

# ACME | ACCREDITATION COMMISSION *for* MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

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To: ACME Midwifery Program Directors  
From: Gretchen G. Mettler, Ph.D., CNM, FACNM  
Date: 8/31/2020  
Subject: ACME Virtual Site Visits

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In accordance with the temporary flexibilities provided by the U.S. Department of Education (USED), ACME will institute virtual site visits for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. The ACME Board of Commissioners (BOC) has approved temporary policies and procedures that will be used to guide the process. To meet USED statutory and regulatory requirements, virtual site visits will be followed by a focused onsite visit at some future point. The onsite visit will be scheduled when personal safety, travel, campus operations and other factors impacted by COVID-19 permit.

ACME will determine if, and under what conditions, virtual site visits will be performed during this temporary flexibility period. Virtual site visits will include an engaged, interactive format (e.g., telephonic meetings, video conference calls, video tours) and pre-recorded exemplars, rather than merely document reviews supplemented by email exchanges. Programs seeking preaccreditation or accreditation must be able to fully participate and meet the requirements.

Further, ACME can extend the term of accreditation for a reasonable period of time for programs that are undergoing accreditation review when the visit is delayed due to interruptions caused by COVID-19. Should you have any questions, please send an email to Angela Smith at [asmith@acnm.org](mailto:asmith@acnm.org).

Cc: Anne Z. Cockerham, PhD, CNM, WHNP-BC, CNE, FACNM, ACME Chair, Board of Commissioners