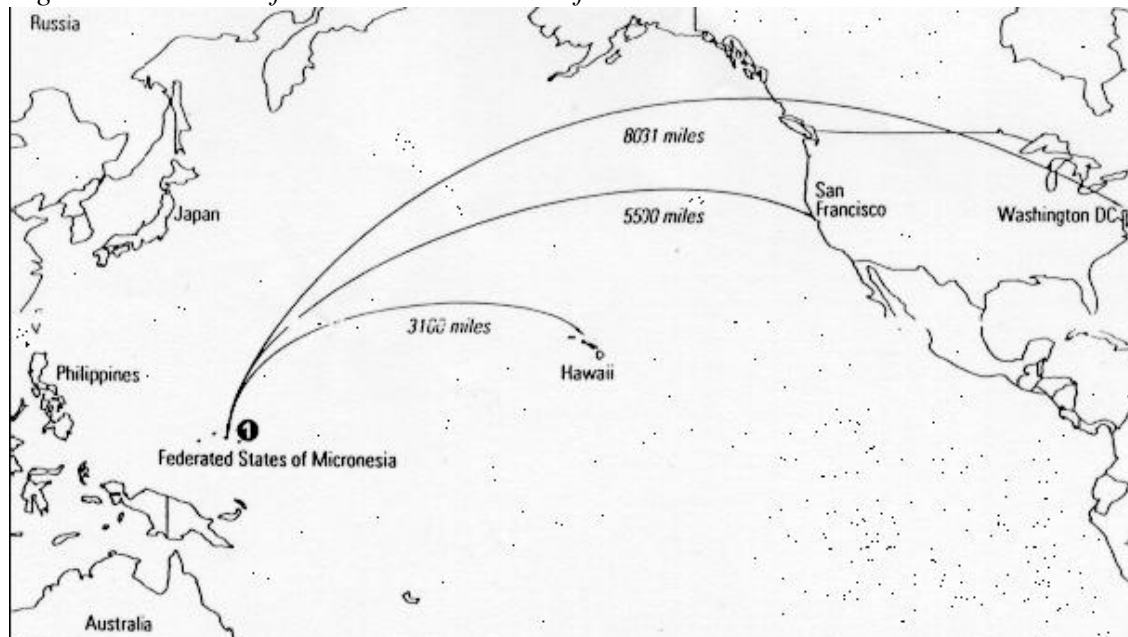


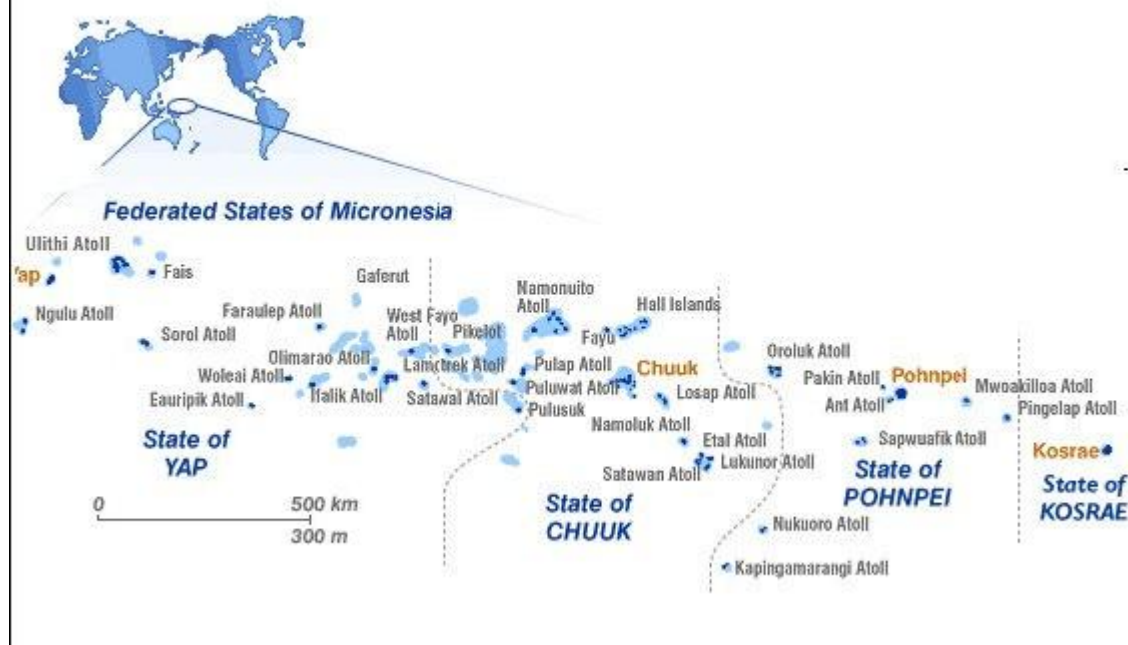
**HISTORY AND FACTUAL DESCRIPTION**

The College of Micronesia - FSM (COM-FSM) is located in the Federated States of Micronesia. This former trust territory is comprised of 607 islands covering almost 2 million square miles of the Western Pacific Ocean and is populated by approximately 107,973 residents from fifteen different and distinct traditional cultures and languages. The COM-FSM is a two-year, English language speaking institution offering 40 certificates and degrees.

