



POSITION STATEMENT

Mandatory Degree Requirements for Entry into Midwifery Practice

It is the position of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) that certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives should be educated according to the ACNM Core Competencies and at the graduate degree level, and that as of 2010 completion of a graduate degree shall be required for entry into clinical practice. The professional competencies and analytical skills developed and fostered in the course of graduate education contribute both to the profession and to the success of graduates themselves. ACNM recognizes the value of graduate degree preparation in midwifery, nursing, public health and other related fields.

ACNM has set the standard for education programs for certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) since 1962, and for certified midwives (CMs) since 1994. The clinical safety of entry-level midwifery practice has been and will continue to be assured by several mechanisms.

- Entry-level competencies that must be mastered in all education programs are standardized in the ACNM document "Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice."
- The Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) (formerly the ACNM Division of Accreditation (DOA)) assesses the quality and content of midwifery education programs. ACME is recognized by the United States Department of Education as an accrediting agency.
- The American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) is responsible for developing and administering the national certification examination. AMCB is a member of the National Organization for Certifying Agencies (NOCA) and is certified by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

ACNM has a history of affirming the value of midwifery education programs awarding either a graduate degree or a certificate. ACNM continues to affirm the value of the certificate route for entry into midwifery practice for students with previously earned graduate degrees and those concurrently enrolled in graduate degree programs.

ACNM supports continual recognition of all CNMs and CMs educated prior to 2010 without graduate degrees, so that they retain licensure to practice. ACNM also supports granting such midwives licensure to practice in additional states.

*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 ACNM Certification Council, Inc. (ACC).

Source: Division of Education, Basic Competency Section

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