

**INFORMATION  
FOR  
FOREIGN-EDUCATED  
MIDWIVES AND NURSE-MIDWIVES  
WHO SEEK TO PRACTICE IN THE UNITED STATES**



**American College of Nurse-Midwives**

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**INFORMATION FOR FOREIGN EDUCATED MIDWIVES & NURSE-MIDWIVES**

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## INTRODUCTION

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) welcomes your interest in the profession of midwifery in the United States (U.S.). We acknowledge the contributions that foreign-educated nurse-midwives (FENMs) and foreign-educated midwives (FEMs) have made to the health of women and babies around the world. Today, as in the past, FENMs/FEMs who become certified and join ACNM enrich the profession of midwifery with their diversity.

We are glad that you are here and that you have asked about practicing as a midwife in the U.S. Every country has some differences in the way midwifery is practiced and for most FENMs/FEMs there will be a transition period. It is our hope that you will practice as a certified nurse-midwife (CNM®) or certified midwife (CM®) in the U.S. This information is developed as a starting point to help you reach your professional goals.

This information focuses on the path to gain credentials as a CNM or CM. We have tried to present this information as simply as possible. It is, however, a complicated issue! It is particularly difficult because the CM credential is still very new in the U.S. While CNMs are recognized in all 50 states, predicting what the practice opportunities will be for CMs in some states can be difficult. If you are confused the first time you read this, please be aware that there is still some confusion among midwives born and educated here!

This information packet begins with a brief history and description of current midwifery practice in the U.S. Next, there are definitions of the various midwifery credentials in the U.S., and information about licensure. The various educational routes are described, and then a step-by-step process that should help you decide what is best for you. Finally, there is information about ACNM, the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME), the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB), some important resources, and frequently asked questions.

## **A HISTORY OF MIDWIFERY IN THE UNITED STATES**

Though midwives have been attending births in the U.S. since colonial times, midwifery in this country developed along two separate pathways. The first American midwives were immigrants who were formally trained in their native countries. During the 1920s, a combination of the nursing and midwifery professional, modeled after nurse-midwives practicing in the United Kingdom, led to the formation of the first nurse-midwifery practice in the U.S., the Frontier Nursing Service (FNS). FNS was founded in 1925 in a remote and rural area of eastern Kentucky by Mary Breckinridge, the first U.S. nurse to become a nurse-midwife. After graduating from an educational program in England and practicing in Scotland, she developed a system of district clinics based on what she had seen in the Scottish Outer Hebrides. The practice, which provided maternal and infant health care, demonstrated the effectiveness of the nurse in an expanded role as midwife 40 years before the concept was widely recognized in this country.

Another British-educated nurse-midwife, Rose McNaught, became the first nurse-midwifery instructor in the U.S. She began her career working with Mary Breckinridge at FNS. In 1932, she helped start the first U.S. nurse-midwifery school at the Maternity Center Association Lobenstine Clinic in New York City. The curriculum was based on the British model but was modified to reflect the “cultural patterns and health care systems in the United States.” In 1939, Mary Breckinridge founded a second nurse-midwifery educational program at FNS.

The need for midwifery services in this country increased slowly until the 1970s when there was a growing demand by childbearing families in the U.S. for a more natural approach to childbirth, along with more emphasis on personalized care. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the number of nurse-midwifery practices and educational programs grew steadily. The 1990s brought such a strong demand for nurse-midwifery services that today there are not enough certified nurse-midwives to meet the demand. Since 1991, the number of midwife-attended births has nearly doubled. In 2015, there were approximately 11,000 CNMs and CMs in practice in the U.S.

Although nursing has been the primary route of entry for most midwives in the U.S., state laws and regulations governing midwifery practice are evolving and it is now possible to practice midwifery in the U.S. without being a nurse. In 1996, the ACNM Division of Accreditation (now the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME)) set standards for education and practice for individuals who want to become a midwife without becoming a nurse. Individuals who meet these standards are practicing as certified midwives (CMs). As of 2015, there were more than 90 certified midwives in the U.S.

## MIDWIFERY PRACTICE IN THE U.S.

It is important to understand how education, credentials and licensure impact your ability to practice as a midwife in the U.S.

- **Education:** The [Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education](#) (ACME) is the recognized accrediting agency for CNM and CM midwifery education programs in the U.S.
- **Credentials:** The [American Midwifery Certification Board](#) (AMCB) is an organization that establishes the requirements and administers the exam for individuals to receive the credentials of either CNM or CM, depending on whether or not you are a registered nurse (RN) in the U.S. These credentials are defined in the “Credentials” section of this document.

