



CMI

College of the Marshall Islands

Accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges

P.O. Box 1258
Uluga Campus
Majuro, Marshall Islands, MH 96960

Tel: (692) 625-3394/3291/4931
Fax: (692) 625-7203
Email: bor.regents@cmi.edu

COLLEGE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

BOARD RESOLUTION No: 2025 - 017

“A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROGRAM CURRICULUM AND BUDGET PROJECTIONS FOR THE NEW AA IN MARSHALLESE STUDIES”

WHEREAS, the College of the Marshall Islands Act of 1992 includes under the responsibilities of the Board of Regents (“Board”) to “approve programs of instruction”; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new degree program is highly aligned with the College Mission; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new program reflects appropriate breadth, depth, and expected learning outcomes for an associate degree; and

WHEREAS, the Curriculum Committee has recommended the Program Curriculum, the Budget Committee has recommended the budget projections, and the Executive Council has recommended both documents; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Board approves the program curriculum and budget projections for the Associate of Arts in Marshallese Studies, to be offered from spring 2026, subject to any ACCJC substantive change requirements.

I, **Thomas Kijiner Jr.**, Acting Chair of the Board, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at the meeting of the Board on November 25, 2025 at which a quorum was present and voted.

Thomas Kijiner Jr.
Acting Chair, Board of Regents
College of the Marshall Islands

CMI PROGRAM CURRICULUM PROGRAM ACTION

Program Name: Associate of Arts in Marshallese Studies

Program Type: _____ Bachelor's Degree (120-150 credits, with at least 40 upper division credits and 36 general education credits, including 9 upper division general education credits)

☒ Associate Degree (60-75 credits)

_____ Advanced Specialization Certificate (24-36 credits, half upper division)

_____ Certificate of Completion (24-45 credits)

_____ Certificate of Achievement (15 or fewer credits)

Type of Action:

☒ New Program (attach budget approved by the budget committee and approved course outlines)

Connection to College planning document(s): _____

_____ Substantive Revision (attach narrative justification for changes, budget approved by the budget committee, and approved course outlines)

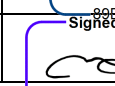
_____ Non-substantive Revision

_____ Reinstitution of Archived Program (attach budget approved by the budget committee and approved course outlines)

Connection to College planning document(s): _____

_____ Reaffirmation of Program (only allowable if program completion rate exceeds ISS, the benchmark has been met for the majority of PLO assessments, and there is no evidence of inequitable levels of achievement across subpopulations; attach most recent program review and approved course outlines)

Approvals:

	Name	Signature	Date
Department Chair	Dr. Mylast E. Bilimon		11/24/2025
Curriculum Committee Chair	Mr. Desmond Doulatram		11/23/2025
Dean	Mr. Edward Alfonso		11/24/2025
VPASA	Dr. Elizabeth Switaj		11/24/2025
President*	Meitaka Kendall-Lekka		11/26/2025

BOR Chair*	Thomas Kijiner Jr.	Signed by: <u>Thomas Kijiner, Jr.</u> 11/25/2025
-------------------	--------------------	--

*Required for new programs, substantive changes to programs, and institutions of programs only.

CMI PROGRAM CURRICULUM Program Guide

Program Name: Associate of Arts in Marshallese Studies

Department: Marshallese Studies Department

Meta-major: N/A Society, Culture and Communication

Transfer major(s): N/A

Total Credits: 62 **Semesters to Complete:** 4 yrs **Total Weeks:** **CIP No.** 05.0299

Number of Credits that can be earned through hybrid classes: _____

Number of Credits that can be earned through distance education: _____

Program purpose:

This program is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the Republic of the Marshall Islands' (RMI) history, culture, society, government and politics, economy, and language arts. The A.A degree equips students for careers in the government, and/or as teachers in the primary, secondary, and higher education, and/or to become Marshallese scholars. Additionally, this degree is designed to help students successfully if they choose to seek further higher education outside of the RMI.

