

2019 Annual Report

The mission of the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) is to advance excellence in midwifery education. The U.S. Department of Education grants the following scope of recognition to ACME: "the accreditation and pre-accreditation of basic certificate, basic graduate nurse-midwifery, direct entry midwifery, and pre-certification nurse-midwifery education programs, including those programs that offer distance education." ACME services are available to any education program that meets the eligibility requirements outlined in our Policies and Procedures Manual. ACME is administratively and financially autonomous from the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM).

ACME Finalizes Criteria Review Process and Publishes New Criteria for Preaccreditation and Accreditation

One of the requirements for ACME's continued recognition as a programmatic accreditor by the U.S. Department of Education is a periodic comprehensive review of ACME's accreditation criteria.¹ Led by the ACME Board of Commissioners (BOC) and working with ACME staff and a team of volunteers from the midwifery education community, ACME participates in this periodic review and update process every five years. For each periodic criteria review, ACME considers the dynamic environment and ongoing discussions in higher education and the midwifery profession to ensure that the criteria remain aligned with the needs and goals of ACME's many stakeholders. In 2019, the ACME BOC implemented revised criteria that are used to evaluate midwifery education programs for preaccreditation and accreditation status.

Overview

During the Spring and Summer of 2018, the ACME BOC began the process of reviewing the ACME accreditation and preaccreditation criteria. Throughout the process, ACME encouraged broad participation of stakeholders and communities of interest in the criteria review process. BOC members sought input from midwifery faculty, midwifery clinical educators, midwifery students, ACME site visitors, state credentialing authorities, ACNM representatives, midwifery-related professional organizations, and professionals in women's health and maternal health care.

Using A Diversity and Racial Equity Lens in the Review Process

To address its strategic goal of increasing diversity and inclusion in all ACME operations and in midwifery education, and the objective of reviewing ACME accreditation criteria documents for evidence of diversity and inclusion; ACME developed and applied a diversity and racial equity lens to all ACME criteria. Through this process, ACME aimed to consider the effect, whether conscious or unconscious, of each criterion on the participation of a variety of historically marginalized groups or disadvantaged

students and faculty in midwifery education programs and the role of multicultural humility in the preparation of graduates for successful midwifery practice. The application of this lens throughout the process resulted in significant effects on the new criteria.

To begin the process of creating a draft document of revised criteria, the ACME BOC convened a work group for each of the 6 criteria. Each work group consisted of 3-5 individuals, including a commissioner in the leadership and facilitation role, as well as representatives from the ACME Board of Review (BOR), midwifery education program directors, site visitors, and others. Each work group collaborated to produce a draft of their revised criterion. The ACME BOC then hosted a 2-day in-person retreat in September 2018 to finalize a full draft of the criteria.

A 6-week stakeholder feedback period began when the full draft was posted on the ACME website and sent via email to stakeholders for third party comment. The ACME BOC and Executive Director held two open webinars during the comments period to offer stakeholders an opportunity to provide additional thoughts, ideas, comments, or concerns. After review of all comments received, the ACME BOC made final revisions and voted to adopt the new criteria for accreditation and preaccreditation.

ACME Publishes Midwifery Education Trends Report

To communicate with stakeholders about midwifery education, (ACME and the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) jointly present the Midwifery Education Trends Report. This report is based on aggregated data provided by midwifery programs to ACME in annual monitoring reports (AMR) from 2014-2019, research, information from ACNM, and the results of the annual certification examination reported by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB). This report highlights the following trends in ACME-accredited midwifery education programs: Educational pathways to midwifery; Number of ACME-accredited midwifery education programs; Student Capacity Number of qualified applicants, new students, enrolled students, and unfilled space; Midwifery education program formats; Diversity of midwifery students; Midwifery graduates and employment; Doctorate in midwifery; Increasing funding for midwifery education; and the Conclusion and recommendations. To read the full report click on the following link:

[https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/cclibraryfiles/filename/000000007637/Midwifery Education Trends Report 2019 Final.pdf](https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/cclibraryfiles/filename/000000007637/Midwifery_Education_Trends_Report_2019_Final.pdf)

Accreditation Decisions by the ACME Board of Review

The ACME BOR made the following accreditation decisions in 2019. Accrediting agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) are required to notify regional accreditors, selected specialized accreditors, regional institutional accreditors, and state licensing agencies responsible for post-secondary education of final accreditation decisions. In addition, ACME also provides notice of its accreditation decisions to the public on its website.

