

GENERAL INFORMATION

The College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) is a multicampus institution with the National Campus located in Palikir, Pohnpei, and a State Campus in each state. The COM-FSM system also includes the FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute which is located in Yap. The area most directly served by the College is the Federated States of Micronesia which includes about two million square miles of the western Pacific Ocean and a population of over 110,000.

MISSION

Historically diverse, uniquely Micronesian and globally connected, the College of Micronesia-FSM is a continuously improving and student centered institute of higher education. The college is committed to assisting in the development of the Federated States of Micronesia by providing academic, career and technical educational opportunities for student learning.

GOALS

The College of Micronesia-FSM, through a cycle of assessment and review, will continuously improve to meet or exceed current accreditation standards and will:

1. Promote learning and teaching for knowledge, skills creativity, intellect and the abilities to seek and analyze information and to communicate effectively;
2. Provide institutional support to foster student success and satisfaction;
3. Create an adequate, health and functional learning and working environment;
4. Foster effective communication;
5. Invest in sufficient, qualified, and effective human resources;
6. Ensure sufficient, and well-manage fiscal resources that maintain financial stability;
7. Build a partnering and services network for community, workforce and economic devement;
8. Promote the uniqueness of our community, cultivate respect for individual difference, and champion diversity; and
9. Provide for continuous improvement of programs, services and college environment.

ACCREDITATION

The College of Micronesia-FSM is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Post-secondary Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. Accreditation was awarded in 1978 and reaffirmed in 1982, 1987, 1992, 1998, and 2005.

HISTORY

- 1963** Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and University of Hawaii create Micronesian Teacher Education Center (MTEC) to provide in-service teacher training.
- 1969** MTEC begins offering pre-service associate of science degree program in teacher education.
- 1970** MTEC becomes Community College of Micronesia (CCM).
- 1974** CCM adds associate degree programs in business management and in-service teacher education through the merging of the College's extension program and district teacher education centers.

Trust Territory School of Nursing in Saipan becomes part of CCM.

- 1975** Associate of arts degree program begins in liberal arts to enable students to transfer to four-year institutions.
- CCM and its School of Nursing in Saipan join Micronesian Occupational Center in Palau to form the College of Micronesia (COM) system.
- Accreditation is granted to CCM by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in the United States.
- 1982** Third-year certificate of achievement programs in elementary education and special education are added.
- 1983** Associate of science degree program in agriculture is added with support from COM Land Grant Program.
- 1986** Associate of science degree program in marine science is added.
- CCM School of Nursing moves from Saipan to Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- 1989** CCM School of Nursing separates from CCM to become COM-Majuro.
- Associate of science degree program in accounting is added.
- 1991** An agreement is signed between the governments of FSM, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau restructuring COM to allow more local autonomy.
- 1992** FSM establishes COM-FSM as a public corporation.
- 1993** CCM becomes COM-FSM, independent from the three-country COM system.
- Certificate of achievement program in preschool teacher education is added.
- Articulation agreement with Chaminade University in Hawaii is signed.
- Continuing Education Centers in the four FSM states are renamed State Campuses.
- 1994** Third-year certificate of achievement program in related services assistant is added.
- 1995** Articulation agreements with Hawaii Pacific University, Guam Community College and University of Guam are signed.
- Third-year certificate of achievement program in educational leadership academy is added.
- 1996** Certificate of achievement program for trial counselors is approved for implementation pending availability of funding.
- Community health sciences programs—health assistant training program (HATP) and assistant medical officer training program (AMOTP) are approved for implementation pending availability of funding.
- Articulation agreements with University of Hawaii at Hilo and Honolulu Community College (aviation mechanics program) are signed.
- National Campus moves from Kolonia to Palikir.
- 1997** Associate of arts degree program in media



studies and associate of science degree program in early childhood education are approved pending availability of funding.

Articulation agreement with Eastern Oregon University is signed.

Associate of arts degree programs in Micronesian studies and liberal arts/education and associate of science degree program in hotel and restaurant management are added.

- 1998** Associate of science degree program in computer information systems is approved for implementation.

Agreement is signed with University of Guam (UOG) to establish a branch UOG campus at the National Campus and offer fourth-year courses in elementary education to enable students to earn their bachelor's degree from UOG.

Revised certificate of achievement programs in bookkeeping and general studies are approved for students at the State Campuses.

Certificate of achievement programs in carpentry, masonry, plumbing, construction electricity, refrigeration and air conditioning, electronics, and career education are approved for implementation.