Summary description of program content:

There are 10 Marshallese Studies courses which are core courses that students must take. Alongside these 10 core courses, the General Education courses are also required. Because this degree is designed to accommodate social studies and Marshallese language arts, other required courses that are necessary are from other programs such as, SOC 140, PI 260, and HIS 132 from the Liberal arts program; EDU 285 and EDU 211 from the Education program; lastly AGF 204 from the Agroforestry program. The total credits for the Marshallese Studies degree is 62 credits.

Need or demand for program:

The college's mission states that the College of the Marshall Islands is the center for the study of Marshallese culture. Since 2014, the Marshallese Studies program has been a certificate program. The program has since then produced a number of students who are certified in Marshallese social studies and language arts. There are now enough courses in the Marshallese Studies program along with courses from other programs for the Marshallese Studies to offer an associate of arts degree in Marshallese Studies.

Connection to College mission:

CMI's Mission:

The College of the Marshall Islands will provide our community with access to quality, higher and further educational services, prioritize student success through engagement in relevant Academic, Career and Technical Education, and be a center for the study of Marshallese Culture. It will also provide intellectual resources and facilitate research specific to the needs of the nation.

Connection:

By offering an associate degree in Marshallese studies, the college is doing its job in providing to our community higher and quality educational services, but what's special about a Marshallese degree is, it's an academic degree that's for Marshallese by Marshallese. It truly adds more value to CMI being the center for the study of culture. A degree in Marshallese will provide and stimulate research about the Marshall Islands, thus aligning with the mission's "providing research specific to the needs of the nation."

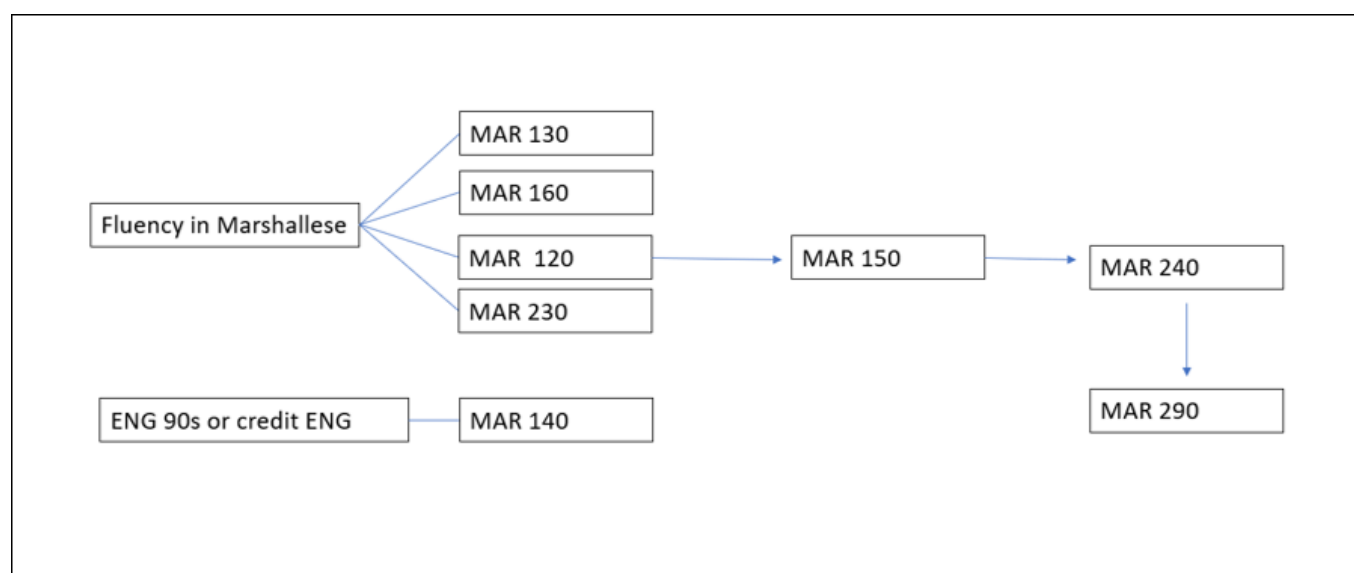
Connection to department mission:

The mission of the Marshallese Studies is to educate, develop, and train Marshallese community members, teachers, and scholars in Marshallese Studies through academic-based instructional classes and community-based seminars.