*Figure 1. Location of the Federated States of Micronesia*



*Figure 2. Details of the Federated States of Micronesia*



Structured to serve the needs of a developing nation, COM-FSM is one college located at six sites which are functionally referred to as campuses in the four island states of the Federated States of Micronesia. The administrative center is located at the National campus in Palikir, Pohnpei, and where students from the four FSM states who are interested in the course offerings of the National campus are served. Besides the National campus, Pohnpei is also home to another campus referred to as Pohnpei campus which is located in Kolonia Town. Each of the other three states also has a state campus. Kosrae has a state campus in Tofol, Chuuk has a state campus in Weno, and Yap has a state campus in Colonia. The FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute is also located on the island of Yap.

*Figure 3 The College of Micronesia-FSM six sites on four islands*

<p><b>Chuuk Campus</b> located in Weno, Chuuk, with approximately 580 students taking a variety of vocational, degree and certificate programs.</p>	<p><b>FSM Fisheries &amp; Maritime Institute</b> located in Yap with approximately 49 students specializing in fisheries engineering and navigation.</p>	<p><b>Kosrae Campus</b> located in Tofol, Kosrae, with approximately 233 predominantly local vocational students.</p>	<p><b>National Campus</b> located in Palikir, Pohnpei, housing the central administration offices and serves approximately 1006 students from the states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap.</p>	<p><b>Pohnpei Campus</b> located in Kolonia, Pohnpei, with approximately 713 predominantly local vocational students</p>	<p><b>Yap Campus</b> located in Colonia. Yap, with approximately 228 predominantly local vocational students</p>
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Higher education was first established for this developing nation in 1963 when the United Nations Strategic Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) and the University of Hawaii created the Micronesian Teacher Education Center (MTEC) to provide in-service teacher training opportunities. When the focus of MTEC changed from in-service to pre-service teacher education, the center was renamed Community College of Micronesia (CCM). CCM expanded into additional areas, such as business management, liberal arts, and continuing education, and was first accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in 1978.

In each TTPI district, teacher education centers provided in-service teacher education closer to home. When CCM was united with other postsecondary institutions in the TTPI under the College of Micronesia (COM) system, administration of the EC centers was placed under the COM main office and became known as continuing education centers (CE). After the TTPI split into three independent nations—the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia—the three institutions in the COM system also separated. In April 1993, the College of Micronesia-FSM separated from the larger system and became an autonomous college with the mission of exclusively serving students in the Federated States of Micronesia. This move included placing the CE centers located in the FSM under COM-FSM.

Once autonomous from the larger College of Micronesia, the COM-FSM board of regents created an ambitious vision for higher education as a strategy to develop the employment capacity of Micronesian citizens. In the 1994 - 1998 strategic plan it was envisioned that the four continuing education centers on Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae would each become comprehensive community colleges and the former Community College of Micronesia located in Pohnpei would become a baccalaureate degree-granting institution for the FSM. The board renamed the CE centers to state campuses to reflect this new mission. Through experience and the assessment of its capabilities, the college abandoned the concept of creating a college system with community colleges in each of the four states and a baccalaureate degree-granting campus. The college now sees itself as a two-year degree college, existing in six different locations and providing degree and certificate programs for those who can benefit from them.

In response to FSM President Manny Mori's 2007 inaugural speech, where he mentioned his interest in the long term future of the college, the college underwent a voluntary review of three future options: 1) community college (2 year college with not more than one 4-year program); 2) community college (2 year college with not more than one 4-year programs, but with an extensive network of degree offerings with other Institutions of Higher Education (IHE)) and 3) full 4-year university. The college is still a comprehensive community college with the National campus focusing on degree and professional certificate programs, four state campuses focusing on developmental vocational and training, and a specialized FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute.

## **Precursors**

**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 is 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** The College was placed on Warning by the ACCJC on the basis of self study report and visit; Articulation agreement entered with Brigham Young University at Provo—Utah. All programs and courses modified to include expected student learning outcomes.

**2005** Teach out at Chuuk site was implemented as the College improved facilities and services in response to the Warning issued; Warning was removed and accreditation reaffirmed by ACCJC on the basis of progress report and visit; Articulation agreement entered into with University of Guam on the third-year programs in accounting and general business. Certificate of achievement program in Small Engine, Equipment and Outboard Motor Repair.

**2006** Associate of science degree program in nursing is approved pending funding for the program; Agreement for Academic Cooperation with Michigan State University is approved.

**2007** The Associate of science degree program in general agriculture is renamed to associate of science degree program in agriculture and natural resources.

**2008** A multiple entry/multiple exit Public Health Training Program which includes a certificate of achievement in basic public health, advanced certificate of achievement in public health, associate of science degree in public health, and third-year certificate of achievement in public health is approved.