



ACNM FAQs

Pathways for Foreign Educated Midwives without a Nursing Background

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is a professional association representing more than 7,000 **certified nurse-midwives (CNMs ®)** and **certified midwives (CMs ®)**. In the United States, certified nurse-midwives have been trained in both nursing and midwifery. Certified midwives are trained only in midwifery. Most midwives in the U.S. and most of ACNM's members are registered nurses and are CNMs. Certified nurse-midwives are licensed in all states and territories and the District of Columbia and 98% of births they attend are in hospitals.

You may study to become a certified midwife and not a certified nurse-midwife. However, at this time, only three states license CMs; New York, New Jersey, and Rhode Island.

Requirements: For detailed information, please see our packet, *Information for Foreign Educated Midwives and Nurse-Midwives*, at http://www.midwife.org/siteFiles/education/FENM_FEM_Info_Packet_3_09_000.pdf. In brief, however, in order to be eligible for midwifery education programs, you must:

- have a bachelor's degree before beginning the program
- 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 Services, Rosedale Road, Princeton, NJ 08541-6151, telephone: 1-609- 921-9000, or www.ets.org.

You cannot become a CM until you have met these requirements and successfully completed a midwifery education program. Midwifery education programs are listed on our Web site at <http://www.midwife.org/map.cfm>. Education program directors can talk with you in detail about their requirements, and they may accept some of your previous training. After you graduate from a midwifery program, you may take the licensing exam and become a CM.

While the path to becoming a certified midwife in the U.S. may be difficult, there are other paths to consider, which will use your experience and commitment to women and families. You can learn more about these by reading the Web sites listed with each option below.

- **Becoming a doula.**
Doula of North America
<http://www.dona.org>
Telephone: (888) 788-DONA

- **Becoming a lactation consultant.**
The International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE)
<http://www.iblce.org/pathways.htm>
Telephone: (703) 560-7330

- **Becoming a childbirth educator.**
Lamaze International
<http://www.lamaze.org>
Telephone: 1-800-368-4404

- International Childbirth Education Association, Inc. (ICEA)
<http://www.icea.org>
Telephone: (952) 854-8660

- The Organization of Labor Assistants for Birth Options & Resources
<http://www.tolabor.com/>
Telephone: (617) 441-2500; toll free: (888) 222-5223

For further questions or assistance about midwifery careers or ACNM, please contact the Professional Practice & Health Policy Department staff at (240) 485-1844 or mgreenfield@acnm.org.

* Further information about state regulations is available on the ACNM Web site, www.midwife.org. You can also find out about state regulations by contacting the state's board of nursing. Links to each state's board of nursing are found on the Web site of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing at: <https://www.ncsbn.org/index.htm>.

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