**Licensure:** Each state in the U.S. establishes its own licensing requirements that enable midwives to practice in that state. The credential CNM is recognized in all states and territories of the U.S. Currently, the credential of CM is only recognized in 5 states: New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Missouri, and Delaware. This is in part due to the newness of the credential.

### ***Scope of Practice: What do midwives do?***

As in other countries, midwives in the U.S. provide routine prenatal care, labor and delivery management and support, and postpartum care. In addition, CNMs/CMs provide family planning counseling and gynecological services including yearly physical exams, breast exams, pap smears, preventive health screenings, and health education. In most states, CNMs/CMs also have prescriptive privileges. [Learn more about CNM/CM scope of practice.](#)

CNMs/CMs in the U.S. function as primary health care providers for the women and newborns they serve. If no problems arise, these clients may never see a physician; however, all CNMs/CMs must have an agreement with a physician to provide consultation and accept referrals as needed.

### ***Practice Sites: Where do midwives practice?***

CNMs/CMs provide care in hospitals, clinics, free standing birth centers, private practices, and homes. Some are employees of institutions or physicians, and some have their own practices. [Learn more.](#)

Determining which midwifery credential is best for you will depend in part upon 1) the education and credentials you received in another country, and 2) what your professional goals are for your practice in the U.S.

## CREENTIALS

### ***Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM)***

A certified nurse-midwife (CNM<sup>®</sup>) is educated in the two disciplines of nursing and midwifery, and possesses evidence of certification according to the requirements of the [American Midwifery Certification Board](#) (AMCB). State requirements for CNMs must also be met, such as degree requirements. CNMs are registered nurses with a baccalaureate degree who have completed an [Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education](#) (ACME)-accredited educational program in nurse-midwifery or equivalent. Graduates of nurse-midwifery education programs must pass a national board exam administered by the AMCB before entering into practice.

### ***Certified Midwife (CM)***

A certified midwife (CM<sup>®</sup>) is educated in the discipline of midwifery, and **possesses evidence of certification according to the requirements of the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB)**. State requirements for midwifery practice must also be met. CMs have an education background in health, a baccalaureate degree, and they have completed an ACME-accredited educational program in midwifery or its equivalent. Graduates of midwifery education programs must pass a national board exam administered by AMCB before entering into practice.

***Please note: In the United States, the minimum educational requirement for becoming a CNM or a CM is a baccalaureate degree. If you have not already earned a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent, this should be your first step.***

## LICENSURE

In the U.S., CNMs have the broadest scope of midwifery practice and the greatest degree of legal recognition. Licensure requirements for practice as a CNM vary from state to state. Some states now require a master's degree in order for midwives to be licensed. As of 2010, all ACME-accredited programs award a Master's of Science (MS) or a Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN), and/or a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

CMs have legal recognition in New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Delaware, and Missouri. (Missouri does not, however, currently have a licensure mechanism.) Their scope of practice is identical to CNMs in New York and Rhode Island and is somewhat restricted in Delaware and New Jersey.

Before choosing a route to certification as a CNM in the U.S., it is vital that you become familiar with the laws that govern licensure in the state(s) in which you plan to practice. Contact the ACNM Department of Advocacy & Government Affairs at (240) 485-1841 or [gr@acnm.org](mailto:gr@acnm.org) for more information on state laws.

## EDUCATIONAL ROUTES TO BECOMING A CNM OR CM

### ***ACNM Education Programs***

ACNM sets the standards for certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives, but is not an academic institution that teaches education courses for midwives. There are currently 39 education programs in the U.S. that are accredited by the [Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education](#) (ACME). ([See the education program list.](#))

Many of these education programs are for RNs interested in becoming CNMs. The majority of these programs offer an option for people who have baccalaureate degrees in areas other than nursing to study both nursing and then midwifery. Today, there are only two ACME-accredited programs ([State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center](#); and the [Midwifery Institute at Philadelphia University](#)) that offer midwifery training for individuals who are not and will not become nurses.

All ACME-accredited education programs are affiliated with an academic institution of higher education, such as a college of university. There are two basic categories of graduate degrees: master's degree and/or the doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree. The length of these programs varies; some offer part-time study and some require students to attend full-time. In general, a master's program takes two years of full-time study and the DNP takes 2 ½ - 3 years. All graduates of ACME-accredited programs are required to have at least a master's degree.

