PACIFICA
GRADUATE INSTITUTE

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

M.A. Engaged Humanities & the Creative Life with Emphasis in Depth Psychology

2016
Engaged Humanities Studies Program

1. Does a student need to have a B.A. in Psychology, Mythology, or any other particular field, or an extensive background in any particular field in order to qualify for admission to the Humanities Program?

Students with a variety of educational backgrounds are accepted to the program. Readings in the fields of mythology, religious studies, literature, anthropology, art and psychology provide particularly appropriate preparation for our interdisciplinary program.

2. What does a degree in Engaged Humanities prepare one for in terms of career opportunities?

This M.A. degree would be appropriate for any position that would require an interdisciplinary degree in the humanities. Administrative positions in humanities programs, arts foundations, and other culturally-oriented organizations might require such a degree. Positions in the field of publishing may also be an option. Some graduates have used their degree in consulting fields such as organizational development. Teaching at the community college level in literature or the humanities is a possible career option for students who earn the M.A. degree. Teaching at non-traditional post-secondary institutions may be a viable option. This includes Jung Institutes, extension programs, adult education, and free-standing schools—such as Pacifica— that teach subjects such as depth psychology, mythology and religious studies. Persons in religious work—clergy and those not ordained—would find this field of study enriching to their calling. In addition, writers, artists, film makers, and performers would have their options for employment and creative work enhanced. Moreover, the expanding field of professional coaching for individuals and businesses is beginning to call for “creativity coaches” and people able to offer the transforming power of a depth approach.

3. What qualities are considered when reviewing an applicant for admission to the Humanities Program?

The Admissions Committee looks at the applicant’s potential for meaningful graduate level work, past educational experience, oral and written skills, creative goals and abilities, professional judgment, personal readiness, and commitment to the program material and personal creative development.

4. May an applicant who has been accepted to the program defer enrollment?

An applicant’s acceptance to the program may not be deferred.

5. How long is the M.A. Engaged Humanities Program?

Students attend classes for two years, either beginning in March or September. Residential sessions occur in April and October, with the remainder of class time spent online.

6. What is the general format of classes?

The Humanities Program offers a unique hybrid of online and on-campus learning formats. In the online portion of each course, the professor posts an introductory written or most often, audio, “lecture” along with reading assignments for each unit, and one or two questions that pertain to that unit’s material. Students are asked to write a “reflection” that responds to the question(s) and incorporates both the assigned readings and their perspectives about the material. Students are also asked to respond to at least two of their classmates’ reflections, which leads to an online dialogue about the material. Students are able to log on each week at times that fit their schedules, and that flexibility also accommodates students who reside in widely divergent time zones around the world.

During the residential sessions, classes are held all day, and often into the evening, in order to take full advantage of the relatively short time on campus.

Most courses are a combination of lecture and discussion formats. Time is set aside by faculty for discussions and question and answer periods. Some courses include experiential (expressive or performance) activities as
well. Students can expect to encounter a variety of pedagogical styles during the course of their enrollment in the program.

7. **How much work is required outside of class?**

Class assignments consist of readings, papers, and/or projects. As a general rule, for every hour in class there is approximately three hours of work outside of class. However, the amount of time a given student invests in his or her course work can vary a good deal and depends upon a variety of factors such as learning style and study habits. Students are advised to select topics for term papers early in the course. Doing so helps them be more focused and organized in their reading. Graduate study in general requires twenty (20) hours of study per week. This includes reading, reflections, research and writing. You should adjust your life and work schedule to accommodate this as a minimum in order to achieve success at Pacifica.

8. **When do students have an opportunity to meet with faculty?**

The teaching faculty hold office hours during the on-campus sessions. These hours are announced on the schedule and sign-up sheets for appointments are posted. In addition, the instructor publishes the hours on each class syllabus that he/she can be contacted by phone and/or e-mail between sessions.

9. **How are students tested/graded?**

Students are graded on the basis of research papers and class participation. Class participation may also be included in the overall assessment of the grade for a course. Some courses include presentations which may be a factor in grading as well.

10. **Can course work in Religious Studies, Psychology, Education, or Mythology from other institutions be transferred to Pacifica for credit?**

Transfer credit for work completed at other institutions up to eight (8) units may be considered. Enrolled students who wish to have previous course work evaluated may petition the program chair to have relevant (graduate level) course work reviewed following acceptance to the program through the Admissions Office. A syllabus is required for the course completed at another institution. There needs to be approximately 75% overlap with the Pacifica course for transfer credit to be granted.

