

# Graduate Degree Requirements

States that Explicitly Require Graduate Degrees for Initial  
Licensure as a Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM<sup>®</sup>)  
or Certified Midwife (CM<sup>®</sup>)

A State-Level Study

Data as of July 2012



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## Note:

According to AMCB eligibility criteria, since January 1, 2011, candidates for national certification must show satisfactory completion of a graduate degree or evidence of having met the institutional requirements for a graduate degree from a program accredited by or with pre-accreditation status from the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME). This requirement means that *all* new CNMs and CMs after this date must have earned a graduate degree in order to take the examination to gain certification and enter the CNM/CM profession.

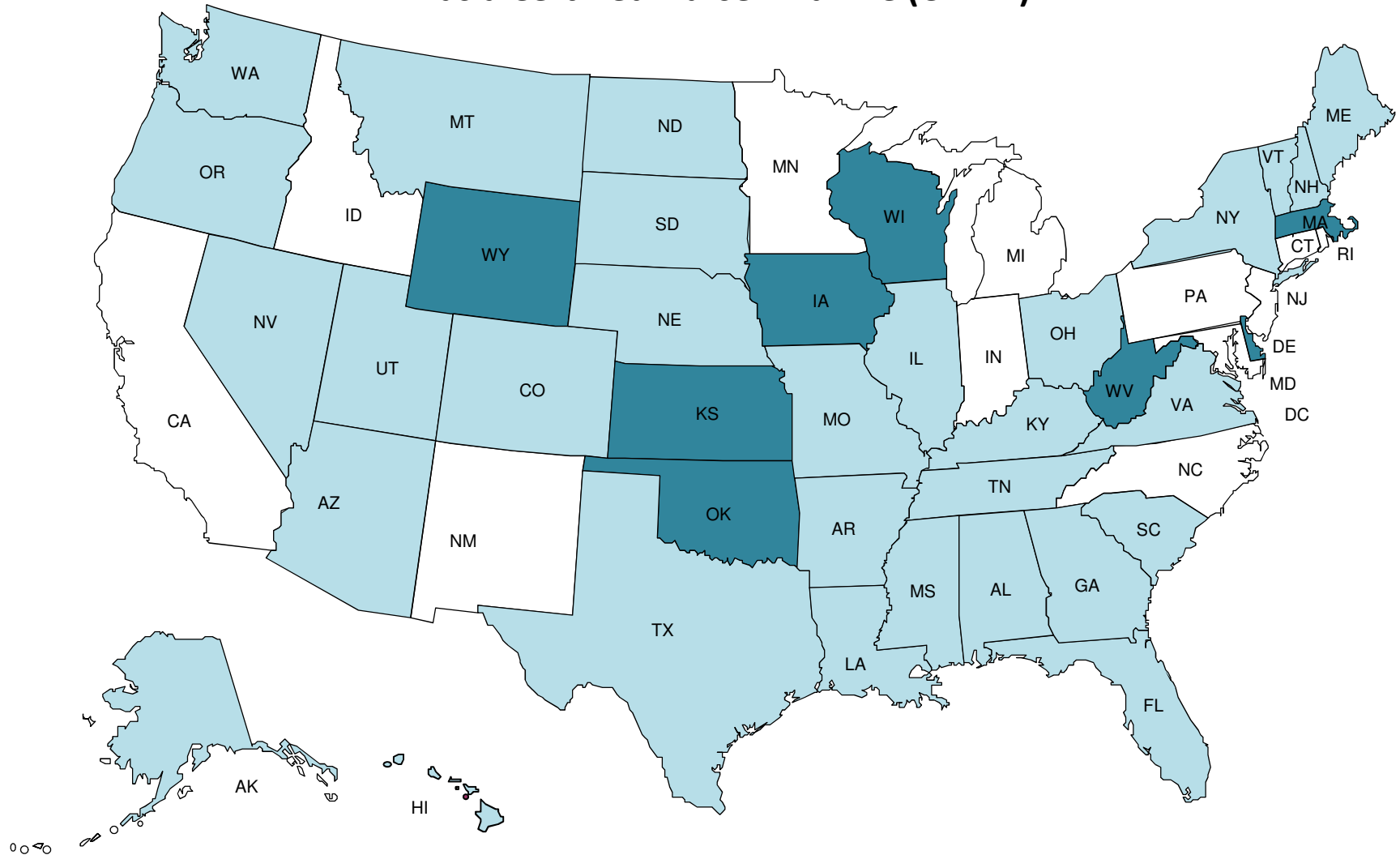
This data set, however, considers educational requirements as they are currently iterated in state law or rule.



