

Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) Gap Analysis of ACME and ICM Global Education Standards

ICM STANDARD I – Organization & Administration & ACME Criteria		
ICM Educational Standard¹	ACME Accreditation Criteria²	Comments
Standard I.1 The host institution/agency/branch of government supports the philosophy, aims and objectives of the midwifery education programme.	<p>Criterion I. C.1. There is evidence of commitment to the midwifery program of key administrators in the institution and academic unit</p> <p>Criterion IV. A.1. The midwifery program philosophy is consistent with: A. 1.c. The philosophy of the academic unit within which the midwifery program resides, if applicable.</p>	
Standard I.2 The host institution helps to ensure that financial and public/policy support for the midwifery education programme are sufficient to prepare competent midwives.	<p>Criterion I. C.2. The midwifery program has sufficient fiscal resources to ensure that program objectives can be met.</p>	
Standard I.3 The midwifery school/programme has a designated budget and budget control that meets programme needs.	<p>Criterion I. C.3. The midwifery program has input into the budget process and/or financial planning to ensure ongoing adequate program resources.</p>	
Standard I.4 The midwifery faculty is self-governing and responsible for developing and	<p>Criterion I. D. Each midwifery program is a definable</p>	Note: Midwifery programs are self-governing in terms of development

<p>leading the policies and curriculum of the midwifery education programme.</p>	<p>entity distinguishable from other education programs and services within the institution. Each complies with:</p> <p>Criterion II. C.3.a. (Core faculty participate in) Development and/or implementation, and evaluation of the curriculum.</p> <p>C.3.g.1) (Faculty) Participate or have input into councils and committees of the academic unit.</p>	<p>of the curriculum, policies for the midwifery program and having input into administration and budget. In the United States, all certified midwife programs are located within institutions of higher learning. Therefore the program is ultimately governed by the policies of the institution in which they are located.</p>
<p>Standard I.5 The head of the midwifery programme is a qualified midwife teacher with experience in management/administration.</p>	<p>Criterion I. D.1. The midwifery program is directed by a midwife who is clearly identified by title and position, meets institutional qualifications for appointment to that position, and is responsible to insure all elements of the <i>ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁴ are included in the curriculum.</p>	<p>ACME does not have a criterion that specifies that the midwifery program director has experience with management/administration.</p>
<p>Standard I.6 The midwifery programme takes into account national and international policies and standards to meet maternity workforce needs.</p>	<p>Criterion IV. E.2. The curricular content includes the most up-to-date evidence base for midwifery practice and is congruent with <i>ACNM Standards for the Practice of Midwifery</i> and other practice documents.</p> <p>Criterion VI A.3. The assessment plan reflects state or national standards in its</p>	<p>While ACME criteria are in line with the <i>ACNM Standards for the Practice of Midwifery</i> and other documents and meets the U.S. Department of Education accreditation standards, this does not speak to the maternity workforce needs.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there are numerous national policy documents such as <i>Transforming</i></p>

	<p>review and updating of the program philosophy, purpose/mission, objectives/outcomes.</p>	<p><i>Maternity Care – A Call to Action</i> (Childbirth Connections, 2011), <i>The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing</i> (Institute of Medicine, 2010) and the <i>The Obstetrician-Gynecologist Workforce in the United States: Facts, Figures, and Implications</i> (ACOG, 2011), all call for an increase in the number of midwives and other health care providers to meet state and national workforce needs in obstetrics and gynecology.</p> <p>Although no specific national workforce policy related to midwifery exists, the Health Resources and Services Administration has identified numerous obstetrical gynecological and primary care health professional shortage areas across the United States.</p>
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ICM STANDARD II – Midwifery Faculty

ICM Educational Standard¹	ACME Accreditation Criteria²	Comments
Standard II.1 The midwifery faculty includes predominantly midwives (teachers and clinical preceptors/clinical teachers) who work with experts from	<p>Criterion II</p> <p>B.1. Midwifery program faculty are certified by ACNM, the American Midwifery Certification</p>	

<p>other disciplines as needed.</p>	<p>Board (AMCB) or another appropriate credentialing body for faculty who are not midwives.</p> <p>C. Faculty participating in the midwifery program will have the following responsibilities that will provide students with a level of instruction, supervision and evaluation compatible with safe practice and student learning needs:</p> <p>C.1. Instruction, supervision, and evaluation of students in didactic courses containing ACNM <i>Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁴ shall be the responsibility primarily of midwifery program faculty.</p> <p>C.2. Instruction, supervision, and evaluation of students in clinical learning shall be the responsibility primarily of certified midwives.</p> <p>Glossary Definitions: Faculty, including midwives and others, as defined by the program who are directly responsible for curriculum design, implementation, and evaluation of the midwifery program.</p> <p>Midwifery Program Faculty - All certified midwives and faculty of other disciplines who teach and evaluate midwifery students. This includes faculty members with primarily or exclusively clinical teaching responsibilities.</p>	
<p>Standard II.2. a The midwife teacher has formal preparation in midwifery.</p>	<p>Criterion II. B.1. Midwifery program faculty are certified by</p>	

	<p>ACNM, the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB), or another appropriate credentialing body for faculty who are not midwives.</p>	
<p>Standard II.2.b The midwife teacher demonstrates competency in midwifery practice, generally accomplished with two (2) years full scope practice.</p>	<p>Criterion II. B. All faculty are qualified to provide students with a level of instruction, supervision and evaluation that is compatible with safe practice and student learning needs. All faculty are qualified in that:</p> <p>B.1. Midwifery program faculty are certified by ACNM, the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB), or another appropriate credentialing body for faculty who are not midwives.</p> <p>B.2. Have education credentials appropriate to the level at which they teach, with a minimum of a master's degree, and meet the academic institution's requirements for faculty. If a faculty member possesses less than these qualifications, that individual must be responsible to a qualified faculty member.</p> <p>B.3. Have preparation for teaching commensurate with the teaching assignment, e.g. didactic classroom, mixed medium and distance delivery and/or clinical teaching.</p> <p>B.4. Have competence commensurate with the</p>	

