FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
REGARDING GRADUATE APPLICATIONS

1. How do I apply to the Oceanography graduate program?

There are two applications to complete. The online UH Graduate Admissions application is located on their website: http://manoa.hawaii.edu/graduate/content/prospective-students
There is an application fee of $100 (as of Fall 2014 admissions). There is also the Departmental application located at the bottom of our Oceanography Prospective Students webpage: http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/oceanography/prospective_students.html
There is no application fee for the Departmental application, however original forms mailed to the Department are preferred.

The deadline to submit applications for admission of U.S. applications are January 15 for Fall admission and September 1 for Spring admission. For foreign applicants, the corresponding deadlines are January 15 and August 1.

2. What are the minimum GRE and TOEFL scores to enter the program?

There are no minimum GRE and TOEFL scores to enter the program. However, here are the average scores of the students that have recently been accepted into the program.

GRE average scores
(V) 157.8 (71.4%) (Q) 158.3 (72.9%) (W) 4.2 (62.9%)

TOEFL/ IELTS recommended score minimum
TOEFL internet score: 100
TOEFL paper score: 600
IELTS score: 5.0

If your scores are below the average, it is recommended you study and take the exam(s) again. You may also contact a faculty member in our Department that you are interested in working with to ask if he/she recommends you take the exam again or if your scores are acceptable.

3. Where do I send my GRE scores?

Your GRE scores should be sent to UH Graduate Admissions Office:

UH Office of Graduate Education
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Spalding 354
2540 Maile Way
Honolulu, HI 96822

You just need to provide our Institution Code (4867 for University of Hawaii at Manoa) and Department Code (0508 for Oceanography). Our office is able to view GRE scores sent to the Graduate Admissions Office.
4. Can my recommendation letter writers submit their recommendations via email?

Although the Department prefers the recommendation letters arrive by postal mail as original letters, we will accept letters via email. Recommendation letters should be emailed directly by the letter writer (i.e. not the student applicant) to the current Graduate Specialist of Oceanography, Kristin Momohara at kristinu@hawaii.edu.

5. If I sent my transcripts to Grad Division, do I also need to order a second copy for the Department?

No, if your transcripts were sent to Grad Division, they will forward a copy to our office for our files. Vice versa: If our office receives any original transcripts that Grad Division did not receive, send them the original one and keep a copy for our files. Unofficial copies are acceptable during the application process, but will need original/official transcripts if you’ve been selected to the program.

6. May I submit an electronic copy of my official transcripts?

A few Universities offer a service where they send electronic official transcripts via a drop box service. We will accept these electronic transcripts during the application process, but will need original/official transcripts if you’ve been selected to the program.

7. When will I receive notification whether I’ve been accepted into the program?

Our Department receives about 60-100 applications every year for Fall admission. The process to review these applications and determine who has been accepted can take 2-3 months. Our office usually sends out notifications for Fall admission in late March and early April. For Spring admission, decisions are usually made in late September and early October since the application pool is generally smaller.

8. If I applied last year may I re-use some of my application materials?

Certain application materials may be re-used for your current application. Your GRE scores and recommendation letters may be re-used. However, the supplemental information form, statement of objectives and graduate assistant application form should be completed again.