The FSM leadership designates COM-FSM as lead agency for the management of the Micronesian Maritime and Fisheries Academy (MMFA).

- 1999** The collaborative fourth-year elementary education program between COM-FSM and UOG is implemented.

Memorandum of Understanding between COM-FSM and the FSM National Government is signed to re-open MMFA as the FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute in Yap.



- 2000** Certificate of achievement programs in agriculture and food technology and in hotel and restaurant operations are added.

- 2001** Third-year certificate of achievement programs in accounting and in business administration are approved for implementation.

Certificate of achievement programs in secretarial science and in cabinet making/furniture making are approved for implementation.

Articulation agreements with Guam Community College (vocational programs) and University of Idaho are signed.

- 2002** Bachelor of Arts degree program in elementary education is approved; implementation pending WASC approval.

New associate of science degree program in business administration replaces current associate of science degree programs in business administration and in accounting.

Applied associate of science degree programs in telecommunications and electronics technology are approved.

- 2003** Applied associate of science degree programs in building technology and in building maintenance and repair are approved.

Certificate of achievement in law enforcement is approved.

General education core is established for applied associate of science degree programs.

Articulation agreements with University of Phoenix-Online Campus, Brigham Young University-Hawaii, National University and Hawaii Pacific University are signed.

2004 Articulation agreement entered with Brigham Young University at Provo—Utah

All programs and courses modified to include expected student learning outcomes.

2006 Articulation agreement entered with UOG.

Certificate of achievement program in Small Engine, Equipment and Outboard Motor Repair.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

The College awards associate degrees to students who complete a prescribed two-year program of study. The time is extended for students who need to complete preparation classes before beginning the degree program.

Associate of arts degrees are offered in:

- Liberal Arts
- Liberal Arts/Health Career Opportunity Program
- Liberal Arts/Media Studies
- Liberal Arts/Special Education
- Micronesian Studies
- Teacher Preparation

Associate of science degrees are offered in:

- General Agriculture
- Business Administration
- Computer Information Systems
- Early Childhood Education
- Hospitality and Tourism Management
- Marine Science
- Teacher Education-Elementary

Associate of applied science degrees are offered in:

- Building Technology
- Electronic Technology
- Telecommunications Technology

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

The College awards certificates of achievement to students who complete a prescribed one-year program of study.

Third-year certificates of achievement are offered in:

- Accounting
- General Business
- Related Services Assistant
- Teacher Preparation-Elementary
- Teacher Preparation-Special Education

Certificates of achievement are also offered in the following areas:

- Agriculture and Food Technology
- Bookkeeping
- Community Health Sciences-Health Assistant Training Program
- General Studies

Law Enforcement
 Preschool Teacher Education
 Secretarial Science
 Trial Counselors
 Building Maintenance
 Cabinet Making/Furniture Making
 Career Education
 Carpentry
 Construction Electricity
 Electronic Engineering Technology
 Masonry
 Plumbing
 Refrigeration and Air Conditioning
 Small Engine, Equipment and Outboard Motor Repair

Other short-term certificate programs are offered at the State Campuses in response to expressed local needs. Certificates of completion, attendance or participation are awarded depending on the length and nature of the programs.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The National and State campuses offer various programs in vocational education and trade training. The associate of science degree program in agriculture is the only vocational program offered at the National Campus. A mandate for the State campuses is to offer vocational and trade training programs that meet the needs of the local communities. The vocational education certificate programs offer a chance to develop technical skills and provide a pathway for future training, education, and employment. Programs in the trade areas are not always available at a particular campus, but are offered on demand when qualified instructors and appropriate facilities are available. New initiatives include the addition of associate of applied science degree programs and the apprenticeship program which are in response to the need for highly skilled workforce. These programs prepare students for technical employment.



Another initiative is the use of technology in the delivery of the associate of applied science degree programs in telecommunications and in electronics technology. In addition to full-time programs, the State Campuses also offer customized industry training to meet specific labor force needs and demands.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Some departments and divisions under the Vice President for Instructional Affairs are incorporating distance education techniques and technologies into the educational system. The College currently offers some courses through the World Wide Web. In the near future, the College plans to offer other programs by way of videoconferencing and other forms of conventional communication techniques.

ACADEMIC YEAR

The academic year, which begins in August, is divided into two sixteen-week semester terms and a six-week summer session. (Financial aid defines the academic year as at least 30 weeks of instructional time in which full-time students are expected to complete at least 24 semester credits.)