Some programs offer distance learning, an excellent option for prospective students who live in an area where there is no ACME-accredited program nearby. Some programs may offer a challenge mechanism which will grant credit for prior academic course work or professional experience. These study options and challenge mechanisms vary from program to program, so you must obtain this information from each program you are interested in attending. Please see the [list of education programs](#) for program contact information.

### ***Programs Specifically for FENMs/FEMS***

In the past, there were programs specifically for FENMs. Because of changes in degree requirements and educational content, it was decided that the best educational route for FENMs was through one of the existing ACME-accredited education programs. The [Midwifery Institute at Philadelphia University](#) has subsequently developed a path specifically for foreign educated midwives. They evaluate transcripts and sometimes award credit for previous educational experience. In order to qualify for that option, you must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree or its equivalent. They can be contacted at (215) 951-2525 or [instituteofmidwifery@philau.edu](mailto:instituteofmidwifery@philau.edu).

### ***Nurse-Midwifery Education***

**Curriculum:** The curriculum for ACME-accredited nurse-midwifery education programs consists of theory and clinical experience, based on the two ACNM documents, [The Knowledge, Skills and Behaviors Prerequisite to Midwifery Clinical Coursework](#); and [Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice](#).

These two documents establish the fundamental knowledge, skills and behaviors which enable a new graduate to practice nurse-midwifery in the U.S. Courses include gynecology, family planning, antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum management, newborn care, professional issues, pharmacology, and primary health care.

**Requirements:** In order to be eligible for a nurse-midwifery education program, you must:

- Be a **licensed registered nurse** in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or U.S. territories;
- Have a **baccalaureate degree** before beginning the program or attend a program that grants no less than a baccalaureate degree;
- Be prepared to submit a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score if English is not a first language. Testing is available by contacting:

#### **Educational Testing Service**

TOEFL Services

PO Box 6151

Princeton, NJ 08541-6151

1-877-863-3546

Email: [http://www.ets.org/toefl/contact/contact\\_form](http://www.ets.org/toefl/contact/contact_form)

The TOEFL is an online-based test. There is no passing or failing score. Score requirements are established by individual institutions and agencies. Scores are valid for two years. There is no limit to the number of times you can take the test, but you cannot take it more than once in a 12-day period.

Further, if you are a foreign-educated nurse-midwife (who is a registered nurse), you may be asked to:

- Provide evidence of formal recognition as a midwife in the country or state of preparation
- Submit scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). This test is given by Educational Testing Services.
- Provide transcripts of education from the country of preparation or education received in the U.S. **The Commission of Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS)** assists foreign-trained health care professionals with credentialing information. They can be contacted at (215) 222-8454 or [www.CGFNS.org](http://www.CGFNS.org).

## **Midwifery Education**

**Curriculum:** The curriculum for ACME-accredited midwifery education programs consists of theory and clinical experience, based on the two ACNM documents, [The Knowledge, Skills and Behaviors Prerequisite to Midwifery Clinical Coursework](#); and [Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice](#).

These two documents establish the fundamental knowledge, skills and behaviors which enable a new graduate to practice midwifery in the U.S. Courses include gynecology, family planning, antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum management, newborn care, professional issues, pharmacology, and primary health care.

**Requirements:** In order to be eligible for a midwifery education program, you must:

- Have a baccalaureate degree before beginning the program or attend a program that grants no less than a baccalaureate degree;
- Be prepared to submit a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score if English is not a first language. Testing is available by contacting:

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Email: [http://www.ets.org/toefl/contact/contact\\_form](http://www.ets.org/toefl/contact/contact_form)

Further, foreign educated midwives (who are NOT registered nurses) may be asked to:

- Provide evidence of formal recognition as a midwife in the country or state of preparation
- Submit scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). This test is given by Educational Testing Services.
- Provide transcripts of education from the country of preparation or education received in the U.S. **The Commission of Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS)** assists foreign-trained health care professionals with credentialing information. They can be contacted at (215) 222-8454 or [www.CGFNS.org](http://www.CGFNS.org).

## **STEP BY STEP PROCESS**

Everyone's situation is a little different. Following this step by step process should help you decide what is best for you.