	<p>teaching assignment.</p> <p>Criterion II. C.3.g.3 (Faculty) Maintain clinical expertise.</p>	
<p>Standard II.2.c The midwife teacher holds a current license/registration or other form of legal recognition to practice midwifery.</p>	<p>Criterion II</p> <p>B. All faculty are qualified to provide students with a level of instruction, supervision and evaluation that is compatible with safe practice and student learning needs.</p> <p>All faculty are qualified in that:</p> <p>B.1. Midwifery program faculty are certified by ACNM, the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB), or another appropriate credentialing body for faculty who are not midwives.</p> <p>B.2. Have education credentials appropriate to the level at which they teach, with a minimum of a master's degree, and meet the academic institution's requirements for faculty. If a faculty member possesses less than these qualifications, that individual must be responsible to a qualified faculty member.</p>	
<p>Standard II.2.d The midwife teacher has formal preparation for teaching, or undertakes such preparation as a condition of continuing to hold the position.</p>	<p>Criterion II.</p> <p>B. All faculty are qualified to provide students with a level of instruction, supervision and evaluation that is compatible with safe practice and student learning needs.</p>	

	<p>All faculty are qualified in that:</p> <p>B.2. Have education credentials appropriate to the level at which they teach, with a minimum of a master's degree, and meet the academic institution's requirements for faculty. If a faculty member possesses less than these qualifications, that individual must be responsible to a qualified faculty member.</p> <p>B.3. Have preparation for teaching commensurate with the teaching assignment, e.g. didactic classroom, mixed medium and distance delivery and/or clinical teaching.</p> <p>B.4. Have competence commensurate with the teaching assignment.</p>	
<p>Standard II.2.e The midwife teacher maintains competence in midwifery practice and education.</p>	<p>Criterion II. C.3.g.2) (Faculty) Continue professional advancement.</p> <p>C.3.g.3) (Faculty) Maintain clinical expertise.</p>	
<p>Standard II.3.a The midwife clinical preceptor/clinical teacher is qualified according to the ICM Definition of a midwife.</p> <p>A midwife is a person who has successfully completed a midwifery education programme that is duly recognized in the country where it is</p>	<p>Criterion II. All faculty (includes preceptors) are qualified in that:</p> <p>B.1. Midwifery program faculty are certified by ACNM, the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB), or another appropriate credentialing body for faculty who are not midwives.</p>	<p>Note: Certification by ACNM or AMCB requires the successful completion of an ACME accredited or preaccredited midwifery education program. ACME is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency.</p> <p>Note: Evidence to support Criterion II.</p>

<p>located and that is based on the ICM <i>Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i> and the framework of the ICM <i>Global Standards for Midwifery Education</i>; who has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practice midwifery and use the title ‘midwife’; and who demonstrates competency in the practice of midwifery.³</p>	<p>B.2. Have education credentials appropriate to the level at which they teach, with a minimum of a master’s degree, and meet the academic institution's requirements for faculty. If a faculty member possesses less than these qualifications, that individual must be responsible to a qualified faculty member.</p> <p>B.3. Have preparation for teaching commensurate with the teaching assignment, e.g. didactic classroom, mixed medium and distance delivery and/or clinical teaching.</p> <p>B.4. Have competence commensurate with the teaching assignment.</p>	<p>B.1 & B.2 includes verification of licensure, credentialing and certification.</p>
<p>Standard II.3.b The midwife clinical preceptor/clinical teacher demonstrates competency in midwifery practice, generally accomplished with two (2) years full scope practice.</p>	<p>Criterion II.</p> <p>B. All faculty are qualified to provide students with a level of instruction, supervision and evaluation that is compatible with safe practice and student learning needs.</p> <p>All faculty are qualified in that:</p> <p>B.1. Midwifery program faculty are certified by ACNM, the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB), or another appropriate credentialing body for faculty who are not midwives.</p> <p>B.2. Have education credentials appropriate to the level at which they teach, with a minimum of</p>	

	<p>a master's degree, and meet the academic institution's requirements for faculty. If a faculty member possesses less than these qualifications, that individual must be responsible to a qualified faculty member.</p> <p>B.3. Have preparation for teaching commensurate with the teaching assignment, e.g. didactic classroom, mixed medium and distance delivery and/or clinical teaching.</p> <p>B.4. Have competence commensurate with the teaching assignment.</p> <p>Criterion II. C.3.g.3) (Faculty) Maintain clinical expertise.</p>	
Standard II.3.c The midwife clinical preceptor/clinical teacher maintains competency in midwifery practice and clinical education.	<p>Criterion II. C.3.g.2) (Faculty) Continue professional advancement.</p> <p>C.3.g.3) (Faculty) Maintain clinical expertise.</p>	
Standard II.3.d The midwife clinical preceptor/clinical teacher holds a current license/registration or other form of legal recognition to practice midwifery.	<p>Criterion II. All faculty (includes preceptors) are qualified in that:</p> <p>B.1. Midwifery program faculty are certified by ACNM, the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB), or another appropriate credentialing body for faculty who are not midwives.</p>	<p>Note: Evidence to support Criterion II. B.1 & B.2 includes verification of licensure, credentialing and certification.</p> <p>Note: Certification by ACNM or AMCB requires the successful completion of an ACME accredited or preaccredited midwifery education</p>

	<p>B.2. Have education credentials appropriate to the level at which they teach, with a minimum of a master’s degree, and meet the academic institution's requirements for faculty. If a faculty member possesses less than these qualifications, that individual must be responsible to a qualified faculty member.</p> <p>B.3. Have preparation for teaching commensurate with the teaching assignment, e.g. didactic classroom, mixed medium and distance delivery and/or clinical teaching.</p> <p>B.4. Have competence commensurate with the teaching assignment.</p> <p>C.2. Instruction, supervision, and evaluation of students in clinical learning shall be the responsibility of primarily certified midwives.</p>	<p>program. ACME is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency.</p>
<p>Standard II.3.e The midwifery clinical preceptor/clinical teacher has formal preparation for clinical teaching or undertakes such preparation</p>	<p>Criterion II. B.3. Have preparation for teaching commensurate with the teaching assignment, e.g. didactic classroom, mixed medium and distance delivery and/or clinical teaching.</p>	
<p>Standard II.4 Individuals from other disciplines who teach in the midwifery programme are competent in the content they teach.</p>	<p>Criterion II. All faculty (includes preceptors and non-midwife core faculty) are qualified in that:</p> <p>B.1. Midwifery program faculty are certified by ACNM, the American Midwifery Certification</p>	<p>Note: Evidence to support Criterion II. B.1 & B.2 includes verification of licensure, credentialing and certification of midwifery faculty and non-midwifery faculty.</p>