NATIONAL CAMPUS

The National Campus is situated on a 73 acre site near the FSM capital in Palikir, six miles from Kolonia. The student body at the National Campus is composed primarily of recent high school graduates from the four states in the FSM. These students come to the National Campus with bilingual or trilingual backgrounds representing eight different Micronesian languages and as many cultures. Approximately eight hundred fifty full-time students are enrolled each semester in either degree programs or programs leading to a certificate of achievement.

The thirteen buildings include classrooms, learning resources center, recreation, student center, cafeteria, residence halls for men and for women, offices for faculty and administration, a multipurpose gymnasium, and maintenance facilities.

OTHER CAMPUSES

In addition to the National Campus, the College of Micronesia-FSM is comprised of four State Campuses, one in each of the four states, and the FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute in Yap. Each campus is headed by a Director. The priorities of the State Campuses are to provide short and long term, academic and vocational, certificate and degree programs as dictated by the needs of the local communities and governments and to provide courses and programs to bridge the gap between high school and college. In addition to instruction and extension services, staff also provides support in the areas of student services, learning resources, and business services.

COM-FSM/Chuuk is located on the island of Weno in Chuuk State. It serves approximately 400 part-time students each semester. At present it occupies rented buildings located along the waterfront in the business section of Weno. Plans call for construction of new facilities outside the business area on its own campus. COM-FSM/Chuuk offers associate degree programs in teacher education—elementary and in early childhood education and certificate of achievement programs in general studies, bookkeeping and preschool teacher education. In addition, it offers General Education Development (GED) preparation for high school dropouts, an Intensive English/Mathematics Program to strengthen basic skills, developmental coursework in English and math to enable students to qualify for admission into degree programs, customized training programs in the area of vocational education, and specialized courses in local customs, languages and skills. The Cooperative Extension Services (CES) component of the Land Grant Program has been integrated into the operations of the Chuuk Campus. The campus also receives TRIO funds to run an Upward Bound Program which serves 60 students on an annual basis in cooperation with Chuuk High School, and Peer Counseling Center.

COM-FSM/Pohnpei is located in downtown Kolonia, enrolls over 550 students each semester in various degree and certificate programs. The Division of Hospitality and Tourism offers an associate degree in hospitality and tourism management and conducts short-term hospitality training for area businesses. The Division of Technology and Trade offers applied associate of science degree programs in Electronics Technology, Building Technology, Telecommunications, as well as certificates in Building Maintenance and Repair, Carpentry, Cabinet-making/Furniture-making, Construction Electricity, Electronic Engineering Technology, and an Apprenticeship program in Building maintenance and various other trades. The Division of Technology and Trade also serves as the center for a Computerized Distance Education system for Electronics (NIDA) throughout the FSM. Other certificates offered at Pohnpei Campus include general studies, bookkeeping, secretarial science, trial counselors, community health sciences—health assistant

training program, and agriculture and food technology. To help students succeed at the college level, Pohnpei Campus hosts two TRIO programs—Educational Talent Search Program and Upward Bound Program—that serve elementary and secondary school students in cooperation with Pohnpei State Department of Education. Developmental English and math classes continue to be a key component of many of the programs at Pohnpei Campus, including a GED program offered in conjunction with the FSM Department of Adult Education. Pohnpei Campus is also home to the Pohnpei Business Development Center (PBDC). By recruiting experts from within the college system and community, Pohnpei Campus is able to offer customized training programs and continuing education classes, including computer skills, English, business management, building technology, customer service, and leisure classes such as cultural dance and local language classes. The Cooperative Extension Services (CES) component of the Land Grant Program has been integrated into the operations of the Pohnpei Campus.

COM-FSM/Kosrae is located adjacent to the K-12 complex. COM-FSM/Kosrae serves about 350 students each semester. It offers an associate degree program in teacher education -elementary and four certificate of achievement programs in general studies, bookkeeping, trial counselors and agriculture and food technology. COM-FSM/Kosrae also offers GED preparation for high school drop-outs, an Intensive English/Mathematics Program to strengthen basic skills, developmental coursework in English and mathematics to help students gain admission into degree programs, an Upward Bound Program, Gear Up Program, and Peer Counseling Center. Like the other State Campuses, the CES component of the Land Grant Program is fully integrated with the activities of the COM-FSM/Kosrae. COM-FSM/Kosrae is also actively involved with an Agriculture Experiment Station (AES) project.

