

March 1, 2012

Dear Program Directors,

ACME has had a number of requests from programs for information concerning accreditation implications of adding and/or transitioning to a doctoral program for midwifery education. In order for ACME to make a decision regarding the accreditation implications of such a change, we need a precise description and details of the proposed change. Specifically we will need the following information:

1. Will the degree or credential granted at the conclusion of the midwifery program change?
For example, will midwifery graduates now receive a DNP instead of an MSN upon completion of the program?
2. Will the program offer the option of completing either a master's or a doctoral degree?
3. If the proposed change includes the option of completing either a master's degree or a doctoral degree but there will be significant overlap between the two curricula, a curriculum outline that compares courses taken by master's only students and courses taken by doctoral only students, and identifies the courses taken by both master's and doctoral students, would help to present a clear picture.
4. What curricular changes are being proposed?
5. How will the proposed change affect the length of the program(s)?
6. Will the proposed change affect the length of time in months or number of hours that students spend completing required clinical practica?
7. How will the proposed change affect the cost(s) of the program(s)?

This information should be sent via a letter with appropriate attachments. The information can be sent via email to the ACME administrative assistant, Jo Ann Burke, jburke@acnm.org. Upon review of the information, ACME will respond within four weeks with further guidance regarding any accreditation or other actions that may or may not be necessary for the new program(s) or curriculum changes.

ACME looks forward to working with programs to expand educational paths to careers in midwifery.

Regards,



Susan E. Stone, CNM, DNSc, FACNM
Chair, Board of Commissioners