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## States that Explicitly Require a Graduate Degree for Licensure as a Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM®)



- Graduate Degree Explicitly Required for Licensure (30)
- Graduate Degree Explicitly Required Depending on Year of Graduation (8)

STATE	GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FROM LAW OR RULE
Alabama	<p>CNMs in Alabama are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Nurse (APN). Applicants must have <b>a master’s degree or higher in advanced practice nursing</b>.</p> <p><i>Exemptions:</i> CNMs who graduated prior to 1996 from a post-baccalaureate program; CNMs who graduated prior to 1984 from a non-baccalaureate program; Board of Nursing may grant waivers at its discretion.</p>
Alaska	<p>CNMs in Alaska are regulated as a category of Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP). Applicants for licensure must have completed “<b>a formal accredited graduate educational course of study in nursing</b> that is a minimum of one academic year in length; prepares registered nurses to perform an expanded role in the delivery of health care; includes a combination of classroom instruction and a minimum of 500 separate, non-duplicated hours of supervised clinical practice; [and] if completed on or after January 1, 1998, has distinct course offerings of three graduate credits or more in advanced pathophysiology, advanced pharmacotherapeutics, and advanced physical assessment.”</p>
Arizona	<p>CNMs in Arizona are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) within the category of Registered Nurse Practitioner (RNP). Applicants must submit evidence of an <b>RNP program that was part of a graduate degree, or a post-masters program at a Board of Nursing approved institution</b>.</p> <p><i>Exemptions:</i> Graduate degree for RNP licensure is not required if the applicant submits evidence of certification or licensure in the advanced practice category that was either originally issued before 1 January 2001 if the applicant lacks a graduate degree, or before 13 November 2005 if the graduate degree is in a health-related area other than nursing.</p>
Arkansas	<p>CNMs in Arkansas are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Nurse (APN). Effective 1 January 2003, all applicants for the APN license must have successfully completed a <b>graduate level advanced practice nursing education program</b>.</p>

STATE	GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FROM LAW OR RULE
<p><b>Colorado</b></p>	<p>CNMs in Colorado are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Nurse (APN). Applicants for APN licensure must <b>possess a graduate degree in an advance practice role and/or population focus.</b></p> <p><i>Exemptions:</i> Individuals included on the Advanced Practice Registry before 20 June 2008 are not required to obtain a graduate degree.</p>
<p><b>Delaware</b></p>	<p>CNMs in Delaware are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Nurse (APN). Applicants for APN licensure must be <b>either nationally certified at the advanced level AND/OR possess a master's degree in a clinical nursing specialty.</b></p>
<p><b>Florida</b></p>	<p>CNMs in Florida are regulated as a category of Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP). Applicants for initial licensure must <b>possess one or more of the following requirements: completion of a postbasic educational program that prepares nurses for advanced or specialized practice; certification by an appropriate specialty board; and/or graduation from a master's program in a nursing clinical specialty area with preparation in specialized practitioner skills.</b></p> <p><i>Exemptions:</i> Applicants who graduated before 1 October 1998 are not required to possess a master's degree. Submission of evidence of national certification is only required for those applying after 1 July 2006.</p>
<p><b>Georgia</b></p>	<p>CNMs in Georgia are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Beginning 1 January 1999, applicants for authorization to practice nurse-midwifery must possess a <b>master's degree or higher in nursing or a graduate degree with a concentration in nurse-midwifery</b>, evidence of advanced pharmacology training within the curriculum or in a separate course, evidence of current national certification, and current RN licensure.</p>

