



# POSITION STATEMENT

## **Degree Requirements for Midwifery Faculty**

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) holds the position that all academic and clinical midwifery faculty must be qualified to provide students with levels of instruction, supervision, and evaluation compatible with safe practice and student learning needs. The Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education requires academic and clinical faculty to have earned the minimum of a Master's degree, to be certified by an appropriate credentialing body, and to be appropriately prepared for their teaching responsibilities. Any clinical faculty member without a graduate degree must be supervised by a qualified faculty member.

Certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives who are expert clinicians are valued as clinical teachers. In addition, it is the position of ACNM that faculty with graduate degrees in nursing, public health, and other related fields bring a variety of strengths and perspectives to midwifery practice and education.

Some ACNM members have been prevented from serving as clinical preceptors or faculty in nurse-midwifery education programs in schools of nursing because they did not hold graduate degrees in nursing. Neither the National League of Nursing Accreditation Council nor the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education requires all faculty to hold graduate degrees in nursing to the exclusion of other fields. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) supports the removal of barriers that prevent nurses with graduate degrees in other fields from teaching. The AACN Quick Info paper "Faculty Degree Requirements in Schools of Nursing" provides background information and advice for members facing this situation.

## **REFERENCES**

1. American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Nursing faculty shortage fact sheet. <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/media-relations/FacultyShortageFS.pdf> Updated March 2015. Accessed April 16, 2017.

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*Note.* Midwifery as used throughout this document refers to the education and practice of certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) who have been certified by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) or the American Midwifery Certification Board, Inc. (AMCB), formerly the American College of Nurse-Midwives Certification Council, Inc. (ACC).

Source: Division of Education

Approved: ACNM Board of Directors, March 2006

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