11. **If a student must miss a session, how is this handled?**

The Student Handbook states that a student may miss five class meetings per year and no more than one-third of any given course. Beyond this amount, the student must petition the Education Council for an exemption to this policy. Students must attend the first class session, even when it is online, in order to qualify for their Financial Aid requirements.

12. **Can a student invite friends or family to the school during their session of classes?**

The school provides accommodations and meals for students only. However, for the occasional visit by a family member or friend, meals are available when previously arranged with Heather Slade, Guest Services Coordinator by e-mail at hslade@pacific.edu. In order to maintain classroom cohesiveness, we regret that we are unable to invite guests to our classes.

13. **When do students officially receive their degrees? When is the Institute graduation ceremony held?**

Degrees are posted to the transcript upon the completion of the requirements for the degree. The diploma for the M.A. Degree is awarded at the annual Institute graduation ceremony, which is held the last week of May. Students who do not participate in the ceremony receive the diploma through the mail after the event.
Residential

1. What does it mean to be a residential student?

Students who attend Pacifica and who do not reside in Santa Barbara or Ventura County are provided with room and board during their educational sessions. We feel that this arrangement provides the best context for building community and encouraging dialogue among students and faculty.

2. What types of accommodations are available for residential students?

Primary accommodations for students enrolled at the Ladera Lane campus are provided by Pacifica in the Residence Hall. The Residence Hall is a dormitory style building providing single occupancy. In addition, students can drive directly to the Ladera campus, as student parking is provided. There is no student parking on Pacifica's Lambert Road campus.

3. Can a student cancel their reservation?

Any requests for cancellation should be submitted in writing to the Guest Services Coordinator at least five (5) days prior to arrival.

4. Can a student arrive early or stay later than their scheduled session in order to accommodate travel arrangements?

Yes, early arrivals and late stay reservations can be arranged through the Guest Services Coordinator for one extra night before and one extra night after your session. Students must contact the Guest Services Coordinator in a timely manner with the request for additional stay days.

5. How does Pacifica handle special dietary needs?

Students with special dietary needs submit a request form outlining their needs. If the request is approved, the student speaks with the Guest Services Coordinator prior to the beginning of the year to discuss how their needs might best be accommodated. Pacifica honors vegetarian, vegan, and medically restricted diets.

Students requesting a medically restricted diet are asked to include with their dietary form a prescription or letter from a doctor outlining their dietary requirements or restrictions. These letters are used by the kitchen staff as guidelines for customized menu preparation.

6. Can a student receive telephone messages while on campus?

At the Ladera Lane campus, a receptionist is available to take messages from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 a.m. seven days a week. Student messages are posted on the guest bulletin board in the dining hall. From midnight through 7:00 a.m., emergency calls may be made to 805-708-4531.

7. Is a car necessary? How does one get to campus from either the L.A. or Santa Barbara airports?

It is unnecessary to have a car.

Students arriving at Los Angeles International Airport can utilize the Santa Barbara AirBus Service. Santa Barbara AirBus makes a station stop at the IHOP restaurant in Carpinteria. Students may ask the driver to drop them off at the Best Western, but this is not always possible.

If it is within business hours (8am-6pm), the Pacifica Shuttle may be available to provide transportation from the IHOP AirBus stop, OR from the Amtrak Station to either the Best Western or the Residence Hall on Ladera Campus. However, if the Pacifica Shuttle is not available, students can utilize a taxi service. As for students traveling in to the Santa Barbara Airport, the Pacifica Shuttle is not available, and a taxi service is recommended.
Students arriving at the Santa Barbara Airport can utilize a taxi service, which will deliver students directly from the Santa Barbara Airport to either campus.

Again, there is no student parking at any time on the Lambert Road campus.

**Library Resources**

1. *Introduction*

Pacifica's Graduate Research Library supports graduate-level study in counseling psychology, clinical psychology, mythological studies, and the humanities. Our subject area strengths are Jungian and archetypal psychology, psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, mythology, religious studies, and psychological studies of literature. A unilateral theme to the majority of our holdings is the depth psychology tradition, which is in line with Pacifica’s mission statement. The Library also provides access to hard-to-find materials; for example, the periodical section contains titles that are not readily accessible in other libraries, as well as leading academic journals in depth psychology and unique interdisciplinary journals.