STATE	GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FROM LAW OR RULE
Hawaii	<p>CNMs in Hawaii are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Beginning 1 October 2009, all APRN applicants must possess a valid RN license, <b>“graduate level education leading to a master’s degree as a nurse-midwife,”</b> and national certification.</p> <p><i>Exemptions:</i> Anyone recognized as an APRN prior to 1 October 2009 based on the possession of a master’s degree in nursing or national certification in an advanced nursing practice is eligible to renew such recognition.</p>
Illinois	<p>CNMs in Illinois are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Nurse (APN). Licensure as an APN requires a valid RN license, national certification, and <b>“a graduate degree appropriate for national certification in a clinical advanced practice nursing specialty or a graduate degree or post-masters certificate from a graduate level program in a clinical advanced practice nursing specialty.”</b></p> <p><i>Exemptions:</i> Any person licensed as an APN prior to 5 October 2007 are subject only to the APN license renewal requirements (proof of continued national certification, 50 hours of continuing education, and RN license renewal).</p>
Iowa	<p>CNMs in Iowa are regulated as a category of Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP). Licensure requirements include <b>“a master’s degree in a nursing clinical specialty area with preparation in specialized practitioner skills” OR “completion of a formal advanced practice education program of study in nursing specialty area” and appropriate clinical experience.</b></p>
Kansas	<p>CNMs in Kansas are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). All applicants must meet at least one of the following criteria: completion of a postbasic nursing education program that prepares the nurse to function in an advanced role; possession of a current APRN/ARNP certification issued by another Board of Nursing with requirements as stringent as those found in Kansas; or completion of a formal postbasic program and clinical experience that demonstrate sufficient preparation for the advanced practice role.</p> <p>Midwifery applicants must meet one of the following requirements: (1) Have met one of the above requirements before 1 July 2000; (2) If none of the above requirements were met before 1 July 2000, meet one of the requirements and possess a nursing B.A.; (3) <b>if none of the above requirements were met before 1 January 2010, meet one of the requirements and hold a master’s degree or higher in nursing, midwifery, or a related field.</b></p>

STATE	GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FROM LAW OR RULE
Kentucky	<p>CNMs in Kentucky are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Applicants for APRN licensure who completed a postbasic educational program in an advanced practice role after 1 January 2005 <b>“must hold a master’s degree, or doctorate, or post-master’s certificate awarding academic credit by a college or university related to the APRN designation.”</b></p> <p><i>Exemptions:</i> If postbasic program was completed before 1 January 2005, the program will be evaluated on an individual basis to determine if the program sufficiently prepared the student for advanced practice nursing.</p>
Louisiana	<p>CNMs in Louisiana are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). As of 1 January 1996, applicants must show <b>“evidence of completion of a minimum of a master’s degree with a concentration in the respective advanced practice nursing specialty.”</b></p> <p><i>Exemptions:</i> Those who provided formal documentation to the Board of Nursing of enrollment in or completion of a formal postbasic advanced practice nursing training program before 31 December 1995 are excused from this requirement.</p>
Maine	<p>CNMs in Maine are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). As of 1 January 2006, all applicants for APRN licensure <b>“must hold a master’s degree with preparation in the specialty area for which application is made.”</b></p>
Massachusetts	<p>CNMs in Massachusetts are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Licensure requires either <b>“a degree for preparation in advanced nursing practice from a graduate school approved by a national accrediting body”</b> or a certificate of completion of an education program in advanced practice nursing.</p>