	<p>Board (AMCB), or another appropriate credentialing body for faculty who are not midwives.</p> <p>B.2. Have education credentials appropriate to the level at which they teach, with a minimum of a master’s degree, and meet the academic institution's requirements for faculty. If a faculty member possesses less than these qualifications, that individual must be responsible to a qualified faculty member.</p> <p>B.3. Have preparation for teaching commensurate with the teaching assignment, e.g. didactic classroom, mixed medium and distance delivery and/or clinical teaching.</p> <p>B.4. Have competence commensurate with the teaching assignment.</p>	<p>Note: Certification by ACNM or AMCB requires the successful completion of an ACME accredited or preaccredited midwifery education program. ACME is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as an accrediting agency.</p>
<p>Standard II.5 Midwife teachers provide education, support and supervision of individuals who teach students in practical learning sites.</p>	<p>Criterion II.</p> <p>C.3. Core faculty (includes all midwife and non-midwife faculty) participate in the following responsibilities:</p> <p>C.3.d. Orientation of faculty to curriculum, documents and expectations.</p> <p>C.3.e. Development and/or implementation of a mechanism for student evaluation of teachers, courses and midwifery program effectiveness</p>	<p>Note: Criterion II.C.3.e speaks to preceptor evaluation.</p>

	<p>C.3.f. Ongoing development and annual evaluation of the midwifery program's resources, facilities, and services.</p> <p>Criterion IV. F. Regular communication occurs among and between faculty and students during implementation of the curriculum.</p> <p>Criterion VI. A.4.a. Initial and periodic evaluation of the ability and effectiveness of clinical sites to meet student learning needs.</p> <p>A.4.b. Evaluation of the clinical experiences in relation to enabling students to achieve clinical competence.</p> <p>A. 4c. Current contract for each clinical site.</p> <p>A.5. The assessment process includes a plan for evaluation of faculty teaching in the program. All faculty are evaluated annually on the following basis: A.5.b. Clinical teacher competence as applicable.</p>	
<p>Standard II.6 Midwife teachers and midwife clinical preceptors/clinical teachers work together to support (facilitate), directly observe, and evaluate students' practical learning.</p>	<p>Criterion II.</p> <p>C. Faculty participating in the midwifery program will have the following responsibilities that will provide students with a level of instruction, supervision and evaluation</p>	

	<p>compatible with safe practice and student learning needs:</p> <p>C.1. Instruction, supervision, and evaluation of students in didactic courses containing ACNM <i>Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁴ shall be the responsibility primarily of midwifery program faculty.</p> <p>C.2. Instruction, supervision, and evaluation of students in clinical learning shall be the responsibility primarily of certified midwives.</p> <p>C.3. Core faculty participate in the following responsibilities:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">C.3.a. Development and/or implementation, and evaluation of the curriculum.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">C.3.b. Selection, evaluation, advancement, and advisement of students.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">C.3.c. Recruitment, selection and promotion of faculty.</p> <p>Criterion III.</p> <p>D. Upon entering the program, students have access to and are informed of support services designed to meet their needs in order to promote their retention and progression through the program.</p> <p>Criterion IV.</p>	
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	<p>F. Regular communication occurs among and between faculty (midwife teachers and clinical preceptors) and students during implementation of the curriculum.</p> <p>Criterion VI.</p> <p>A.4. The assessment process includes periodic evaluation of clinical education. Clinical evaluation will include:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A.4.a. Initial and periodic evaluation of the ability and effectiveness of clinical sites to meet student learning needs.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A.4.b. Evaluation of the clinical experiences in relation to enabling students to achieve clinical competence.</p>	
<p>Standard II.7 The ratio of students to teachers and clinical preceptors/clinical teachers in classroom and practical sites is determined by the midwifery programme and the requirements of regulatory authorities.</p>	<p>Criterion V.</p> <p>A. Faculty and staff for the midwifery program are sufficient in number to meet midwifery program objectives/outcomes. They include:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A.1. Adequate number of qualified faculty.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A.2. Adequate number of staff for secretarial, technical and student support.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">B. Physical facilities are adequate to meet program objectives/outcomes.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">C. Learning resources are current, available, accessible and adequate.</p>	