### **Assess your personal situation:**

1. What is your goal? Do you want to become a CNM or a CM? If you are a foreign-educated nurse-midwife, you will probably be most comfortable practicing in the U.S. as a CNM. As a CNM, you will be able to practice in hospitals. If you choose the route of becoming a CM, your

practice may be limited to home birth or birth centers in some states; it all depends on the state laws and regulations where you wish to practice.

2. How long has it been since you practiced midwifery?
3. How different is American midwifery from that practiced in your country?
4. How long will you be in the U.S., and is it worth your time, effort and money to pursue this goal at this point in your life?
5. How much will it cost you to become certified in the U.S.?

***Assess the situation in the state(s) you want to practice in:***

1. What are the requirements for licensure in your state? Are CNMs the only midwives practicing legally in the state, or do you have other options?
2. Are there degree requirements? What are they?
3. Are there ACME-accredited education programs in your state?

***If you've decided that you want to practice as a CNM in the U.S., you will first need to take the steps necessary to become a registered nurse in the U.S.***

1. Contact your state board of nursing.
2. Forward all necessary transcripts to the appropriate agency.
3. Arrange to take the NCLEX examination (Web site: [www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org)).

Once you've become a registered nurse (RN) in the U.S., you may apply to one of the ACME-accredited nurse-midwifery education programs.

***If you decide to apply to an ACME-accredited education program:***

1. Be aware of what the prerequisites are. You may be able to start taking courses like physical assessment of pharmacology.
2. Each program has slightly different requirements, so follow their instructions. For instance, many require an exam like the GRE or MAT.
3. You will probably want to use a transcript evaluation service.
4. You will probably need to take the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) if English is not your first language.

***If you decide that you want to practice as a CM in the U.S., there are currently two ACME-accredited programs to prepare CMs:***

- [The Midwifery Institute at Philadelphia University](#)  
(215) 951-2525
- [The State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center](#)  
(718) 270-7742

## THE IMPORTANCE OF STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

When people ask questions about midwifery practice in the U.S., very often the answer is “It depends on the state you are in.” Each state in the United States has its own laws and regulations that govern the practice of midwifery. The most widely recognized midwifery credential in the U.S. is the CNM. If you become a CNM, you will be able to be licensed in all 50 states. If you pursue becoming a CM, be aware that your ability to be licensed and practice may vary from state to state. ([Learn about state practice environments here.](#)) Contact the ACNM Associate Director of State Government Affairs at (240) 485-1841 for more information on state laws.

There are some states that do not require [American Midwifery Certification Board](#) (AMCB) certification in order to practice as a CNM.

### **California**

In California, there is a licensure mechanism that allows FENMs to practice as nurse-midwives. The applicant’s credentials are extensively reviewed and the state may require educational preparation over and above the course that you took in your native country. If you become a CNM in California and leave the state, your certification may not be recognized in other states. As is true with any state, you should contact the state agency that governs nurse-midwifery for more information. In California, that would be the Department of Consumer Affairs; their contact information is listed on page 12 of this document.

### **New York State**

The New York State Department of Education is a recognized accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education. Unlike other states, New York can establish educational routes and/or requirements for recognition of prior education for FENMs and FEMs who are residents of New York. By meeting these state requirements, FENMs and FEMs are eligible to take the AMCB national certification exam to become a CNM or CM and may not have to graduate from an ACME-accredited education program. If you qualify to take this exam and pass it, you will then be able to be licensed by the State of New York and be able to practice within that state. The State of New York may require educational preparation over and above the course of study that you took in your native country.

If you are a CM in the State of New York and leave that state, your certification may not be recognized in other states. Contact the New York State Department of Education for more information. Their contact information is listed on page 12 of this document.

## THE AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION BOARD

The [American Midwifery Certification Board](#) (AMCB) is a separate corporate entity from ACNM. AMCB writes and administers the national certification examination and awards CNM and CM certification. In order to be certified by AMCB, you must:

- Graduate from an ACME-accredited education program OR meet the New York or California equivalency routes;
- Successfully complete the national exam.

More detailed information is available from AMCB (866-366-9632 or [www.amcbmidwife.org](http://www.amcbmidwife.org)).

### ***Certification Maintenance***

Candidates who pass the national certification examination will be issued a certificate that expires 5 years after issue. AMCB has developed a [Certificate Maintenance Program](#) (CMP) that must be completed in order to receive a new certificate for another 5 year period. For more information about certification, contact AMCB.

## THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE-MIDWIVES

### ***A Professional Association***

The [American College of Nurse-Midwives](#) (ACNM), founded in 1955, is a professional organization for CNMs and CMs in the U.S. It is autonomous and speaks for its membership on issues affecting health policy, education, practice, recognition, and reimbursement. Since its inception, ACNM has worked to improve the health of women and newborns.

### ***Professional Issues***

ACNM had developed various policies, guidelines, and standards to govern and assess midwifery practice for its members. These include:

- [Statement of Philosophy](#)
- [Standards for the Practice of Midwifery](#)
- [Code of Ethics](#)

ACNM also has divisions and committees that focus on various midwifery issues. These include:

*Divisions of Education*

*Division of Global Health*

*Division of Research*

*Division of Standards and Practice*

*Midwives of Color Committee*

*Government Affairs Committee*

*Ethics Committee*

### **Membership Benefits**

You do not need to be a CNM or CM to receive benefits from ACNM. You can join ACNM as an Associate Member, or if you are enrolled in an ACME-accredited education program, you can join as a student member. Benefits include:

- Subscriptions to the *Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health* and the ACNM quarterly newsletter, *Quickening*
- Discount rates for the ACNM Annual Meeting and Exhibition and other ACNM meetings and conferences
- Discounts on ACNM publications offered through [www.ShopACNM.com](http://www.ShopACNM.com)
- Discounts on webinars and other educational offerings
- Opportunities to network with local CNMs and CMs at ACNM affiliate events

### **SUMMARY**

We hope this information will assist you on your journey to becoming a midwife in the U.S. While ACNM does not provide career counseling services, we are committed to the profession of midwifery and we invite you to take advantage of the information available through our web site at [www.midwife.org](http://www.midwife.org). As we have stated in this information, you should contact the organizations below as necessary for additional information.

#### [American Midwifery Certification Board \(AMCB\)](#)

849 International Drive, Suite 120  
Linthicum, MD 21090  
(866) 366-9632

#### [National Council of State Boards of Nursing \(NCSBN\)](#)

111 East Wacker Drive, Suite 2900  
Chicago, IL 60601-4277  
(312) 525-3600  
Email: [info@ncsbn.org](mailto:info@ncsbn.org)

#### [Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools \(CGFNS\)](#)

3600 Market Street, Suite 400  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
(215) 222-8454

[Educational Testing Service \(ETS\)](#)

TOEFL Services

PO Box 6151

Princeton, NJ 08541-6151

1-877-863-3546

Email: [http://www.ets.org/toefl/contact/contact\\_form](http://www.ets.org/toefl/contact/contact_form)

[California Department of Consumer Affairs](#)

Registered Nursing Board

400 R Street, Suite 4030

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 322-3350

[New York State Department of Education](#)

89 Washington Avenue

Albany, NY

(518) 474-3852

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

These are answers to the questions most frequently asked by Foreign Educated Nurse-Midwives (FENMs) and Foreign Educated Midwives (FEMs) who contact ACNM.

- ***How long will it take me to become a CNM or CM?***

It depends on your educational background, your experience as a midwife, and in what state you are living. It could take as little as one year or as long as five years. The quickest route may not necessarily be the best route for you. You should take into consideration your personal situation and professional goals before deciding the best route. You might consider:

- Where you want to practice (hospital, home, birth center)
- The ability to transfer recognition from one state to another
- Reimbursement for professional services
- Ability to practice with other health care professionals
- Availability of professional liability insurance

- ***If I go to an ACME-accredited education program, what type of degree will I receive upon graduating?***

This depends upon the program. All ACME-accredited programs award a minimum of a master's degree. A number of graduate programs offer a master's completion option for CNMs and CMs with a certificate in midwifery. Some programs offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. For the specific type of degree awarded by a program, see the [program listing](#) or contact the program directly.

- ***What are the minimum requirements to enter into an ACME-accredited nurse-midwifery or midwifery education program?***

Each program establishes its own prerequisites for admission. See the [program listing](#) to directly contact the program you are interested in about specific prerequisites.

- ***Will I get credit for my previous midwifery education?***

It is possible that you may be able to challenge one or more of the required midwifery courses. In order to find out about this possibility, contact the program you are interested in.

- ***What are the differences between a master's and doctor of nursing practice degree when I try to find employment?***

The DNP is a relatively new degree and it is not clear whether or not employers will offer any salary differential for this degree. Although several schools of nursing in which nurse-midwifery educational programs reside are beginning to offer the DNP degree, the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) will not be requiring the DNP as an entry to practice requirement for midwifery certification.