STATE	GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FROM LAW OR RULE
Mississippi	<p>CNMs in Mississippi are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Certification requires submission of a transcript from <b>“an accredited master’s degree or higher program with a major in nursing; or a master’s degree or higher [from a] nurse anesthesia or nurse-midwifery program accredited by a board-approved accrediting body; or submit evidence of graduation from an accredited education program for APRNs if applicant graduated from an APRN program and was nationally certified as an APRN prior to 31 December 1993.”</b> Note that applicants who graduated from an APRN program after 31 December 1998 must have graduated from a program with a concentration in the applicant’s advanced practice nursing specialty.</p>
Missouri	<p>CNMs in Missouri are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (ARPN). Applicants for licensure must possess <b>“a graduate degree with a concentration in advanced practice nursing specialty.”</b> Applicants who graduated on or after 1 January 2009 must also possess a minimum of 500 faculty supervised clinical hours.</p> <p><i>Exemptions:</i> Applicants who graduated prior to 1 July 1998 must have completed a formal postbasic educational program of at least one year that led to either a graduate degree or certificate with a concentration in an advanced practice nursing area specialty.</p>
Montana	<p>CNMs in Montana are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Applicants for licensure must possess <b>“a master’s degree or post-graduate certificate from an accredited APRN program that provided a minimum of 250 hours of didactic instruction and a minimum of 500 hours of preceptorship.”</b></p> <p>APRNs originally licensed between 1995 and 2007 must have a “master’s degree from an accredited nursing education program, or a certificate from an accredited post-master’s program.” For those licensed prior to 1995, “a degree from a postbasic professional nursing education program in an APRN specialty with a minimum length of one academic year consisting of at least 250 hours of didactic instruction and 400 hours under a preceptor.”</p>
Nebraska	<p>CNMs in Montana are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Applicants for licensure <b>must have graduated from “a graduate level advanced practice registered nursing program” in the appropriate clinical specialty.</b> More specifically, all applicants applying after 19 July 1996 must have a master’s degree, a post-master’s certificate, or doctoral degree.</p>