<p>Standard II.8 The effectiveness of midwifery faculty members is assessed on a regular basis following an established process.</p>	<p>Criterion VI.</p> <p>A. Each program has a comprehensive plan for ongoing assessment of the program philosophy, mission/purpose, and objectives/outcomes to achieve continuous quality improvement.</p> <p>A.1. The program assessment process includes ongoing data collection and analysis to achieve program improvement. These data include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>A.5. The assessment process includes a plan for evaluation of faculty teaching in the program. All faculty are evaluated annually on the following basis:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A.5.a. Didactic teacher competence as applicable.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A.5.b. Clinical teacher competence as applicable.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A.5.c. Currency of knowledge and clinical competence in area(s) of practice related to midwifery program responsibilities.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A.5.d. Non-discriminatory, respectful approach to students, colleagues, and patients in keeping with the basic principles of the ACNM <i>Code of Ethics</i>.</p> <p>C.3.e.(Faculty responsibility) Development and/or implementation of a mechanism for student evaluation of teachers, courses and midwifery program effectiveness.</p>	<p>Note: Evidence of the assessment process includes a copy of the written plan and documentation that the plan was carried out.</p> <p>II.</p>
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ICM STANDARD III – Student Body		
ICM Educational Standard¹	ACME Accreditation Criteria²	Comments
<p>Standard III.1 The midwifery programme has clearly written admission policies that are accessible to potential applicants.</p> <p>Standard III.1.a The admission policies include entry requirements including minimum requirement of completion of secondary education.</p>	<p>Criterion I. D.2. Policies, requirements and public disclosure data for the midwifery program are accurately described in the institution's representations to the public about its education offerings in the following aspects:</p> <p>D.2.c. Academic policies, such as admission, continuation, and graduation requirements, and possible patterns of progression through the program.</p> <p>Criterion III. A. The institution has admission criteria and policies, including a non-discrimination policy, which are publicly available.</p>	<p>Note: See page 5 in the ACME, <i>Criteria for Programmatic Accreditation of Midwifery Education Programs with Instructions for Elaboration & Documentation</i>, October, 2012</p> <p>“Currently, ACME accredits programs that culminate in a certificate, master’s degree, doctoral degree or post-graduate certificate. ACME also accredits pre-certification programs. There may be multiple paths of entry into these programs. Such programs include, but are not limited to, the following examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate degree or baccalaureate degree to master’s degree program in nurse-midwifery or midwifery • Post baccalaureate certificate • A midwifery education program that leads to a master’s degree in midwifery, nursing, public health or an allied health field • Post graduate certificate • A midwifery education program that leads to a doctoral degree.”

		<p>Note: All ACME accredited programs are post-secondary education¹¹. The Position Statement on Midwifery Education states “All midwifery education programs are located in or affiliated with an institution of higher learning that is accredited by an agency recognized by the US Department of Education. Beginning in 2010, a graduate degree will be required for entry into midwifery practice. All education programs accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME), (formerly the ACNM Division of Accreditation) either grant a master’s degree or higher or are affiliated with a school that offers a master’s completion option”.</p>
<p>Standard III.1.b The admission policies include a transparent recruitment process.</p>	<p>Criterion I. D.2. Policies, requirements and public disclosure data for the midwifery program are accurately described in the institution's representations to the public about its education offerings in the following aspects: D.2.a. Current accreditation status from the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) (formerly the ACNM Division of Accreditation), including the address, telephone number and electronic address for ACME. D.2.b. Certificate or degree that may be</p>	

	<p>earned.</p> <p>D.2.c. Academic policies, such as admission, continuation, and graduation requirements, and possible patterns of progression though the program.</p> <p>Criterion III.</p> <p>A. The institution has admission criteria and policies, including a non-discrimination policy, which are publicly available.</p> <p>B. Recruitment materials and processes accurately represent the program practices and policies.</p> <p>C. The institution has student policies that are publicly available and identified to students upon admission related to: student evaluation, progression, retention, dismissal, and graduation; review of personal records and equitable tuition refund; evaluation of their education; access to university/college catalogs; and access to academic calendars</p>	
<p>Standard III.1.c The admission policies include a selection process and criteria for acceptance.</p>	<p>Criterion I.</p> <p>D. Each midwifery program is a definable entity distinguishable from other education programs and services within the institution.</p> <p>Each complies with:</p> <p>D.2.c. Academic policies, such as admission, continuation, and graduation requirements, and possible patterns of progression though the program</p>	

	<p>Criterion III.</p> <p>A. The institution has admission criteria and policies, including a non-discrimination policy, which are publicly available.</p> <p>C. The institution has student policies that are publicly available and identified to students upon admission related to: student evaluation, progression, retention, dismissal, and graduation; review of personal records and equitable tuition refund; evaluation of their education; access to university/college catalogs; and access to academic calendars.</p>	
<p>Standard III.1.d The admission policies include mechanisms for taking account of prior learning.</p>	<p>Criterion I.</p> <p>D. Each midwifery program is a definable entity distinguishable from other education programs and services within the institution. Each complies with:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">D.2.e. Transfer of credit policy</p> <p>Criterion IV.</p> <p>C. The midwifery program has standards for student preparation for or exemption from clinical course work and clinical experience.</p> <p>C.1 The midwifery program has established criteria which students must meet prior to (prerequisite) or concomitantly with (corequisite) enrolling in, receiving transfer credit for, or being exempted from, midwifery clinical coursework and clinical experience.</p>	<p>Note: Examples of course challenge mechanisms, transcript assessments, or other procedures are used to assess whether a student has met the criteria.</p>

	<p>C. 2. The midwifery program ensures that students meet the program’s established prerequisite or corequisite criteria prior to or concomitantly with enrolling in, or being exempted from, midwifery clinical coursework and clinical experience.</p> <p>D. The midwifery program has standards for student preparation for or exemption from didactic course work.</p>	
Standard III.2 Eligible midwifery candidates are admitted without prejudice or discrimination (e.g., gender, age, national origin, religion)	<p>Criterion III</p> <p>A. The institution has admission criteria and policies, including a non-discrimination policy, which are publicly available.</p>	
Standard III.3 Eligible midwifery candidates are admitted in keeping with national health care policies and maternity workforce plans.	<p>Criterion IV</p> <p>A. Each program has a comprehensive plan for ongoing assessment of the program philosophy, mission/purpose, and objectives/outcomes to achieve continuous quality improvement.</p> <p>A.3.b. Significant changes in higher education that are relevant to the program</p> <p>A. 1.b. Evaluations from external constituents such as employers of graduates and public comment as available.</p> <p>A.1.c. Enrollment, graduation, attrition, and other data relevant to the program for the past 3 years .</p>	<p>Note: There are numerous national policy documents such as <i>Transforming Maternity Care – A Call to Action</i> (Childbirth Connections, 2011), <i>The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing</i> (Institute of Medicine, 2010) and the <i>The Obstetrician-Gynecologist Workforce in the United States: Facts, Figures, and Implications</i> (ACOG, 2011), all call for an increase in the number of midwives and other health care providers to meet state and national workforce needs in obstetrics and gynecology.</p> <p>Although no specific national workforce policy related to midwifery</p>

