



ACNM FAQs

Pathways for Foreign Educated Midwives with 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 U.S., certified nurse-midwives have been trained in both nursing and midwifery. Certified midwives are trained only in midwifery. Most midwives in the United States 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.*

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, each midwifery education program in the U.S. has its own entrance requirements. The midwifery education programs are listed at <http://www.midwife.org/map.cfm>. The 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 nurse-midwifery program, you may take the certification exam and become a CNM.

Some of the programs require that you already be a registered nurse (RN). In others, you become an RN during the program. However, in general in order to be eligible for nurse-midwifery education programs which lead to the CNM credential, 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 (ETS)**, Rosedale Road, Princeton, NJ 08541; telephone: (609) 921-9000; or www.ets.org.

Recently, Educational Testing Services (ETS) released a new internet version of the TOEFL, the TOEFL-iBT, and is discontinuing the earlier computer based version, the TOEFL-CBT. However, there will still be people who have taken the TOEFL-CBT and the written TOEFL, who will continue to expect that their scores will still be able to be used for certification.

The passing standards for the TOEFL are as follows:

- TOEFL Written: Overall score of 560
- TOEFL CBT (Computer Based Test): Overall score of 220
- TOEFL iBT (Internet Based Test): Overall score of 83

To pursue becoming an RN in the U.S., contact the American Nurses Association, 1-800-274-4262, or visit their web site, www.ana.org. You may consider applying for **equivalency in the U.S. as a registered nurse** and working as a registered labor and delivery nurse. The commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools can evaluate your credentials for equivalency as a nurse in the U.S. if you are a nurse overseas. Contact them at 1-215-349-8767, or visit their web site at <http://www.cgfns.org/>.

If you are not an RN in the U.S., and/or do not have a bachelor's degree, there may be other options available which would use your skills and your commitment to women and families. You can learn more about these options by visiting the Web sites listed with each 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 assistance and questions about midwifery careers or ACNM, please contact the Professional Practice & Health Policy Department coordinator at (240) 485-1844, or mgreenfield@acnm.org.

* **Note:** There are three states, New York, New Jersey, and Rhode Island, where midwives who are not registered nurses can be licensed as certified midwives and practice in hospitals. For further information on becoming a certified midwife, you may want to visit the ACNM Web site www.midwife.org. You can find out about individual state regulations by contacting the state's board of nursing. Links to each state's board of nursing can be found on the Web site of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, at <https://www.ncsbn.org/index.htm>.

1/2/06; Revised 8/18/09