COM-FSM/Yap is located on the island of Yap. It serves 400 students during fall and spring semesters and around 245 students during the summer session and in teacher education—elementary and early childhood education and four certificate programs in general studies, bookkeeping, preschool education, and hotel and restaurant operations. In addition, it offers GED preparation for high school drop-outs, developmental English and mathematics courses for high school graduates and an Intensive English/Mathematics Program. Yap Campus has been active in offering courses in business-related subjects to support the Yap Business Incubator Program. Like the other campuses, the CES component of the Land Grant Program is a part of the operations of COM-FSM/Yap. Yap Campus also hosts an Upward Bound Program and a Peer Counseling Center.

FSM FISHERIES AND MARITIME INSTITUTE (FSM-FMI) is located on the island of Yap, occupying the facilities built in the late 1960's for the Loran Station operated by the United States Coast Guard. The Institute is situated some six miles north of the capital, Colonia. Beginning 2000, FSM/FMI began accepting students on a regular basis from ninth grade to high school graduates from all over the FSM. However, beginning 2001, only high school graduates were accepted into the programs when it was found that non-high school graduates could not cope with the programs, particularly the English and math subjects. Offered at the institute are fishing, navigation and marine engineering programs. Other similar programs are taken to reinforce the learning processes for those core programs offered. These programs, particularly navigation and marine engineering, are offered in accordance with the standards and requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended in 1995 (STCW Convention). The STCW convention is the international treaty which prescribes the minimum qualification for seafarers worldwide and, having becoming a party to the treaty on October 14, 1998, the FSM has indicated its intention to provide training and maintain the qualifications of seafarers in accordance with the standards and requirements prescribed in the Convention. (Detailed information regarding admission requirements, program, and courses for FSM-FMI is located in separate publication.)

LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER

The Learning Resources Center (LRC), at the main campus of the College provides students, faculty, and other community members with informational resources and services primarily to complement and supplement the College's programs and curricula.

The LRC offers over 34,000 titles in various collections both print and non-print materials held on site. The major collections include:

General Collection; Reference Collection including over 300 CD-ROM's; Micronesia-Pacific Collection—a unique collection of materials on Oceania with specific emphasis on Micronesia including documents from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community; Curriculum Resources—samples of children's literature and K-8 instructional materials; Newspapers, Magazines, & Serial—over 175 print titles and the EBSCO electronic database offering 400 full text journals and abstracts of another 500; UN Documents—publications of various agencies within the United Nations organization; U.S. Government Documents—publications of various U.S. government agencies; TTPI and FSM Archives—materials from the U.S. Navy and U.S. Trust Territory eras along with the College archive documents.

Internet access is available at 25 computer stations. An additional 20 stations are available and networked to printers for application software use for typing assignments and completing class projects.

Students or faculty needing materials not held locally may use the LRC's Inter-Library Loan service provided through electronic document sharing or requests for the materials from other libraries in the region.

Media and Instructional Technology Center (MITC) provides audio-visual, media production, and distance education technology services to support the academic programs of the College and public relations. The PEACESAT communication systems are housed at the MITC and serve as links for direct communication to other parts of Micronesia and the world. The PEACESAT system is capable of providing interactive and synchronous videoconferencing with outside institutions. The MITC houses a video collection of over 3000 titles including recordings of College and community events over the years. The MITC also provides ID production services for the College using some of the latest computerized identification technologies.



INTERNET ACCESS



Access to internet for research purposes and e-mail are available 24 hours at no cost to COM-FSM students at both the National Campus and the State Campuses. Currently, network connections and internet access is funded by the National Campus Information Technology (IT) Division.

At the National Campus, student internet access stations are available in three computer labs, the LRC, and the residence halls. A campus-wide area network links the National Campus and State Campus labs to the internet.

Currently, each State Campus provides an internet access computer lab for students. Computer equipment for labs is funded by the technology fee generated by individual campuses. Development of local area networks in these computer labs and the LRC has been completed.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Land Grant: The College of Micronesia (COM) was designated a Land Grant college in 1981 through Section 506 (a) of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Public Law 92-318, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 301 note). As such, when the three colleges of the COM system became autonomous institutions under separate governing boards in 1993, administration of the Land Grant programs remained under COM. Land Grant programs are currently extended to COM-FSM through a Memorandum of Understanding with COM.