		<p>exists, the Health Resources and Services Administration has identified numerous obstetrical gynecological and primary care health professional shortage areas across the United States.</p> <p>This criterion requires that education programs describe how they identify and address significant changes in higher education that will be reflected in the program assessment process. These may include changes in the federal Higher Education Act, major shifts in teaching philosophy or educational technology.</p>
<p>Standard III.4 The midwifery programme has clearly written student policies.</p> <p>Standard III.4.a. Student policies include expectations of students in classroom and practical areas</p>	<p>Criterion III</p> <p>C. The institution has student policies that are publicly available and identified to students upon admission related to: student evaluation, progression, retention, dismissal, and graduation; review of personal records and equitable tuition refund; evaluation of their education; access to university/college catalogs; and access to academic calendars.</p> <p>E. Evaluation of students is an ongoing process that assesses the student’s movement toward and ultimate achievement of the midwifery program objectives/outcomes.</p> <p>E.1. Students are formally informed of course objectives/outcomes and methods of evaluation at the beginning of each course.</p>	<p>Note: Students are required to exhibit the Hallmarks of Midwifery, contained in the <i>ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice⁴</i>, which includes professional behaviors (see Criterion IV. E.1).</p>

	E.2. Students are apprised of their progress on an ongoing basis.	
Standard III.4.b Student policies include statements about students' rights and responsibilities and an established process for addressing student appeals and/or grievances.	<p>Criterion III</p> <p>F. Student rights and responsibilities consistent with institution policy are available in written form, and students are notified where the policies may be found. This includes:</p> <p>F.3. Clearly defined mechanisms for consideration of grievances, complaints or appeals.</p>	
Standard III.4.c Student policies include mechanisms for students to provide feedback and ongoing evaluation of the midwifery curriculum, midwifery faculty and the midwifery programme.	<p>Criterion II</p> <p>C. Faculty participating in the midwifery program will have the following responsibilities that will provide students with a level of instruction, supervision and evaluation compatible with safe practice and student learning needs:</p> <p>C.3. Core faculty participate in the following responsibilities:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">C.3.e. Development and/or implementation of a mechanism for student evaluation of teachers, courses and midwifery program effectiveness.</p> <p>Criterion III</p> <p>F. Student rights and responsibilities consistent with institution policy are available in written form, and students are notified where the policies may be found. This includes:</p> <p>F.1. Opportunities for student involvement in</p>	

	<p>development and implementation of midwifery program policies.</p> <p>F.2. Opportunities to participate or have input into the representation on councils or committees of the institution or academic unit.</p>	
<p>Standard III.4.d Student policies include requirements for successful completion of the midwifery programme.</p>	<p>Criterion III</p> <p>F. Student rights and responsibilities consistent with institution policy are available in written form, and students are notified where the policies may be found. This includes:</p> <p>F.4. Access to resources and opportunities is equivalent regardless of student location and teaching modalities.</p> <p>Criterion IV</p> <p>E. Components of the program and its curriculum include:</p> <p>E.1. The curriculum is consistent with the <i>ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁴.</p> <p>E.2. The curricular content includes the most up-to-date evidence base for midwifery practice and is congruent with <i>ACNM Standards for the Practice of Midwifery</i> and other practice documents.</p> <p>E.3. The didactic and clinical components of the curriculum are implemented by a variety of</p>	

	<p>methods to achieve the program objectives/outcomes and ensure student learning.</p> <p>E. 4. The program ensures that graduates will have achieved competence.</p> <p>E. 4.a. The program provides students with the necessary clinical experiences to achieve the objectives/ outcomes of the program.</p> <p>E.4.b. The program provides that each student has access to at least this minimum number of experiences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 10 Preconception care visits 2. 15 New antepartum visits 3. 70 Return antepartum visits 4. 20 Labor management experiences 5. 20 Births 6. 20 Newborn assessments 7.10 Breastfeeding support visits 8. 20 Postpartum visits (0-7 days) 9. 15 Postpartum visits (1-8 weeks) 10. Primary care visits: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 40 common health b) 20 family planning visits c) 40 gynecologic visits including perimenopausal and postmenopausal visits. 	
<p>Standard III.5 Mechanisms exist for the student’s active participation in midwifery programme governance and committees.</p>	<p>Criterion III</p> <p>F. Student rights and responsibilities consistent with institution policy are available in written form, and students are notified where the policies may be found. This includes:</p>	

	<p>F.1. Opportunities for student involvement in development and implementation of midwifery program policies.</p> <p>F.2. Opportunities to participate or have input into the representation on councils or committees of the institution or academic unit.</p>	
<p>Standard III.6 Students have sufficient midwifery practical experience in a variety of settings to attain, at a minimum, the current ICM Essential competencies for basic midwifery practice.</p>	<p>Criterion III D. Upon entering the program, students have access to and are informed of support services designed to meet their needs in order to promote their retention and progression through the program.</p> <p>Criterion IV. E. Components of the program and its curriculum include:</p> <p>E.1. The curriculum is consistent with the <i>ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁴.</p> <p>E.2. The curricular content includes the most up-to-date evidence base for midwifery practice and is congruent with <i>ACNM Standards for the Practice of Midwifery</i> and other practice documents.</p> <p>E.3. The didactic and clinical components of the curriculum are implemented by a variety of methods to achieve the program objectives/outcomes and ensure student learning.</p>	<p>Note: A comparison of the ACNM <i>Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁴ and the ICM <i>Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁵ will be available as a separate document.</p>

