?

Second Language Studies (SLS) is an interdisciplinary field that addresses the learning, teaching, analysis, and use of second (or multiple) languages. The Department of SLS at the University of Hawai'i is one of the longest-established of its kind, and enjoys top-ranked international recognition due to the diverse expertise and professional activities of its faculty, the breadth and depth of its curriculum, and its research productivity. The MA in SLS program prepares graduates to fulfill key roles in areas such as language teaching, teacher education, administration, evaluation, materials development, and research. In addition, many graduates continue on to doctoral programs in fields such as Applied Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition, Education, Linguistics, and Psychology.

Our MA graduates develop familiarity with topics and concepts fundamental to the broad knowledge base of the field of SLS, including: (a) the scope of issues and methods in applied linguistics and language education, (b) linguistic analysis, (c) second language acquisition, and (d) sociolinguistics. Graduates of our MA program will be able to understand and critically evaluate current research literature and engage in systematic investigation of topics and concepts in the SLS knowledge base to inform their own and others' professional practices.



Faculty: Research Areas & Expertise

Our faculty members are internationally recognized experts in topics ranging from language pedagogy, TESOL, language testing, language and technology, and program evaluation, to the sociolinguistics of multilingualism, Global Englishes, conversation analysis, interactionist and generative approaches to SLA, childhood bilingualism and experimental psycholinguistics. They serve in leading roles in the field, as journal editors (e.g., Applied Linguistics, Language Learning, TESOL Quarterly) and steering committee members in national and international associations. For individual faculty profiles, see <https://www.hawaii.edu/sls/graduate-faculty/>.



ENGAGE

FIRST YEAR, MATRICULATION INTO PROGRAM

NAVIGATE

MIDWAY THROUGH PROGRAM

COMMUNICATE

PREPARATION TO GRADUATE AND GO FORTH

ACADEMIC JOURNEY

- **MA Plan A and B:** 36 credits total with 4 core courses; 1 700-level seminar; and 7 electives for Plan A and 5 electives and 2 Thesis Research courses for Plan B.
- **MA Plan C:** Individually planned coursework for select MA students

- Meet with faculty advisors
- Take core courses on language concepts, second language studies, second language acquisition, and sociolinguistics and multilingualism.
 - Take a seminar and elective courses.
 - Develop a research idea for Scholarly Paper or Thesis.
 - Discuss Scholarly Paper or Thesis progress with advisors.
 - Write and complete Scholarly Paper or Thesis.

INVOLVEMENT

- Second Language Studies Student Association
- Graduate Student Organization
- Annual Student Conference hosted by the College
- Other campus organizations
- Professional societies

- Attend and participate in student-led organizations in the department and on campus.
 - Decide whether to complete one of six offered tracks.
 - Develop skills in language teaching, research, education, policy, and evaluation.
 - Conduct primary or secondary research for required Scholarly Paper or Thesis.
 - Apply for travel awards, scholarships, and other awards.
 - Present Scholarly Paper or Thesis research results at the weekly Brown Bag or at local and national conferences.

KNOWLEDGE/SKILL BUILDING

- Master competencies in second language teaching, research, education, policy, and evaluation.
- Learn about different areas and topics within the field of second language studies.

- Track your progress in the mastery of second language studies competencies through your MA Advising Form.
 - Demonstrate written and oral ability to place creative and scholarly work within broader artistic and critical conversations.
 - Fulfill required coursework with a Hawai'i/Asia/Pacific focus.
 - Present scholarly and creative work to faculty, students, other professionals.

CAREER PLANNING

- Workshops provided or sponsored by department
- Other opportunities and experiences (e.g., Three-Minute Thesis Competition)
- Mentorship for those interested in applying to PhD programs

- Discuss career opportunities with advisors and alumni.
- Receive weekly email digest with relevant job opportunities from the department.
 - Update your resume/CV.
 - Prepare a teaching philosophy, portfolio, statement of purpose, and/or cover letters.
 - Request letters of recommendation and references.
 - Apply for and inquire about available positions through the alumni network.
 - Apply for PhD programs.

Links

Program Website:

<https://hawaii.edu/sls>

Contact Information for program:

grdchr@hawaii.edu

Funding Opportunities:

<https://www.hawaii.edu/sls/graduate/funding-grant-opportunities/>

Recent research by graduates:

<https://www.hawaii.edu/sls/research/publications/sls-papers/>

Where graduates go after completing their degree:

<https://www.hawaii.edu/sls/recent-ma-in-sla-sls-alumni/>

Faculty webpages, CVs, or profiles:

<https://www.hawaii.edu/sls/graduate-faculty/>

Career options with this degree:

- Language Teacher/Researcher/Educator
- Educational Program Administrator/Coordinator
- Language Test and Materials Developer
- Research Analyst
- Language Policy Analyst/Advocate
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)