STUDENTS SAY “...”

Academics

This flagship school of the University of Hawai‘i system offers nearly one hundred bachelor’s programs to the 13,000 or so students who call the O‘ahu campus home during the school year. A lot of the school’s vibe is “very laid back, just like the Hawaiian lifestyle,” and students often show up to class with bikinis and swim trunks under their clothes from that morning’s beach trip. Nearly 250 degree programs across seventeen schools are available to students but no matter the course of study, Hawai‘i plays TA. “When someone goes to UH Mānoa, they aren’t expecting to receive a Hawaiian education but that is exactly what they get. Whether they are learning the Hawaiian language, Hawaiian culture, or about the Hawaiian ecosystem, there is a lot for everyone that goes along with their major,” says a student. “UH really incorporates how important Hawai‘i really is.”

Sciences are particularly strong here, and the language offerings are incredibly diverse (think Ilocano and Tagalog). Teachers are “always willing to go the extra mile to help students by offering office hours” and many professors challenge students while simultaneously “letting us know what content will be useful in our future careers and/or graduate level exams.” However, the real gold here is in the added resources for extra help in classes. There is “free one-on-one tutoring” and review sessions through the learning center, a writing center, a learning emporium for certain subjects, and “[you] can even walk into the library where librarians will help to find sources for papers and guide students in a great direction.”

Life

UH Mānoa is on an island that offers a bit of everything. Here you can find “the city, the country, the surf, the mountains, and so on and so on. Oahu has something to fit my every mood and need,” says a student. There are always cultural festivals and activities, and Hawai‘i is made for active people who “like to get lost in nature’s beauty.” Whether you’re “running up Koko Head, swimming with dolphins on the west side, catching some rays between classes on the Waikiki strip, or jumping off rocks on the north shore, there’s no way to escape the beauty that is Hawai‘i.” On the weekend, many local students travel home so the campus can get very quiet, but students do use their IDs for free bus transportation to explore the relatively small island and student services and student affairs are “excellent.” As is common with college students, “many of us do not have enough money to enjoy the nightlife, therefore we enjoy our free time at the beach.” Still, students “have work that we can’t just blow off for a swim or something.” People like to use the grill that the school has set up, and there are “always people walking from place to place until late at night, hanging out with friends in the courtyards, skateboarding, or cooking out.”

Student Body

This group—mainly from the Asia-Pacific region and mainland USA, with the occasional European or South American throw in—is a “huge melting pot” that is just “filled with Aloha.” An “incredible amount of culture is exhibited here,” most of all the Hawaiian cool: “I have never been on another college campus where it is completely normal to ride your skateboard barefoot or walk around with your surfboard.” This is good news for the plenty of exchange students from Asia are here “trying to have an American campus experience”; ROTC also has a “very large” presence. On the whole, this is a “very relaxed and cool” bunch of students with whom “you can strike up friendly conversations with strangers in the cafeteria, or while waiting to cross the street, or while ordering food.”
THE PRINCETON REVIEW SAYS

Admissions

Very important factors considered include: rigor of secondary school record, academic GPA, standardized test scores. Important factors considered include: class rank, state residency. Other factors considered include: application essay, recommendation(s), interview, extracurricular activities, talent/ability, geographical residence. ACT with Writing required. SAT with or without Essay component accepted. High school diploma is required and GED is accepted. Academic units required: 4 English, 3 math, 3 science, 3 social studies, 5 academic electives.

Financial Aid

Students should submit: FAFSA. Priority filing deadline is 2/1. The Princeton Review suggests that all financial aid forms be submitted as soon as possible after October 1. Need-based scholarships/grants offered: College/university scholarship or grant aid from institutional funds; Federal Pell; Private scholarships; SEOG; State scholarships/grants. Loan aid offered: Direct PLUS loans; Direct Subsidized Stafford Loans; Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans. Applicants will be notified of awards on a rolling basis beginning 4/1. Federal Work-Study Program available. Institutional employment available.

The Inside Word

All students must have a minimum GPA of 2.8, be in the top 40 percent of their high school class, and must take either the SAT or the ACT. All applicants are encouraged to apply by the priority consideration deadline of January 5, as this deadline increases your chance of receiving financial aid and student housing. Certain programs (nursing, social work, education, and others) may have earlier admission deadlines.

THE SCHOOL SAYS “...”

From the Admissions Office

“Aloha and welcome to UH Mānoa, the largest campus in the University of Hawai’i System. We are located on the island of O’ahu, in Honolulu’s lush Mānoa valley. With almost 100 undergraduate majors, over 200 student organizations, and a variety of Division I and intramural sports to choose from, you will agree that UH Mānoa is a great place for you to realize your academic, professional, and personal dreams.

“UH Mānoa is one of only a handful of institutions to hold the distinction of being a land-, sea-, and space-grant research institution. Classified by the Carnegie Foundation as having ‘very high research activity,’ UH Mānoa is known for its pioneering research in such fields as oceanography, astronomy, Pacific Islands and Asian area studies, linguistics, cancer research, and genetics.

“Applicants to UH Mānoa are expected to have a minimum score of 510 on all three sections of the SAT (or a 22 on all four sections of the ACT), and have completed a college preparatory high school curriculum. All applicants are encouraged to apply for priority consideration. Applying by this deadline (January 5 for fall admission, September 1 for spring) increases your chance of receiving financial aid and student housing.

“Experience the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa first hand. We welcome you to tour our Mānoa campus guided by our very own Rainbow Warrior students. Experience a campus tour by calling (808) 956-7137 or email visituhm@hawaii.edu.