



Field Epidemiology Training Program

Strengthening Health Interventions in the Pacific

About SHIP

Strengthening Health Interventions in the Pacific (SHIP) is a Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) modeled after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) FETP and has been adapted for the Pacific region. SHIP is a program of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) supported by the Pacific Community (SPC). SHIP is accredited by the Fiji National University (FNU) and is jointly implemented by PPHSN partners.

Since 2015, the Pacific Island Health Officers' Association (PIHOA) has been leading SHIP implementation in the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPIs) of American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Guam, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and Palau in close collaboration with CDC.

From Work, for Work, at Work

SHIP uses a workplace-based approach to strengthen health agency data literacy, epidemiology, and surveillance capacities and systems by:

- Building a strong foundation of understanding and application of the principles of epidemiology and surveillance;
- Training local health professionals in the management of health data; and
- Developing and strengthening components of local surveillance and information processes and systems.

SHIP is planned and delivered in close collaboration with local health agencies. It is guided by local priorities and actively draws upon local information to connect classroom instruction with practical application in the workplace. Health agency staff are trained to use locally-sourced health information and data to develop and inform policies, practices, and programming, and to drive improvements in local surveillance and health information systems (HIS).

"Completing all four modules and a final project for the DDM course improved my skills in data analysis and public health surveillance and put the tools I learned to use in my daily work, including infographics, data reports/dashboards, workflow charts and standard operating procedures."

Dr. Anaise Uso,

2020 Certificate Graduate,
American Samoa

Degrees and Structure

SHIP is comprised of three degree pathways. Applicants are required to register as students with FNU. After the completion of degree requirements, successful participants will be conferred the following:

- Post-Graduate **Certificate** in Field Epidemiology (PGCFE)
- Post-Graduate **Diploma** in Applied Epidemiology (PGDAE)
- **Master** of Applied Epidemiology (MAE)

Each degree is comprised of didactic and project-based learning approaches often delivered over the course of 12 months. Participants learn by actively participating in a combination of classroom-based teaching and structured activities. Face-to-face sessions are supplemented by online self-study course materials and activities. Students plan, design, and implement selected projects prioritized by their respective workplace supervisors and health leadership utilizing local data and information.

"SHIP provides teachings not otherwise granted for our island, which allows us to continue our work while simultaneously learning"

Cameron Murphy,

2023 Certificate Graduate, and
PIHOA Amy St. Pierre Maternal and Child Pacific Public Health Fellow,
Guam

Certificate	Diploma	Master
<p>PGCFE participants will gain the skills of an epidemiology technician skills, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Excel-based tools to collect, analyze, interpret, and use health data to inform decision-making • Understand concepts and methods in field epidemiology • Understand the basics of surveillance of communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) • Investigate and respond to public health emergencies 	<p>PGDAE participants will develop skills as advanced epidemiology technician, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use advanced Excel-based techniques to understand and apply statistical methods to analyze a health problem • Develop research protocols, conduct research, and report results • Develop solutions to challenges in specific components of health systems 	<p>MAE participants will build skills as field epidemiologists, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate and respond to public health emergencies • Establish or evaluate an HIS or intervention program • Design, implement, and report on epidemiological studies prioritized by the health agency
<p>After completing the Certificate degree, graduates will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate existing, well-designed data systems • Assure good-quality data inputs • Produce, understand, and explain standard, high-quality reports • Detect and respond to public health emergencies, apply skills in communicable and NCD surveillance and monitoring to improve public health responses • Use health data to inform health interventions and policies 	<p>After completing the Diploma degree, graduates will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform more complex data analysis • Apply research methods and findings to solve issues in health services and systems 	<p>After completing the Master's degree, graduates will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze and report on complex health data • Report and make recommendations to prevent and control outbreaks • Evaluate and strengthen systems of preparedness, surveillance and response for future emergencies • Establish or strengthen components of HIS, or health interventions

Who Can Apply?

SHIP is designed for health professionals who have job duties that require the collection, management, analysis, or reporting of health or health-related data, and are committed to strengthen their data literacy and epidemiology/surveillance skills to execute their job duties with confidence and a high degree of competency. Typical applicants include, but are not limited to program staff, data/information system administrators and managers, and other administrative/management staff.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree, or 3+ years of health sector experience.
- Supervisor's reference.
- Health agency endorsement.

Applicants without an undergraduate health degree or have less than the required years of professional experience, may be considered for enrollment on a case-by-case basis.

Cost and How to Apply

SHIP is delivered at no cost to USAPI health professionals. For application forms and details, please send a request to ship@pihoa.org. Additional SHIP information can be found at the following links:

- <https://www.pihoa.org/regional-initiatives/health-information-management-systems-surveillance-2/strengthening-public-health-interventions-in-the-pacific-ship-program/>
- <https://www.pphsn.net/services/ship-programme/>

Contact Us

PIHOA

Executive Secretariat

808-537-3131

733 Bishop St, Suite 1820
Honolulu, HI 96813

Secretariat Guam Office

671-735-3337

414 West Soledad Ave, Suite 906
Hagåtña, GU 96910



www.pihoa.org



ship@pihoa.org