	<p>E. 4. The program ensures that graduates will have achieved competence.</p> <p>E. 4.a. The program provides students with the necessary clinical experiences to achieve the objectives/ outcomes of the program.</p> <p>E.4.b. The program provides that each student has access to at least this minimum number of experiences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 10 Preconception care visits 2. 15 New antepartum visits 3. 70 Return antepartum visits 4. 20 Labor management experiences 5. 20 Births 6. 20 Newborn assessments 7.10 Breastfeeding support visits 8. 20 Postpartum visits (0-7 days) 9. 15 Postpartum visits (1-8 weeks) 10. Primary care visits: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 40 common health b) 20 family planning visits c) 40 gynecologic visits including perimenopausal and postmenopausal visits. <p>Criterion VI</p> <p>A.4. The assessment process includes periodic evaluation of clinical education. Clinical evaluation will include:</p> <p>A.4.a. Initial and periodic evaluation of the ability and effectiveness of clinical sites to meet student learning needs.</p>	
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	<p>A.4.b. Evaluation of the clinical experiences in relation to enabling students to achieve clinical competence.</p> <p>A.4.c. Current contract for each clinical site.</p>	
<p>Standard III.7 Students provide midwifery care primarily under the supervision of a midwife teacher or midwifery clinical preceptor/clinical teacher.</p>	<p>Criterion II</p> <p>C. Faculty participating in the midwifery program will have the following responsibilities that will provide students with a level of instruction, supervision and evaluation compatible with safe practice and student learning needs:</p> <p>C.1. Instruction, supervision, and evaluation of students in didactic courses containing ACNM <i>Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁴ shall be the responsibility primarily of midwifery program faculty.</p> <p>C.2. Instruction, supervision, and evaluation of students in clinical learning shall be the responsibility primarily of certified midwives.</p> <p>Criterion VI</p> <p>A.4. The assessment process includes periodic evaluation of clinical education. Clinical evaluation will include:</p> <p>A.4.a. Initial and periodic evaluation of the ability and effectiveness of clinical sites to meet student learning needs.</p> <p>A.4.b. Evaluation of the clinical experiences in relation to enabling students to achieve clinical competence.</p> <p>A.4.c. Current contract for each clinical site.</p>	

ICM STANDARD IV – Curriculum		
ICM Educational Standard¹	ACME Accreditation Criteria²	Comments
Standard IV.1 The philosophy of the midwifery education programme is consistent with the ICM Philosophy and model of care.	<p>Criterion IV</p> <p>A. The curriculum is based on three distinct statements which provide the foundation for the development, implementation and evaluation of the curriculum. They are 1) a statement of philosophy, 2) a statement of purpose/mission, and 3) a statement of objectives/ outcomes.</p> <p>A.1. The midwifery program philosophy is consistent with:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A.1.a. The philosophy of the ACNM⁶.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A.1.b. The philosophy of the institution within which the midwifery program resides or is affiliated.</p>	Note: The ACNM ⁶ and ICM Philosophy ⁷ and model of care are in agreement, although a formal analysis and comparison was not undertaken.
<p>Standard IV.2 The purpose of the midwifery education programme is to produce a competent midwife.</p> <p>Standard IV.2.a A competent midwife has attained/demonstrated, at a minimum, the current ICM Essential competencies for basic midwifery practice.</p>	<p>Purposes of the ACME Criteria for Accreditation (Page 4)</p> <p>B. Assure all aspects of midwifery education programs lead to appropriate student outcomes and prepare competent midwives.</p> <p>Criterion IV</p> <p>E.1. The curriculum is consistent with the <i>ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i>.</p> <p>E.2. The curricular content includes the most up-</p>	Note: A comparison of the ACNM <i>Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁴ and the ICM <i>Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁵ will be available as a separate document.

	<p>to-date evidence base for midwifery practice and is congruent with ACNM <i>Standards for the Practice of Midwifery</i>⁴ and other practice documents.</p> <p>E. 4. The program ensures that graduates will have achieved competence.</p>	
<p>Standard IV.2.b A competent midwife meets the criteria of the ICM Definition of a midwife and regulatory body standards leading to licensure or registration as a midwife.</p> <p>A midwife is a person who has successfully completed a midwifery education programme that is recognised in the country where it is located and that is based on the <i>ICM Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i> and the framework of the <i>ICM Global Standards for Midwifery Education</i>; who has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practice midwifery and use the title ‘midwife’; and who demonstrates competency in the practice of midwifery.</p>	<p>Criterion VI</p> <p>A. Each program has a comprehensive plan for ongoing assessment of the program philosophy, mission/purpose, and objectives/outcomes to achieve continuous quality improvement.</p> <p>A.2 The passing rate for first takers of the national certification examination is at least 85%. Programs develop effective plans to bring the pass rate to 85% if it drops below that point.</p> <p>B. The program maintains and publicizes current data on student outcomes. Data to be measured and publicized will include:</p> <p>B.1. Graduation data, for both full-time and part-time students.</p> <p>B.2. Certification pass rates.</p> <p>Note: Certification is required for licensure.</p>	<p>Note: Every midwifery education program educating CNM/CMs is accredited by ACME. ACME is recognized by the United States Department of Education to accredit midwifery education programs. Graduation from an ACME accredited program is required to take the national certification examination offered by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB). National certification is required for licensure in an individual state. This demonstrates the national recognition of ACME accredited programs.</p>
<p>Standard IV.2.c A competent midwife is eligible to apply for advanced education.</p>	<p>Introduction to the ACME Criteria (Page 5)</p> <p>Currently, ACME accredits programs that culminate in a certificate, master’s degree,</p>	<p>Note: Accredited programs must state the exact wording of the credential as it appears on the certificate or diploma. In cases in</p>

	<p>doctoral degree or post-graduate certificate. ACME also accredits pre-certification programs. There may be multiple paths of entry into these programs. Such programs include, but are not limited to, the following examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate degree or baccalaureate degree to master's degree program in nurse-midwifery or midwifery • Post baccalaureate certificate • A midwifery education program that leads to a master's degree in midwifery, nursing, public health or an allied health field • Post graduate certificate • A midwifery education program that leads to a doctoral degree <p>Criterion I D. Each midwifery program is a definable entity distinguishable from other education programs and services within the institution. Each complies with:</p> <p>D.2.b. Certificate or degree that may be earned.</p> <p>Criterion IV G. The curriculum conforms to state or nationally recognized guidelines for the program/s educational level/s: certificate, master's degree, and/or doctoral degree.</p>	<p>which more than one credential is awarded, all must be addressed. Programs must also identify specifically where the evidence may be found in printed and/or electronic documents and provide evidence of legal authority to grant a degree.</p>
<p>Standard IV.2.d A competent midwife is a knowledgeable, autonomous practitioner who adheres to the ICM</p>	<p>Criterion IV E.2. The curricular content includes the most up-to-date evidence base for</p>	<p>Note: ACNM Standards include the <i>ACNM Statement of Philosophy, Standards for the Practice for</i></p>