In accordance with 34 CFR §602.26(a), ACME must provide the details 30 days following the Board of Review decisions. ACME Board of Review took the following actions at its meetings on February 14, 2019 and July 18, 2019.

February 14, 2019 Board of Review Actions

Preaccreditation

None

Continued Programmatic Accreditation

- **Georgetown University**, Nurse-Midwifery Program, Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice (BSN-DNP) (Continued Programmatic Accreditation Granted February 2019-July 2022)
- **Marquette University**, Nurse-Midwifery Program, Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and post MSN certificate programs (Continued Programmatic Accreditation Granted February 2019- February 2029)
- **Seattle University**, Nurse- Midwifery Program - Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and post-graduate certificate programs (Continued Programmatic Accreditation Granted February 2019- January 2020)

Substantive Change

None

Adverse Action

None

Withdrawal of Accreditation

- **San Diego State University**, Nurse-Midwifery Graduate Education Program (withdrawal effective May 31, 2019)

July 18, 2019 Board of Review Action

Preaccreditation

None

Continued Programmatic Accreditation

- University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus, College of Nursing, Nurse-Midwifery Program, Master of Science (MS), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and post MSN certificate programs (Continued Programmatic Accreditation) Granted July 2019- July 2029

Substantive Change

None

Extension of Accreditation due to Off-Cycle Review

- University of California, San Francisco, MS, Post Graduate Certificate, extension of accreditation until August 31, 2020

Adverse Action

None

Withdrawal of Accreditation

None

Industry Meetings

Heather Maurer, ACME's Executive Director and ACME Board members attended many industry meetings to promote the agency and raise the profile of midwifery education in the U.S. as well to ensure compliance the Department's accreditation requirements and most recent changes to the recognition process.

Below is a sampling of meetings attended.

2019 NCSBN APRN Round Table, The Challenges and Innovations in APRN Education Chicago, IL, April 2019

The roundtable addressed the Global Forum for Innovation in Health Professional Education and elaborated on the ways in which changes and innovations may affect APRN Education and certification.

Association for Professional Accreditors Association (ASPA)

ASPA is an association of organizations that evaluate the quality of programs in colleges and universities for more than 100 different professions and specialized disciplines – from nursing to architecture, and physical therapy to engineering. In the Fall of 2019, ACME staff and an ACME Board member attended the ASPA meeting which covered topics including, Students – key stakeholders in the accreditation process; Assessing and ensuring board/council accountability; and Balancing prescription, direction, and flexibility in standards.

Birth Summit IV Santa Fe, New Mexico April 2019

The summit identified nine areas for priority action and policy reform including decolonizing pregnancy and childbirth research; workforce development across communities and professions; expanding access to physiologic labor and birth; catalyzing a cultural shift in institutions towards addressing institutional racism, and expanding trauma informed care; embedding health equity curricula, and cultural humility into interprofessional education and practice; advancing access, support, and awareness of indigenous models for high quality, respectful care; upscaling and networking innovative models for service delivery across communities; applying a human rights lens, and decriminalizing pregnant and childbearing people; and implementation of a reproductive justice framework, best practices, and accountability tools throughout the health care system.

Other Updates:

Update on new ACME accredited midwifery programs:

Currently, ACME has 37 midwifery programs as University of California at San Diego closed May 2019. A new program, Georgia College is seeking preaccreditation with a site visit Fall of 2019 and a review in February 2020. They are located in a rural part of Georgia.

Outlook for ACME Site Visits and Reviews for 2020:

In 2020, ACME will be experiencing a significant uptick in site visits and reviews. The BOR and Site Visitor Panel will have 8 plus programs up for accreditation or preaccreditation including site visits. It is projected our revenue will increase next year to reflect this impact on our review cycle.