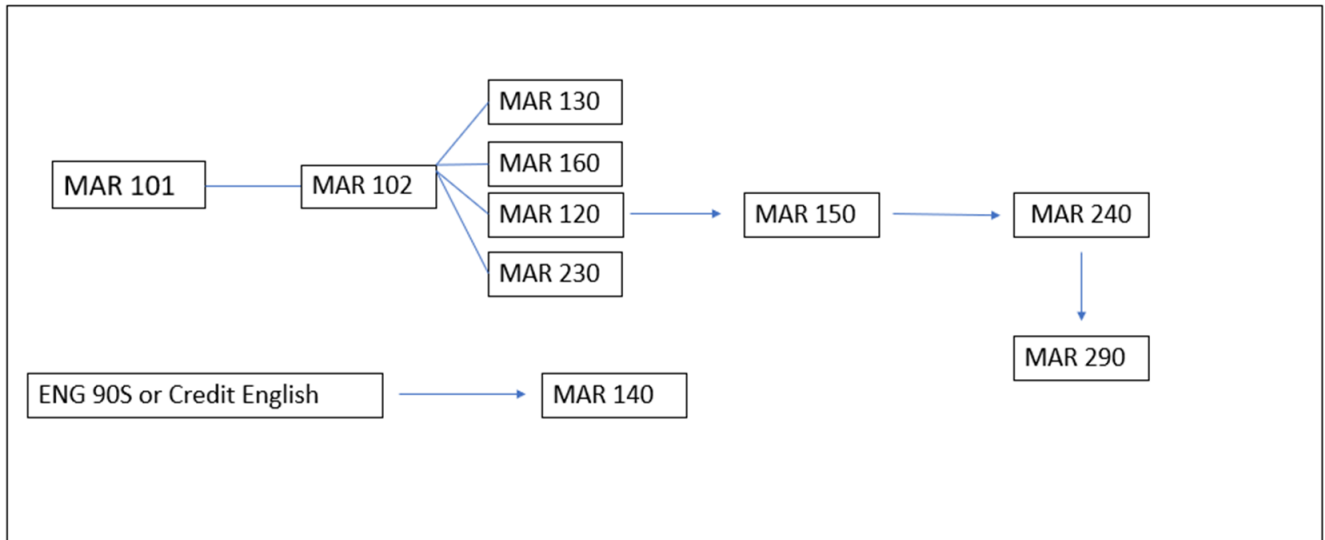
Connection to the department's mission:

A degree in Marshallese studies enhances the program and the services to educate, develop, and train the Marshallese community, teachers, and scholars. More Marshallese will obtain a degree that is relevant and specific for the Marshallese people, history, and culture.