<p>International code of ethics for midwives, standards of the profession and established scope of practice within the jurisdiction where legally recognized.</p>	<p>midwifery practice and is congruent with ACNM <i>Standards for the Practice of Midwifery</i> and other practice documents.</p> <p>Criterion VI</p> <p>A.3. The assessment plan reflects state or national standards in its review and updating of the program philosophy, purpose/mission, objectives/outcomes. Standards will include at a minimum:</p> <p>A.3.a. Current ACNM philosophy and standards.</p>	<p><i>Midwifery</i>⁸, <i>Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁴, <i>The Practice Doctorate in Midwifery</i>, and <i>Code of Ethics</i>⁹</p> <p>The ACNM document <i>Definition of Midwifery and Scope of Practice of CNMs and CMs</i>¹² states “ACNM competencies and standards are consistent with or exceed the global competencies and standards for the practice of midwifery as defined by the International Confederation of Midwives. To maintain the designation of CNM or CM, midwives must be recertified every 5 years through AMCB and must meet specific continuing education requirements.”</p>
<p>Standard IV.3 The sequence and content of the midwifery curriculum enables the student to acquire essential competencies for midwifery practice in accord with ICM core documents.</p>	<p>Criterion II</p> <p>C. Faculty participating in the midwifery program will have the following responsibilities that will provide students with a level of instruction, supervision and evaluation compatible with safe practice and student learning needs</p> <p>C.1. Instruction, supervision, and evaluation of students in didactic courses containing ACNM <i>Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁴ shall be the responsibility primarily of midwifery program faculty.</p> <p>C.2. Instruction, supervision, and evaluation of</p>	<p>Note: Accredited programs provide a curriculum map or table that shows how the curriculum addresses program objectives/outcomes. Sequencing and content to meet the ACNM <i>Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁴ is also included in a table.</p>

	<p>students in clinical learning shall be the responsibility primarily of certified midwives.</p> <p>Criterion IV IV.E.1. The curriculum is consistent with the <i>ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁴.</p> <p>IV.A.3. The curriculum is designed to achieve the stated objectives/outcomes of the midwifery program.</p> <p>B. Curriculum development is a continuing process.</p>	
<p>Standard IV.4 The midwifery curriculum includes both theory and practice elements with a minimum of 40% theory and a minimum of 50% practice.</p>	<p>Criterion IV E.3. The didactic and clinical components of the curriculum are implemented by a variety of methods to achieve the program objectives/outcomes and ensure student learning.</p> <p>E. 4. The program ensures that graduates will have achieved Competence</p> <p>E. 4.a. The program provides students with the necessary clinical experiences to achieve the objectives/ outcomes of the program.</p>	<p>Note: Accredited programs must explain the breadth and depth of clinical experiences used by the program to achieve program objectives/outcomes. Clinical experiences are primarily direct patient contacts in a variety of settings including outpatient ambulatory care, hospitals, birthcenters and homes. Direct patient care clinical experiences may be supplemented by such strategies as simulation, role play, pelvic models, and use of emerging technologies. ACME accredited programs do include both theory and practice elements. However, ACME does not prescribe a minimum percentage of theory or clinical practice hours as the</p>

		focus is on attainment of competency.
<p>Standard IV.5 The midwifery programme uses evidence-based approaches to teaching and learning that promote adult learning and competency based education.</p>	<p>Criterion I C.4. The midwifery program is in an institutional environment that promotes and facilitates scholarly and professional productivity.</p> <p>Criterion II C.4. Faculty carry out their responsibilities with respect for individual variations.</p> <p>C.3. Core faculty participate in the following responsibilities: C.3.g.2) Continue professional advancement. C.3.g.3) Maintain clinical expertise. C.3.g.4) Participate in scholarly activities.</p> <p>Criterion IV E.2. The curricular content includes the most up-to-date evidence base for midwifery practice and is congruent with ACNM <i>Standards for the Practice of Midwifery</i> and other practice documents.</p> <p>E.3. The didactic and clinical components of the curriculum are implemented by a variety of methods to achieve the program objectives/outcomes and ensure student learning.</p> <p>E. 4. The program ensures that graduates will have achieved competence.</p>	<p>Note: Accredited programs must describe how the program identifies and addresses significant changes in higher education that will be reflected in the program assessment process. These may include changes in the federal Higher Education Act, major shifts in teaching philosophy or educational technology.</p>

	<p>Criterion VI</p> <p>A.3. The assessment plan reflects state or national standards in its review and updating of the program philosophy, purpose/mission, objectives/outcomes. Standards will include at a minimum:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A.3.b. Significant changes in higher education that are relevant to the program.</p> <p>A.5. The assessment process includes a plan for evaluation of faculty teaching in the program. All faculty are evaluated annually on the following basis:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A.5.a. Didactic teacher competence as applicable.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A.5.b. Clinical teacher competence as applicable.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A.5.c. Currency of knowledge and clinical competence in area(s) of practice related to midwifery program responsibilities.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A.5.d. Non-discriminatory, respectful approach to students, colleagues, and patients in keeping with the basic principles of the ACNM <i>Code of Ethics</i>⁹.</p>	
<p>Standard IV.6 The midwifery programme offers opportunities for multidisciplinary content and learning experiences that complement the midwifery content.</p>	<p>Glossary Definitions (Page 7-9)</p> <p>Core Faculty: Faculty, including midwives and others, as defined by the program who are directly responsible for curriculum design, implementation, and evaluation of the midwifery program.</p> <p>Midwifery Program Faculty: All certified</p>	<p>Note: Accredited programs must submit a table with all faculty, their credentials and responsibilities in the midwifery education program. Nurses, physicians and other health care providers and educators are frequently included, especially related to the core competencies related to primary care in the curriculum.</p>