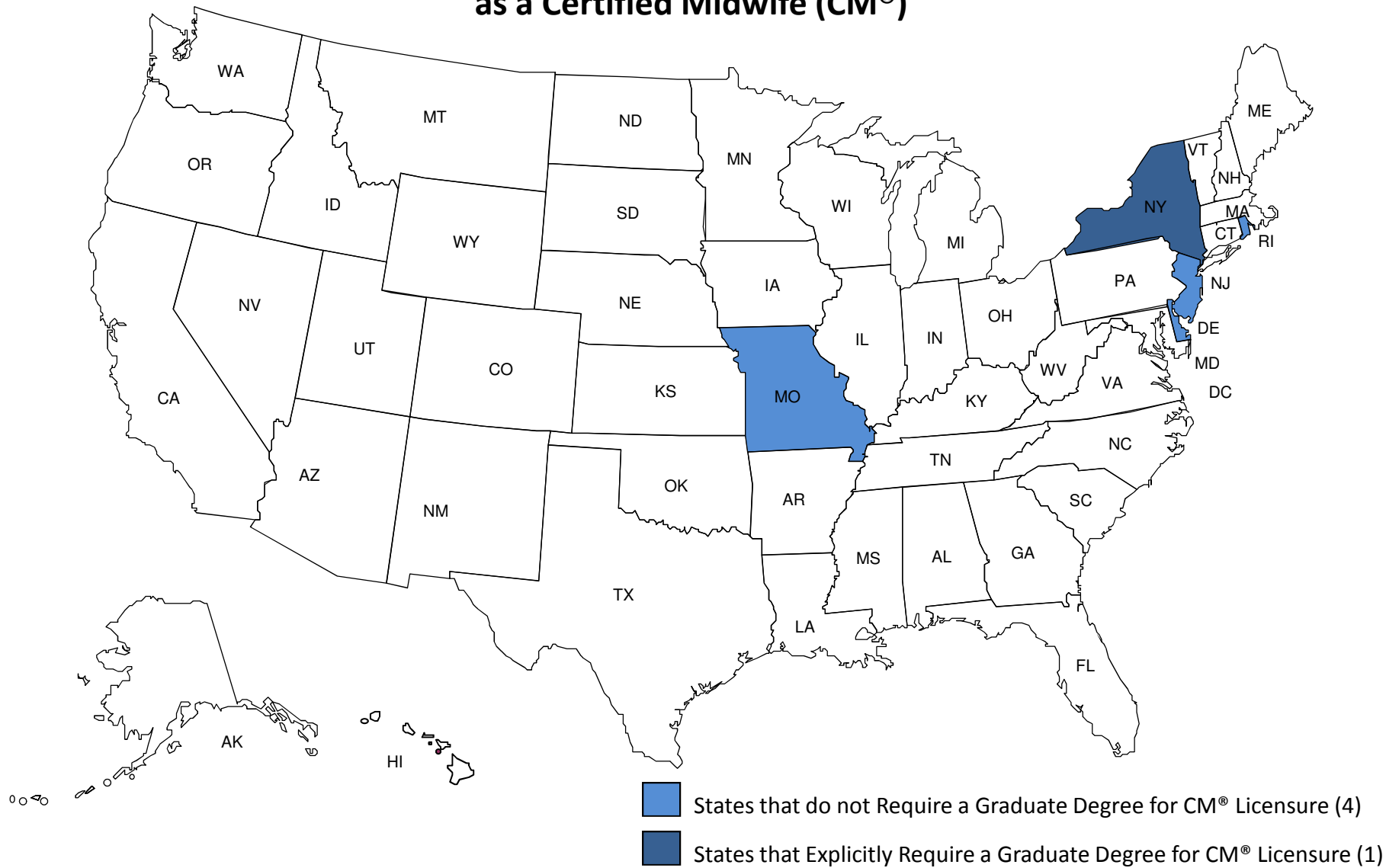
STATE	GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FROM LAW OR RULE
Nevada	CNMs in Nevada are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Nurse (APN). <b>Applicants for licensure who complete their education program in advanced practice nursing on or after 1 June 2005 must “hold a master’s degree in nursing or in a nursing related health field” approved by the Board of Nursing.</b>
New Hampshire	CNMs in New Hampshire are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). To be eligible for licensure, applicants must have <b>“a graduate degree earned in an accredited APRN program” or have graduated before 1 July 2004 from an APRN education program accredited by a national accrediting body.</b>
New York	CNMs in New York must demonstrate <b>“satisfactory evidence of completion of a master’s or higher degree program in midwifery or in a related field”</b> for licensure.
North Dakota	CNMs in North Dakota are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Applicants for licensure must <b>“submit evidence of completion of an accredited graduate level APRN program in one of the four roles and with at least one population focus.”</b> <i>Exemptions:</i> An applicant for licensure as an advanced practice registered nurse who completed an advanced nursing education program and was licensed or certified in advanced practice by another state before January 1, 2001, or who completed an advanced nursing education program and was licensed or certified as a women's health care nurse practitioner by another state before January 1, 2007, may apply for and receive an advanced practice license if that applicant meets the requirements that were in place at the time the applicant qualified for initial advanced practice licensure in that state.
Ohio	CNMs in Ohio are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Nurse (APN). To be licensed as a CNM, an applicant must have <b>“earned a graduate degree with a major in nursing specialty or in a related field that qualifies the applicant to sit for the certification exam.”</b>
Oklahoma	CNMs in Oklahoma are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Current licensure requirements include completion of an APRN education program in one of the four APRN roles and a specialty area recognized by the Board of Nursing. <b>Effective 1 January 2016 all APRN applicants must have completed a graduate level educational program.</b>