2. *Library Collection*

The libraries on the Lambert and Ladera campuses are home to over 22,000 print books, 9,000 ebooks, 2,900 theses and dissertations by Pacifica graduates, and 2,000 audio and video materials. They also provide access to thousands of journals, both in print and electronically. Special collections include course reserves, faculty publications, rare and hard-to-find books, and other unique multimedia materials. On-site resources include personal computers (PC and Mac) with Internet access, printing, and photocopying.

The Joseph Campbell and Marija Gimbutas Library, maintained by OPUS, houses approximately 4,600 books as well as the archival materials of Joseph Campbell and Marija Gimbutas. Students are encouraged to utilize this Library for their research.

3. *Electronic Journals and Databases:*

Pacifica students have access to many academic databases, including the following:

- Academic Search Premier - full text to over 4,600 publications via EBSCO
- Archive for Research in Archetypal Symbolism (ARAS)
- ATLA Religion with ATLA Serials via EBSCO
- Business Source Elite via EBSCO
- Cabell’s Publishing Directory for Psychology, Psychiatry
- Cambridge Collections Online - contains reference ebooks on literature, classics, philosophy, religion and culture
- Counseling & Therapy in Video - an online collection of video available for the study of social work, psychotherapy, psychology, and psychiatric counseling
- DSM V online
- Ebrary – over 4,000 ebooks on psychology and social work
- EBSCO eBook Collection
- EBSCO E Journals Database of separate journal subscriptions the library has
- Gale Virtual Reference Library - full text access to dozens of reference ebooks
- Health Source Nursing/Academic Edition
- Humanities International Complete via EBSCO
- JSTOR Arts & Sciences III journal collection
- Mental Measurements Yearbook with Tests in Print via EBSCO
- Oxford Classical Dictionary Online
- Oxford English Dictionary online
• ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Full Text (formerly known as Digital Dissertations) - contains PDFs of all Pacifica dissertations, as well as over 1 million dissertations from other universities throughout the world
• Psychoanalytic Electronic Publishing (PEP) Archive via EBSCO
• Psychotherapy.net Exclusive Collection
• PsycARTICLES (produced by the APA) via EBSCO
• PsycBOOKS (produced by the APA) via EBSCO
• PsycCRITIQUES (produced by the APA) via EBSCO
• PsycEXTRA (produced by the APA) via EBSCO
• PsycINFO (produced by the APA) via EBSCO
• PsycTESTS (produced by the APA)
• Stahl’s Essential Psychopharmacology
• World Folklore and Folklife – contains information on religious celebrations and rituals, tales, myths, urban legends, and traditional arts and crafts

3. Other Resources

These include online audio lectures, an online library catalog, an online directory of journals and ebooks the library has available in full text, reference assistance (in-person, via email, and via phone), interlibrary loan services, a job and career resources directory, and online library tutorials and guides. Please check our website often to learn of any new additions.

Other Information of Interest

1. What types of financial assistance are available to students at Pacifica and who do I contact for this information?

Pacifica is approved by the U.S. Department of Education for participation in the Direct Stafford and Graduate Plus Loan Programs. Qualified students for the Stafford Loan may borrow up to $20,500 per year and in the Grad-Plus Loan up to the Cost of Attendance minus other financial aid. Repayment on both loans may be deferred while enrolled at least half-time (3 units). Both the Stafford Loan and the Plus Loan programs offer a six-month post-enrollment grace period before repayment begins.

For more detailed information about the financial assistance opportunities available, you may visit our website at www.pacifica.edu or feel free to contact the Financial Aid Office at ext. 136 or by e-mail at financial_aid@pacifica.edu.

2. Are there scholarships available?

Pacifica Educational Assistance: To make education at Pacifica more accessible to students who show high financial need and academic merit, a number of Pacifica Educational Assistance awards are offered each year. Applications are available by request and on the website beginning March 1st. All new students must be accepted to a program of study, complete current FAFSA form and submit the scholarship application/essay by August 15th to qualify. International students do not need to complete the FAFSA form, instead, complete the International Student Addendum included with the scholarship application by August 15th. For details on other institutional scholarship programs, please check our website at www.pacifica.edu or contact the Financial Aid Office.

