



**CRITERIA FOR COURSES SEEKING ACREDITATION AS A  
DIPLOMA COURSE IN CLINICAL TROPICAL MEDICINE AND TRAVELERS' HEALTH**

AS FULLFILLMENT FOR THE DIPLOMA COURSE PATHWAY FOR  
ASTMH EXAMINATION IN  
CLINICAL TROPICAL MEDICINE AND TRAVELERS' HEALTH

**BACKGROUND**

Since 1995, the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene has offered the Certificate of Knowledge in Clinical Tropical Medicine and Traveler's Health (CTropMed®) to recognize individual excellence in training and knowledge.

Attainment of the CTropMed® requires:

- demonstration of 2 months of clinical experience in a tropical medicine setting
- documentation of either extensive clinical experience or completion of a specialized training course in clinical tropical medicine
- passing an examination in clinical tropical medicine and traveler's health administered by the Society.

**DIPLOMA COURSE**

With the goal of fostering professional development, the Society has advocated and facilitated the development of new training programs in Clinical Tropical Medicine and Travelers' Health and has established a mechanism for accrediting them. These courses, known as "Diploma" Courses, may vary considerably in format and even in broad objectives, but in order to be accredited by the Society they should cover the topic matter included on the Exam and should have an expectation of conferring on the trainee a certain degree of competence in the subjects described below. Most confer a Diploma in Clinical Tropical Medicine and Travelers' Health; some confer a different diploma or degree in which the same expectations are included.

The criteria for accreditation are:

1. Topical content: Subject matter should include as a minimum, coverage of educational guidelines with emphasis on clinical tropical medicine and case management-see examination outline in latest ASTMH Certificate Examination brochure at [www.astmh.org](http://www.astmh.org) .
2. Course time distribution: Minimum of 300 hours contact time



- a. at least 150 hours of specific content delivery time covering the content material referenced above. These hours can consist of didactic lectures, case studies, small group problem solving sessions, etc. and may be delivered in a variety of formats including on-line
  - b. at least 35 hours of practical hands on laboratory time
  - c. The balance of the time is flexible and can be innovative, but must be supervised and complemented with educational material (i.e., video-based cases, travel clinics with accompanying curriculum, clinical rounds, computer modeling, anthropometrics analysis, etc.). No more than 50% of this flexible time should be spent in a single activity such as a travel clinic.
3. Laboratory requirement: Individuals who are awarded the Diploma Certificate from the accredited course are expected to have adequate hands on experience with basic laboratory diagnostic technology enabling them to use technology likely available or achievable in a resource poor setting. In general this will include familiarity with the use of a microscope, with basic staining techniques for microbial pathogens, preparation of basic clinical specimens (blood, urine, stool, sputum) for simple microbial and bacteriologic techniques, and performance of simple tests such as rapid diagnostic tests, urinalysis, complete blood count, cerebrospinal fluid cell count, etc. There is the expectation that the individual should be able to visually recognize the microscopic (or macroscopic) appearance of major microbial and helminth organisms. The Diploma course should provide a minimum of 35 hours of hands on time in the lab covering the above competencies.
4. Demonstration of appropriate training and overseas experience of key faculty
5. Expectation of course to impart to trainees essential skills and competence in:
- a. Clinical tropical medicine
  - b. Laboratory skills in a low-technology setting
  - c. Epidemiology and disease control
  - d. Travelers' health

The Committee acknowledges the diversity and richness of the proposals being considered as well as the diversity of candidate pools for these courses. Some Diploma Courses may encompass broader or more specialized approaches to tropical medicine and may award a Diploma or degree in addition to the Diploma in Clinical Tropical Medicine and Travelers' Health. Nevertheless, it is expected that the subject matter and competency expectations be considered core material in any course recommended by



ASTMH to fulfill the requirement to sit for the ASTMH Examination and ultimately receive the CTropMed®.

6. Evidence of institutional support (a Dean's letter will suffice)

In order to submit a proposal for a Diploma Course, please include the following in a document of no more than 5 pages total for sections 1 - 4:



1. Brief General Description of Proposed Course
2. Coverage of Educational Guidelines: please refer to the Exam content outline, available on the ASTMH website, and indicate how the referenced topics will be covered.
3. Course Time Distribution
  - a. Total hours contact time:
    - i. Number of content delivery hours:
      1. Brief description of format of content delivery hours
    - ii. Number of Lab hours:
      1. Brief description of format and subject content of lab hours
    - iii. Flexible time: total hours
      1. Activities: please describe the activities comprising the balance of the course
      2. Time: please indicate the approximate proportion of flexible time spent in each activity
4. Please indicate proposed dates for the course, venue, target audience, estimated cost, and any other features of the course you'd like to bring to the Accreditation Committee's attention.
5. Abbreviated CV's of key faculty indicating clinical tropical medicine training and overseas experience – no more than 1 page per faculty member is preferred.
6. Please send Dean's letter of commitment or other similar indication of institutional support.