Cooperative Extension Services (CES) component of the Land Grant programs focuses on the need for a well-informed populace to ensure wise and judicious management of the limited human and natural resources needed to support a viable FSM economy. The challenge is ensuring a constantly improving quality of life, while maintaining a strong cultural identity and health environment. The CES programs are based at the State Campuses.

Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) program provides funding to conduct research or verify experiments that bear directly upon the agricultural and fisheries industries. AES research facilities are located in Pohnpei, Kosrae and Yap.

Resident Instruction (RI) program includes the College's associate degree programs in general agriculture and marine science.

Talent Search Program (TSP) at Pohnpei Campus provides services to selected students in grades 6-12 who are from low income and first generation families. The goal of the TSP is to follow these students through their educational career, motivating and helping them realize their educational goals. Among the services provided are tutorial sessions, field trips, guest speakers, off-island educational opportunities, and summer academies. After school and Saturday morning tutorial sessions are organized and conducted by COM-FSM students.

Upward Bound Program: The Upward Bound (UB) programs for Chuuk and Kosrae Campuses were approved in 1995 and for Pohnpei and Yap Campuses in 2000.

The purpose of the UB is to address basic deficiencies in Micronesia's youth by working with secondary institutions and guiding selected students academically and socially so that their chances of obtaining a college education are enhanced.

Student Support Services Program: The Student Support Services Program (SSSP) is designed to provide comprehensive academic support services to increase the retention and transfer rate of eligible students and also to foster an institutional climate that is supportive of the success of low-income, first generation college students and students with disabilities. The students who are accepted into the program receive academic advisement, personal counseling, peer mentoring, individual and group tutoring, and other academic enrichment activities designed to help students adjust to campus life, succeed academically, and complete their academic programs at COM-FSM. The SSSP serves 160 eligible students at the National Campus. The SSSP was approved in 2001.

Peer Counseling Center: The Peer Counseling Center is funded by UNFPA and Title X Family Planning Program. The purpose of the Center is to promote a positive collective experience while at COM-FSM. Because students are in touch with their fellow students and are therefore more effective in responding to issues that concern them, peer educators are recruited and trained to reach students with information on health education and prevention. This is done in an atmosphere which fosters understanding, sensitivity, trust, respect, and fairness. The aim is to

help students understand and analyze issues that may affect them so they can make healthy choices. A Center is located at the National, Chuuk, Kosrae, and Yap Campuses.

Gear Up Program: The Gear Up Program at Kosrae Campus is designed to prepare selected students from grades six through ten to attend college. It provides tutoring in basic subjects, especially English and mathematics. It utilizes after-school study sessions, an intensive summer program and counseling and mentoring to apply academic subjects to college life and career paths. The program also increases attendance, lowers dropout rates and increases parental involvement in students' educational progress.

STATEMENT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The College of Micronesia-FSM complies with Title VI of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The College does not discriminate in matters of employment or admission to educational programs and activities because of race, color, place of origin or ancestry, marital status, sex, religious or political preference, age, or physical handicap per Public Law No. 7-79.

The President's executive assistant acts as the authorized agent in matters concerning section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This notice is in compliance with Paragraph 84.8 of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

STUDENT EDUCATIONAL RECORD POLICY

Educational records are kept by the College on individual students to facilitate their educational development. The Admissions and Records Office keeps records on the academic history of all students. The Financial Aid Office keeps records on financial assistance to each student and their academic progress. The Business Office keeps records on individual student accounts. Faculty and staff members may also keep informal records relating to their functional responsibilities with individual students. Students have the right to know the purpose, contents, and locations of information kept on them as part of their educational records.

Students have the right to gain access to and challenge the content of their educational records. The right of challenge does not include questioning substantive judgments that are correctly recorded, such as a grade in a course.

Students have the right to have some control over the disclosure of information from the records. They can expect that information in their educational records is kept confidential, and disclosed only with their permission or under provisions of the law.

Parents also have the right to expect confidentiality of certain information about them in the educational records and, under certain conditions, to gain access to the information in their child's educational record. However, since the College considers all students independent, that information which may be released to them without the student's specific permission is limited to directory information.

ADMISSIONS

Admission to the College of Micronesia-FSM is based primarily upon evidence of the student's ability to profit from the educational programs of the College. The admissions policy is established by the Board of Regents and administered by the President of the College through the Admissions Board. All records submitted by applicants become the property of the College.