



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®  
WEST O'AHU

# Labor Studies @



## Certificate in Labor Studies

Course Delivery

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**Course Delivery**

**100% Online**

**Total Credits**

**15**

**In-State Tuition  
Per Credit**

**\$306**

**Out of State Tuition  
Per Credit**

**\$846**

Hawai'i is one of the most unionized states in the United States, and organized labor has played a central role in establishing and maintaining direct democracy and equality in Hawai'i. The 15-credit Labor Studies certificate program empowers students with the knowledge to improve their working lives, and equips them with the skills necessary for careers as labor resource specialists. Labor Studies helps students to gain a critical understanding about the power relationship between their work and the broader global economy, and provides students with the opportunity to view race, culture, gender, political science, media, history, and the future of work from a labor perspective. Courses address union structures and politics, workers' rights, labor laws, collective bargaining, and labor theories. As an interdisciplinary field, Labor Studies prepares students for graduate school in law, work in unions, labor resources, arbitration, public service, or social sciences fields. Labor Studies includes local, national, and international labor history, which enables students to connect past labor events with present conditions in an informed way.

## Career Outlook

According to the Hawaii Industry Sectors Database, employment classifications relevant to the Labor Studies Certificate are projected to remain stable or increase by 2026. Potential careers for graduates with labor resources skills include: labor relations, careers in labor unions, labor law, community development, policy analysis, teaching, occupational health and safety and labor-related state, national or international organizations.

# Courses

**LBST 100: Intro to Labor Studies** - (Oral Communication Focus Designation) This is a survey course providing the basic concepts, theories, and skills for analyzing and addressing how workers have organized their workplace to improve working conditions and society. 3 credits

**LBST 200: Hawaii Labor Media & Film**  
Students critically examine the social, political, economic, historical and cultural effects of labor media in Hawai'i to understand how media impacts perceptions of organized labor locally and globally. 3 credits

**LBST 300: Labor Theory** (ETH – Ethical Focus Designation) - Introduction to current research in labor, labor law and various forms of labor theory. 3 credits

**LBST 400: Seminar in Labor Topics**  
Seminars on topics including labor-related skills trainings including grievance handling, introduction to collective bargaining, parliamentary procedure, introduction to arbitration and mediation and internal/external organizing. 3 credits

**LBST 486: Labor Studies Applied Research Project or  
LBST 490: Labor Studies Practicum**  
Students will have the option of completing a supervised research project and/or publication for a labor-related organization, or complete supervised practicum at an approved labor-related organization. 3 credits

# Application Process

**To apply, please go to:**  
<https://apply.hawaii.edu/>

- "Application Type" = First-Time (if you have no college credits)
- "Application Type" = Transfer/Returning (if you have at least 24 college credits)
- "Planned Course of Study" = Labor Studies Certificate (DE)

*Fill out all sections of the application and submit it.*

## **Additional Documents Required:**

- Students who have at least 24 college credits should arrange for their colleges to submit their official college transcripts to [uhwo.admissions@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhwo.admissions@hawaii.edu)
- Non-traditional adult learners may have their high school GPA and course requirements met by one of the following:
- One year of working in a labor organization or representing members of their trade. A letter documenting this work history may substitute for the high school Admissions requirement. Letters should be submitted to [uhwo.admissions@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhwo.admissions@hawaii.edu).
- One year of labor organizing experience. A letter from a labor organization documenting this experience may substitute for the high school Admissions requirement. Letters should be submitted to [uhwo.admissions@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhwo.admissions@hawaii.edu).

**Scholarships are available! Apply Below!**

<https://sites.google.com/hawaii.edu/lbst-scholarships/home>

For additional information contact:  
Dr. Leslie Lopez: [lalopez@hawaii.edu](mailto:lalopez@hawaii.edu)