Pacifica Yellow Ribbon Scholarship: Pacifica is pleased to provide up to six Yellow Ribbon Scholarships each year for qualifying veterans under the Post 9/11 GI Bill on a first-come first-serve basis. Students in the Master’s in Counseling will qualify for up to $6,500 per year, Engaged Humanities will qualify for up to $5,400, and those enrolled in the doctoral programs will qualify for up to $7,800 per year.
Pacifica Matching AmeriCorps Scholarship Program: Pacifica is a proud participant in the Segal AmeriCorps Matching Education Award program and is pleased to offer the Segal AmeriCorps Matching Scholarship to qualified AmeriCorps Alumni enrolled in one of our MA or PhD programs. The matching scholarship will be a dollar-for-dollar match up to $4,275 per year with a maximum of $9,450 throughout enrollment in the program of study. To qualify, students must submit to the Financial Aid Office the AmeriCorps voucher confirming benefit eligibility. A total of five new scholarships will be available on a first-come first-serve basis.

In addition, we recommend students research other sources of educational assistance including foundations, community organizations, their employer, and their state agencies for higher education. The Internet is an excellent resource for research. Feel free to go to our website (http://www.pacifica.edu/Types_Fin_Aid.aspx) to begin your search.

3. **How do I apply for financial aid?**

All students who wish to apply for the federal Direct Loan Programs are required by the Department of Education to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form each year of enrollment. The FAFSA form is available on the web at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students need to include Pacifica’s school code (G31268) to ensure the results are forwarded to the school.

4. **When are fees due?**

Each quarter of the academic year, tuition and residential/non-residential fees are due 14 days prior to the first day of class for your assigned Track. New students who are accepted after this due date, tuition and residential/non-residential fees will be due 14 days from the date they are accepted by Pacifica’s Admissions Office. Students also have the option to prepay the entire year’s tuition and residential/non-residential fees in advance.

Once an applicant is accepted to Pacifica, in order to be enrolled as a student, a non-refundable $250 deposit must be received along with the signed Enrollment Agreement forms. The $250 deposit will be applied toward the first quarter’s tuition charges.

5. **Where do I purchase my textbooks?**

Textbook sales are offered online at bookstore.mbsdirect.net/pacifica.htm.

To determine which books to order, first go to the website. Select which quarter you are buying textbooks for, and then select your program and year of study. Your courses will be listed. Select a course from the list and you will see the required material. If used textbooks are available, you'll have the option of choosing a new or used book.

You may also place your textbook order over the telephone by calling MBS Direct at (800) 325-3252


In the summer months, we make your first quarter's textbooks available for purchase online approximately 6 weeks prior to the start of your classes. After that, you can purchase each quarter's textbooks at the end of the previous quarter. (For example, winter quarter texts are available during the last session of fall quarter.)

Required texts cost approximately $850 per year for new copies. If you purchase your books through Pacifica's online store, at the end of the quarter you will have the opportunity to sell back books that are in demand, which will help with the overall cost of your books.

Online textbook purchases, as well as any purchases made at the Bookstores on campus may not be charged to student accounts. Payment methods include major credit and debit cards, personal checks by mail, or money orders by mail. If you choose to send payment by mail, print and complete a "Mail-In Order Form" from Pacifica's online textbook store.
7. **What if I live outside the US and it’s difficult to have my books shipped?**

Some international students experience long delays shipping textbooks home. If you need to purchase and pick-up your textbooks on campus, please contact the Bookstore. Let us know in advance so that your textbooks can be reserved for you on a quarterly basis. Email: bookstore@pacific.edu

8. **What does the campus Bookstore sell?**

There are Bookstore locations on both campuses which stock, or can special order, research material for papers, theses, and dissertations. The Bookstore features a wide selection of suggested readings for classes and also maintains a dynamic general reading selection. Our collection includes Pacifica faculty publications and emphasizes titles in Depth and Archetypal Psychology and Mythological studies- including many unusual titles, unlikely to be found at other booksellers. The Bookstore also carries a unique selection of gifts, jewelry, figurines, and sundries. Other items include: cards, journals, shawls, handmade local art, Pacifica logo merchandise and clothing, and many more gems.