STATE	GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FROM LAW OR RULE
Oregon	CNMs in Oregon are regulated as a category of Nurse Practitioner (NP). Licensure as a NP requires a <b>“master’s degree in nursing or a doctorate in nursing from a Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC) accredited graduate nursing program.”</b> NP programs completed after 1 January 2005 must be formally affiliated with a CCNE, Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME), or NLNAC accredited graduate program at the master’s or post-master’s level.
South Carolina	CNMs in South Carolina are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Applicants for licensure must possess a <b>“doctorate, post-nursing master’s certificate, or a minimum of a master’s degree that includes advanced education composed of didactic and supervised clinical practice in a specific area of advanced practice registered nursing.”</b>
South Dakota	Applicants for licensure as a nurse-midwife in South Dakota “must file with the board a written application that contains evidence that the applicant has <b>completed an advanced practice program in nursing that awards a graduate degree</b> and is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency approved by the United States Department of Education. The education program must specifically prepare the nurse to function in the advanced practice role of nurse midwife.”
Tennessee	CNMs in Tennessee are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Nurse (APN). Applicants for licensure as an APN must have <b>“a master’s degree or higher in a nursing specialty.”</b> <i>Exemptions:</i> A graduate degree is not required if the applicant obtained “national certification in a nursing specialty and licensure in Tennessee as a registered nurse prior to July 1, 2005; or national certification in a nursing specialty and licensure as a registered nurse with the multistate licensure privilege to practice in Tennessee was obtained prior to July 1, 2005; and a current national specialty certification in the appropriate nursing specialty area.”
Texas	CNMs in Texas are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). As of 1 January 2003, all applicants for APRN licensure must have <b>“a master’s degree in an advanced practice role.”</b>

STATE	GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FROM LAW OR RULE
Utah	Applicants for licensure as a nurse-midwife in Utah must have completed a CNM education program accredited by ACNM that grants <b>“a graduate degree, including post-master’s certificates, in nurse-midwifery”</b> as of 1 January 2010.
Vermont	CNMs in Vermont are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Applicants for licensure must have <b>“a degree or certificate from a Vermont graduate nursing program” that includes a supervised clinical component in the role and population focus of the APRN’s certification, and courses in advanced pharmacotherapeutics, advanced patient assessment, and advanced pathophysiology; or hold a degree or certificate from a graduate level program that prepares students for one of the recognized APRN roles.</b>
Virginia	CNMs in Virginia are regulated as a category of Nurse Practitioner (NP). To be eligible for licensure, CNMs must present <b>“evidence of a graduate degree in nursing or in the appropriate nurse practitioner specialty.”</b>
Washington	CNMs in Washington are regulated as a category of Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP). Applicants for initial licensure must have a <b>“a graduate degree with a concentration in advanced nursing practice.”</b>
West Virginia	Current West Virginia nurse-midwifery statutes do not specifically require a graduate degree for licensure. West Virginia S.572, which was passed in March 2012, creates the licensure role of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). While specific educational requirements are not addressed in the law, the definition of APRN notes the candidates will have “completed a board approved graduate-level education program.” Current APN licensure regulations, which do not apply to CNMs, require a “master’s degree in nursing.” The new law will go into effect in June 2012. Any person licensed as a CNM prior to December 31, 2012 may be licensed as an APRN.

STATE	GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FROM LAW OR RULE
<b>Wisconsin</b>	Licensure as a CNM in Wisconsin does not require a graduate degree. CNMs who wish to obtain prescriptive authority must seek licensure as an Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber (APNP), which requires <b>“a master’s degree in nursing or a related field” for those who were certified as a CNM after 1 July 1998.</b>
<b>Wyoming</b>	CNMs in Wyoming are regulated as a category of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Applicants for licensure must provide an official transcript documenting <b>“completion of a graduate level APRN educational program” or be a graduate from an APRN educational program prior to 1 January 1999.</b>

## States that Explicitly Require a Graduate Degree for Licensure as a Certified Midwife (CM®)



STATE	GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FROM LAW OR RULE
New York	CMs in New York must demonstrate “ <b>satisfactory evidence of completion of a master’s or higher degree program in midwifery or in a related field</b> ” for licensure.