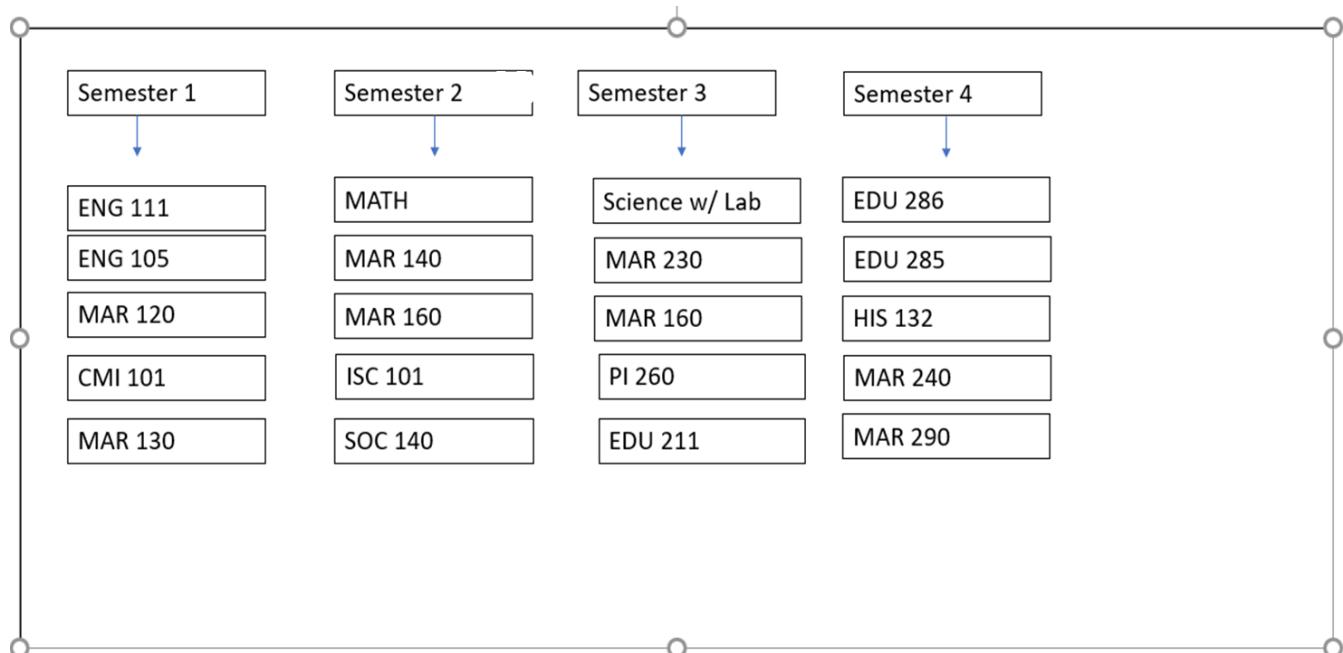
Prerequisite map:



Prerequisites map (Developmental Marshallese):



Pathway for Completion:



Total Credit: 62

Courses that are key to student progress and how students will be supported in them:

Key Courses:

Marshallese Orthography and Lexicon MAR 120

MAR 120 introduces the Marshallese alphabet, dialects, including archaic words, correct spelling, and pronunciation of words. This course highlights the connection between the Marshallese spelling system and the phonetic system using the approved Ministry of Education spelling system.

Marshallese Culture MAR 130

MAR 130 examines the Marshallese people and their culture and how they have adapted to the changes. It also examines how these changes have affected major aspects of the culture, the environment, and the government. This course is key because CMI is the key to the study of culture.

Marshallese Capstone MAR 290

MAR 290, which applies the student research to service learning and presentation components, is key because in this course students will create research that will contribute to the needs of the nation.

Intended post-graduation outcomes for students, such as career or transfer:

Workforce: Students can go on and become teachers and work in other government ministries and agencies such as, Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MOCIA), the Alele Library and Museum, Customary Law and Language Commission (CLLC), etc.

Transfer to 4-year University: Can transfer to get a bachelor's degree in other Social Sciences programs and Humanities programs.

Learning Outcomes

By the completion of this program, students should be able to:

Program Learning Outcome	Linked Institutional Student Learning Outcome (ISLO)	Explanation
1. Students know the basic concepts of Marshallese history, government and politics, economy and culture.	(ISLO 1) The CMI graduate will have life-goals and will know how to use available resources to achieve those goals. (ISLO 2) The CMI graduate will be knowledgeable and respectful of his or her own culture and research the culture of others.	Students will be able to apply their knowledge in Marshallese history, government and politics, economics and culture to their daily lives at home, work, or in the academic space whether it's in the RMI or anywhere else outside of the RMI.

