

Dear Prospective AEC student,

Thank you for your interest in the Architectural, Engineering and CAD (AEC) program. The AEC program offers both a two-year college degree as well as non-credit, short-term classes. If you are interested in the noncredit short-term classes in AEC, read the explanation at AEC Non-Credit Classes at HCC on the AEC program web site at <http://honolulu.hawaii.edu> then Programs and Courses then Architectural, Engineering, and CAD Technologies (AEC). If you'd like to find out specifics about the classes, contact the Continuing Education Office at 845-9296 or e-mail them at pcatt@hawaii.edu. This letter focuses on the college degree program leading to the Associate of Science (AS) or Certificate of Achievement (CA).

You will learn to create construction drawings through technical drawing software. Upon graduation you will have skills to work as architectural or engineering drawing technicians. You can find out more about the AEC program at Check out the brochure, Planet CAD, FAQs, course descriptions, course syllabi and graduation checklist. The public libraries have free access to the Internet if you do not have access to the Internet at home.

Both the AS and the CA take two years to earn the degree. The main difference is that the AS degree requires 60 credits and requires general education courses such as ENG 100, AEC 135, and math at the 100 level. Additionally, some AEC courses are required for the AS and not required for the CA.

First semester classes begin in the Fall semester. Your commitment is as a full time student, taking a minimum of 12 credits per semester. Classes are offered in the days generally Monday through Thursday from 8:30AM to 12:20AM. Additionally, in some semesters you will have afternoon classes that end around 3:30 PM. The majority of the students spend their free time in the AEC computer lab working on their assignments.

There are three AEC program prerequisites that must be met before registering for the first semester classes. The prerequisites are:

- ❑ Placement in ENG 100 or completion of ENG 22 or higher. If you completed college level ENG composition course, you may have satisfied this requirement.
- ❑ Placement in MATH 24/50/53 – If you completed college level math at the beginning level, you may have satisfied this requirement.
- ❑ Completion of AEC 80 a mechanical drawing class or related work experience – if you have experience in manual drafting you may be waived from taking AEC 80. See a counselor for the form.

The majority of the AEC courses are a combination of lecture and lab. Two course, AEC 80 and 118 are offered via distance education only.

For the general education requirements, if you've completed comparable college courses at other institutions, see a counselor to see if courses are acceptable in transfer. Counselors are on duty Monday through Friday from 7:45AM to 3:30PM. Evening hours are on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the Fall and Spring semesters with the latest walk-in at about 5:15PM.

If you are interested in attending HON, your first step is to apply. Applications are available at the HCC Web site then Admissions. The summer session begins in May. General education courses such as English and Math are offered in the summer as well as AEC 80.

If you are also interested in receiving Financial Aid, please check into it as soon as possible. Information is available at the HCC Web site.

As for housing, HCC does not have dormitories. It is quite challenging to get housing. You can check at the following website <http://ash.kcc.hawaii.edu/> for referrals.

As for computer requirements, see message below from Mr. Jennings, an AEC professor from Spring 2006.

“We don't require our students to have their own computers, but it is very helpful in keeping up on class assignments. The computer requirements for the Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software we use can vary but I can suggest the following:

Microsoft® Windows® XP

Intel® Pentium® 4 - 2.8 GHz or equivalent AMD® Athlon™ processor

1 GB RAM

1 GB free disk space

1024 x 768 monitor and display adapter capable of 24-bit color (I recommend a 19" monitor, 17" will work, but no smaller)

Modem or Network Card and Internet connection for license registration

Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0

USB ports

CD-ROM drive (CD Burner is a desirable upgrade)

Two-button mouse with scroll wheel

Student versions of the software we use is available through retailers like The CAD Store (www.thecadstore.com), we use several software packages such as AutoCAD, Autodesk VIZ, SketchUp, and Autodesk Revit. We are currently determining the versions we will use next school year. I should have that information in May. Student packages may run \$100 - \$200 per package per year, so you most likely will be purchasing over a staggered period as we don't use all of the software every semester."

Contact me at Marilynn@hcc.hawaii.edu or 845-9218 if you have other questions that the website and this letter did not answer. Hope you join us in the AEC program!

Sincerely,

Marilynn Ito-Won, Counselor

AEC Non-Credit Classes at HCC

Mr. Jennings, an AEC professor describes the difference between the AEC non-credit classes and the AEC credit classes:

"I am an instructor of Autodesk CAD software for both non-credit (PCATT) and credit classes (AEC).

First, I'd like to point out that our non-credit offerings are primarily targeted to professionals already in the architectural and engineering fields and are not intended to substitute for training in the field of computer drafting. Think of it as similar to the training you receive to use a new tool. We only instruct on the use of the tools and not the context of the work it is used for, so most individuals with specific construction-related backgrounds, but no design or drafting experience will have difficulty with the material. In our non-credit coursework, we don't cover any of the peripheral material necessary to understand the processes of design and the preparation of construction documentation (drawings). This peripheral, but important information includes: drafting standards, visualization skills, use of symbols, preparation of different drawing views, building codes and land use ordinances, materials and methods of construction, design methods, mechanical systems, estimating and bidding, preliminary structural design, etc.