

Regional Education Master's Online Training in Evaluation (REMOTE)

By Mary Church, PhD

Background

Pacific Resources for Education and Learning's (PREL's) mission is Building Capacity Through Education. Through funds provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF), PREL and the University of Hawai'i developed a distance learning graduate program in evaluation specifically designed to meet this mission and the unique needs of participants in the geographically vast and diverse Pacific region: the Regional Education Master's Online Training in Evaluation (REMOTE).

In spring 2005, PREL received a grant from the NSF to develop a curriculum for implementing a "Distance Learning Graduate Program in Evaluation for the U.S. Affiliated Pacific." This allowed us to design a course of study, establish connections with all parties and institutions, and attract Pacific educators from communities where the need is great. More recently, PREL received an additional grant to implement the curriculum through the University of Hawai'i. This program is the first and only distance learning master's degree-level training in evaluation offered through a U.S.-based institution of higher education.

The basic premise of this degree program is that program evaluation is an important function of an educational organization's work, and that training in evaluation for key personnel, including program administrators and planners, will develop the capacity of the U.S.-affiliated Pacific to conduct evaluations of its educational programs. This, in turn, will foster improved educational outcomes for Pacific island students.

Because considerations of the cultural context of evaluation and inclu-

sion of evaluators from these contexts are critical to understanding programs and their effects, we developed REMOTE using local input and examples. The intended impact is to build the capacity of educational leaders in the Pacific to appropriately and effectively conduct and utilize program evaluation.

Curriculum

Students will be drawn from island contexts across the U.S.-affiliated

master's degree program within the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Department of Educational Foundations. The Educational Foundations department focuses on comparative, international, global, environmental, and multicultural concerns of education.

The 2-year program of study requires completion of 30 credit hours over the course of five semesters, as follows:

Semester	Course
Summer 2007 (in-person)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Educational Research • Educational Statistics
Fall 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Evaluation • Seminar in Educational Foundations
Spring 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundations of Evaluation Theory • Survey Research Design and Analysis
Fall 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminar in Educational Psychology: Educational Evaluation • Social and Cultural Contexts of Education
Spring 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Development Education • Directed Research (Evaluation Project)
Late Spring 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduation

Photo by Helen Au

Pacific, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap), Guam, Hawai'i, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. An initial cohort of 15–20 students will be competitively selected and provided full funding for tuition, travel, and related educational expenses.

REMOTE incorporates a specialization in evaluation to an existing

Courses will be offered primarily through distance learning in a hybrid asynchronous/synchronous format. Instruction is self-paced within the constraints of assignment deadlines, and students interact with faculty and other students through an in-person orientation, online course platforms, videoconferencing, and site-based learning groups.

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