	• (ISLO 3) The CMI graduate will use skills and knowledge to the economic, political, intellectual, social, and ethical benefit of local communities, the RMI, and the global community. • (ISLO 5) The graduate will understand the importance of mental and physical well-being and be able to make decisions leading to a healthy lifestyle	
2. Students understand the major theoretical approaches that explain the political, economical, governmental, societal, and cultural phenomenon of the Marshall Islands.	• (ISLO 2) The CMI graduate will be knowledgeable and respectful of his or her own culture and research the culture of others. • (ISLO 3) The CMI graduate will use skills and knowledge to the economic, political, intellectual, social, and ethical benefit of local communities, the RMI, and the global community.	Students will be able to apply theoretical methods and use research that will benefit the Marshallese people.
3. Students can write critical papers about Marshallese issues using interpreted data collected through research.	• (ISLO 2) The CMI graduate will be knowledgeable and respectful of his or her own culture and respect the cultures of others. • (ISLO 3) The CMI graduate will use skills and knowledge to the economic, political, intellectual, social, and ethical benefit of local communities, the RMI, and the global community. • (ISLO 4) The CMI graduate will make innovative, informed, and responsible decisions based on evidence.	Students will be able to contribute to Marshallese literature by applying research skills.
4. Students use varied evidence-based teaching methods to teach Marshallese writing, reading, listening, and speaking.	• (ISLO 1) The CMI graduate will have life-goals and will know how to use available resources to achieve these goals. • (ISLO 4) The CMI graduate will make innovative, informed, and	Students with a degree in Marshallese studies will be able to contribute in producing quality teaching in the Marshall Islands.

	responsible decisions based on evidence.	
5. Students exhibit proficiency in the Marshallese Language and communicate language art concepts.	• (ISLO 1) The CMI graduate will have life-goals and will know how to use available resources to achieve these goals. • (ISLO 2) The CMI graduate will be knowledgeable and respectful of his or her own culture and respect the cultures of others. • (ISLO 3) The CMI graduate will use skills and knowledge to the economic, political, intellectual, social, and ethical benefit of local communities, the RMI, and the global community.	Students will be able to produce materials (whether for teaching or research) that are written in Marshallese and contextual to the Marshallese people.

COURSE	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4	PLO 5
MAR 101				I	I
MAR 102				P	P
MAR 120				P	P
MAR 130	P	P	P		P
MAR 140	P	P	P	P	P
MAR 150				P	P
MAR 160	P			P	P
MAR 230		P		P	M
MAR 240		M		M	M
MAR 290	M	M	M	M	M

I – Introduced P- Practiced with Feedback M – Mastered at the level for graduation

Does the program have any equity considerations that may not be present across the college?
none

Resources required:

- A functional and completely equipped hut-house (for the Weaver- in – Residence) to hold workshops for the AGF 204 and MAR 130 and other occasions. The hut-house is also to store items belonging to the department's Jaki-Ed Program.
- A computer Lab – This is a necessity for the writing courses. All computers will have the Marshallese keyboard installed, which is the main keyboard used for all the Marshallese courses.
- Bigger office space for the Marshallese Studies instructors.
- Two more full-time faculty members.

Library and learning support resources:

***OER**

***Nuclear Institute**

***Micronesian Collection**

COLLEGE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
Associate of Arts in Marshallese Studies
Program Sheet

Name: _____

Last	First	Middle
------	-------	--------

Date of Birth: _____ High School: _____

Date of Graduation: _____ Matriculation: _____ Student ID#: _____

Contact #: _____ E-mail: _____

General Education Requirement (26 Credits)

	Term	Grade	Credit Earned
College Experience (3 credits)			
CMI 101 First Year Seminar			
English (7 Credits)			
ENG 111 English Composition I			
ENG 105 Fundamentals of Speech			
Humanities (3 Credits)			
Mar 130			
Mathematics (3 Credits)			
<u>Math 102/Math 160</u>			
Science with Lab (4 credits)			
Social Science (3 credits)			
SOC 140			
Technology: ICS 101 (3 credits)			

Degree Total: 62 _____