Evidence-Based Humanitarian Assistance
A Three-Course Online Graduate Certificate

Program Overview & Curriculum

OVERVIEW
There is pressure on aid agencies to base humanitarian assistance on solid empirical evidence as well as establish field research programs to measure program efficiency, effectiveness and impact.

This program will enhance a practitioner’s ability to carry out needs assessments in the food security and nutrition fields, design and carry out field research programs to measure the effectiveness of programming, and assess the impact of programming in both short and long term humanitarian crises. Students will learn to apply data-driven methodologies to the needs assessment, program design and implementation, and program impact assessment phases of aid projects. This program is ideal for individuals who are engaged in critical jobs in countries around the globe and are ready to advance their knowledge and skills. The courses complement real-time work experiences as students benefit from peer insights and interaction.

CURRICULUM

Field Research Methods in Humanitarian Settings
This course will address primary data collection in field settings; particularly those characterized by conflict and forced displacement where data collection methods confront logistical and ethical challenges. At the end of the course students will be prepared to conduct their own fieldwork, and assess the value of others’ field research.

Food Security and Nutrition in Emergencies: Analysis and Response
This course develops participants’ skills to conduct analyses of food security and nutrition crises, equips participants to make evidence-based intervention choices, and implement and monitor those interventions. The course will review the food security, nutrition and related public health interventions and care factors in recent humanitarian crises. It will combine practical case-examples, good practice principles, and wider policy frameworks to analyze crises (causes and outcomes) and strategic international humanitarian response. The course will cover food security and nutritional assessment methods, interpretation and response analysis, as well as core food security and nutrition actions—food assistance, market-based responses, direct nutrition interventions and livelihoods programs. Programming examples cover a range of applications from acute emergencies to protracted crises, recovery, and elements of social protection.

Assessing and Measuring the Impact of Humanitarian Aid
Progress has been made on monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian programs, yet little has been achieved in the field of measuring and understanding the impact of aid, both short and long term; leading to limited evidence of the effectiveness of humanitarian aid. This problem relates to both the methodological challenges of measuring impact in complex, remote or insecure humanitarian contexts, and a set of institutional constraints that hinder organizational and personal learning. This course will explore problems of impact assessment for emergency operations and will provide training in some of the most promising methodologies of impact assessment, paying attention to participatory assessment methodologies. The course explains the trade-offs between ‘hard’ quantitative approaches and methods in humanitarian situations, and ‘soft’ qualitative approaches and methods, leading to understanding of the benefits of mixed methods for impact assessment. Through analysis of institutional constraints to impact assessment, the course provides guidance on ways to use evidence to influence policy and programming in humanitarian contexts.

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Dean’s Message
Students at the Friedman School come from diverse backgrounds and leave us to pursue careers in education, public policy, the food industry, communications, government, humanitarian and technical assistance around the world. The common thread to their paths is a desire – and ability – to make meaningful differences in the health of individuals, communities and nations.

Our certificates offer solutions for persons who seek an exceptional online learning experience without disrupting their work/life balance. Please review our programs, all taught by the Friedman School’s renowned faculty, and choose Tufts to help advance your career.

Robin Kanarek, PhD
Interim Dean,
Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy

Benefits
The courses that comprise the Friedman School Graduate Certificate Programs are held to identical academic standards as the courses taught in Boston to our masters degree students. Persons in mid-career positions are ideal candidates for a certificate program when they can combine knowledge gained from their current positions and leverage the targeted skills gained from their coursework.

Upon completion, students will earn graduate credit, which may be applied toward a degree program. Check with the specific school and program to verify whether they will accept transfer credits.

Learn More
Visit nutrition.tufts.edu/certificates and learn about the streamlined application process, affordable tuition, and the excellence in nutrition leadership that Tufts Friedman School represents. Serious candidates should register for an online webinar, meet our faculty, and get answers to all questions. Email nutritioncertificates@tufts.edu for more information.