

## POSITION STATEMENT

### Degree Requirements for Midwifery Faculty in Colleges of Nursing

The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) holds the position that all academic and clinical faculty must be qualified to provide students with levels of instruction, supervision, and evaluation compatible with safe practice and student learning needs. The Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) requires academic and clinical faculty to have earned a minimum of a master's degree, to be certified by an appropriate credentialing body, and to be appropriately prepared for their teaching responsibilities.<sup>1</sup> Any clinical faculty member without a graduate degree must be supervised by a qualified faculty member.

Certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) who are expert clinicians are valued as clinical teachers. In addition, it is the position of ACNM that faculty with graduate degrees in midwifery, nursing, public health, and other related fields bring a variety of strengths and perspectives to midwifery practice and education.

Some ACNM members have been prevented from serving as clinical preceptors or faculty in midwifery education programs in colleges of nursing because they did not hold graduate degrees in nursing. Neither the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation<sup>2</sup> nor the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education<sup>3</sup> requires all faculty to hold graduate degrees in nursing to the exclusion of other fields. ACNM supports midwives to work as faculty or clinical preceptors with advanced degrees in any appropriate field.

#### REFERENCES

1. Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education. *Criteria for Programmatic Accreditation of Midwifery Education Programs With Instructions for Elaboration and Documentation*. Published 2019. Accessed April 21, 2022.  
<http://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/cclibraryfiles/filename/000000007485/ACMECriteriaforProgrammaticAccreditationFinalCopyrightMay2019.pdf>
2. Jackson A, Halstead J. National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation. *Nurse Educ*. 2016;4(6):303. doi:10.1097/nne.0000000000000309
3. Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. *Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs*. Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Amended 2018. Accessed April 21, 2022.  
<https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/CCNE/PDF/Standards-Final-2018.pdf>

*Note.* The terms *midwifery* and *midwives* as used throughout this document refer to the education and practice of certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) who have been certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB).

*Original Source: Division of Education*

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