- ***Are the programs rated or ranked in any kind of order of preference?***

No. All nurse-midwifery and midwifery education programs accredited by ACME must meet the set criteria in order to receive pre-accreditation or accreditation status. They must be affiliated with an institution of higher learning.

- ***What if I'm interested in attending a program, but do not know if it is accredited by ACME?***

ACME-accredited programs are required to report their accreditation status to potential students. You should ask the program you are interested in for information on their accreditation. In addition, [all programs listed on the ACNM web site](#) are accredited by ACME. You can also contact [ACME](#) to verify if a program is accredited or not.

- ***What if I'm not a registered nurse in the U.S.?***

Becoming a registered nurse (RN) in the U.S. is only a requirement to become a certified nurse-midwife (CNM), not a certified midwife (CM). If you were a nurse in your country of preparation, we recommend you contact the [National Council of State Boards of Nursing](#) or the board of nursing in your state to find out how to become an RN in the U.S.

If you have never been a nurse but want to become a CNM and have a baccalaureate degree in a field other than nursing that is recognized in the U.S., we recommend that you contact the nurse-midwifery program(s) you are interested in attending and ask what their specific admissions requirements are for non-nurses. You will generally have one of three routes to follow:

1. Graduate from a 4-year university program that awards a bachelor's of science in nursing (BSN) and apply to the nurse-midwifery education program;
2. Graduate from a community college program that awards an associate's degree in nursing (ADN) and apply to the nurse-midwifery program;
3. Graduate from a university nursing program that is accelerated or compressed into one to one and a half years and apply to the nurse-midwifery program. This option is available in the majority of nurse-midwifery education programs and is sometimes referred to as a 3-year program. [See the list of programs that offer this option.](#)

- ***What if I am a U.S. RN who does not have a baccalaureate degree?***

If you are a U.S. recognized RN who does not have a BSN or baccalaureate degree in another field, you must either have a baccalaureate degree before admission or find a program that will provide such a degree prior to entering the midwifery portion of the program. Please see <http://www.midwife.org/Pathway-Results?id=1> for a list of such programs.

- ***What if there isn't an education program near me?***

Many education programs offer “distance learning” options to students for both academic course work and /or clinical experience. Please see the list of [fully distance](#) and [partially distance](#) education programs, or directly contact the program you are interested in about distance learning opportunities.

- ***Why are some programs preaccredited while others are accredited?***

Preaccreditation and accreditation status does not denote which programs are better than others. Nurse-midwifery and midwifery education programs must receive pre-accreditation status before they can admit students who will be eligible to take the AMCB national certification exam upon graduation, and before the program can receive accreditation status. These programs have met ACME's Criteria for Preaccreditation. After a preaccredited program has graduated its first class, the program is eligible to receive accreditation status from ACME by meeting the Criteria for Accreditation. The Criteria for Preaccreditation and the Criteria for Accreditation are virtually the same requirements.

- ***Must I have a bachelor's of science in nursing (BSN) to attend a nurse-midwifery education program?***

Not necessarily. ACME accreditation criteria for nurse-midwifery programs require that students be registered nurses (RNs), but don't require a BSN. Programs have the option, though, of requiring a BSN as a prerequisite for admission, and some programs do have that requirement. Contact the program(s) you are interested in to find out about their requirements.

- ***Are there mandatory degree requirements for nurse-midwifery or midwifery education?***

All education programs accredited by ACME must grant at least a master's degree upon graduation.

- ***What kind of salary does a CNM or CM make?***

CNM salaries average from \$80,000 - \$90,000+ per year. A number of variables can affect salaries for CNMs and CMs, including type of practice setting (private practice, hospital, birth center, home birth, health clinic), geographic part of the country, type of location (urban or rural), benefits packages offered with salary, hours worked per week, and type of care provided (full-scope of women's health services, prenatal care, gynecologic care, etc.)

- ***What are the job opportunities for CNMs and CMs?***

CNMs/CMs work in a variety of settings including private practices, hospitals, birth centers, health clinics, and home birth services. The numbers and types of opportunities available to new graduates often depend on the individual's work preference and vary across the country and in different locations (urban or rural). It is also possible for CNMs/CMs to set up their own practices, establishing themselves as health care providers in the community of their choice.

If you'd like more information, please contact the American College of Nurse-Midwives Department of Professional Practice & Health Policy at (240) 485-1844 or [PPHP@acnm.org](mailto:PPHP@acnm.org).