	midwives and faculty of other disciplines who teach and evaluate midwifery students. This includes faculty members with primarily or exclusively clinical teaching responsibilities.	
ICM Standard V – Resources, Facilities & Services		
ICM Educational Standard¹	ACME Accreditation Criteria²	Comments
Standard V.1 The midwifery programme implements written policies that address student and teacher safety and wellbeing in teaching and learning environments.	<p>Criterion I C.4. The midwifery program is in an institutional environment that promotes and facilitates scholarly and professional productivity.</p> <p>Criterion III A. The institution has student policies that are publicly available and identified to students upon admission related to: student evaluation, progression, retention, dismissal, and graduation; review of personal records and equitable tuition refund; evaluation of their education; access to university/college catalogs; and access to academic calendars.</p>	Note: ACME has no specific requirement for written policies related to student and teacher safety. Policies related to personal safety, universal precautions, required immunizations and background checks are usually incorporated into the department, school, college or university within which the midwifery education program resides.
Standard V.2 The midwifery programme has sufficient teaching and learning resources to meet programme needs.	<p>Criterion III D. Upon entering the program, students have access to and are informed of support services designed to meet their needs in order to promote their retention and progression through the program.</p>	Note: Support services might include but are not limited to counseling, health, financial aid, learning assistance or intervention strategies.

	<p>Criterion III F.4. (Students should have) access to resources and opportunities that is equivalent regardless of student location and teaching modalities.</p> <p>Criterion V A. Faculty and staff for the midwifery program are sufficient in number to meet midwifery program objectives/outcomes. They include: A.1. Adequate number of qualified faculty. A.2. Adequate number of staff for secretarial, technical and student support. B. Physical facilities are adequate to meet program objectives/outcomes. C. Learning resources are current, available, accessible and adequate.</p>	
<p>Standard V.3 The midwifery programme has adequate human resources to support both classroom/theoretical and practical learning.</p>	<p>Criterion I C.2. The midwifery program has sufficient fiscal resources to ensure that program objectives can be met. C.3. The midwifery program has input into the budget process and/or financial planning to ensure ongoing adequate program resources.</p> <p>Criterion II B. All faculty are qualified to provide students with a level of instruction, supervision and evaluation that is compatible with safe practice and student learning needs. All faculty are qualified in that: B.1. Midwifery program faculty are certified by ACNM, the American Midwifery Certification</p>	

	<p>Board (AMCB), or another appropriate credentialing body for faculty who are not midwives.</p> <p>B.2. Have education credentials appropriate to the level at which they teach, with a minimum of a master's degree, and meet the academic institution's requirements for faculty. If a faculty member possesses less than these qualifications, that individual must be responsible to a qualified faculty member.</p> <p>B.3. Have preparation for teaching commensurate with the teaching assignment, e.g. didactic classroom, mixed medium and distance delivery and/or clinical teaching.</p> <p>B.4. Have competence commensurate with the teaching assignment.</p> <p>Criterion IV</p> <p>E. 4.a. The program provides students with the necessary clinical experiences to achieve the objectives/ outcomes of the program.</p> <p>Note: If the program determines that the clinical facilities are inadequate in some aspect, they must describe plans to address this problem.</p> <p>Criterion V</p> <p>A. Faculty and staff for the midwifery program are sufficient in number to meet midwifery program objectives/outcomes. They include:</p> <p>A.1. Adequate number of qualified faculty.</p> <p>A.2. Adequate number of staff for secretarial, technical and student support.</p>	
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<p>Standard V.4 The midwifery programme has access to sufficient midwifery practical experiences in a variety of settings to meet the learning needs of each student.</p>	<p>Criterion IV</p> <p>E. 4.a. The program provides students with the necessary clinical experiences to achieve the objectives/outcomes of the program.</p> <p>E.4.b. The program provides that each student has access to at least this minimum number of experiences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 10 Preconception care visits 2. 15 New antepartum visits 3. 70 Return antepartum visits 4. 20 Labor management experiences 5. 20 Births 6. 20 Newborn assessments 7.10 Breastfeeding support visits 8. 20 Postpartum visits (0-7 days) 9. 15 Postpartum visits (1-8 weeks) 10. Primary care visits: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 40 common health problems b) 20 family planning visits c) 40 gynecologic visits including perimenopausal and postmenopausal visits. <p>Criterion VI</p> <p>A.4.c. Current contract for each clinical site (is in place when students are assigned).</p>	<p>Note: Accredited programs must explain the breadth and depth of clinical experiences used by the program to achieve program objectives/outcomes. Clinical experiences are primarily direct patient contacts in a variety of settings including outpatient ambulatory and inpatient care, in clinics, hospitals, birthcenters and homes. Direct patient care clinical experiences may be supplemented by such strategies as simulation, role play, pelvic models, and use of emerging technologies.</p>
<p>Standard V.5 Selection criteria for appropriate midwifery practical learning sites are clearly written and implemented.</p>	<p>Criterion VI</p> <p>A.4. The assessment process includes periodic evaluation of clinical education. Clinical evaluation will include:</p> <p>A.4.a. Initial and periodic evaluation of the</p>	<p>Note: Evaluation of clinical sites includes a description of the process the program uses to evaluate the ability and effectiveness of clinical sites to meet student learning needs,</p>

	<p>ability and effectiveness of clinical sites to meet student learning needs.</p> <p>A.5. The assessment process includes a plan for evaluation of faculty teaching in the program. All faculty are evaluated annually on the following basis:</p> <p>A.5.a. Didactic teacher competence as applicable.</p> <p>A.5.b. Clinical teacher competence as applicable.</p> <p>A.5.c. Currency of knowledge and clinical competence in area(s) of practice related to midwifery program responsibilities.</p> <p>A.5.d. Non-discriminatory, respectful approach to students, colleagues, and patients in keeping with the basic principles of the ACNM <i>Code of Ethics</i>.</p>	<p>including their congruence with the ACNM <i>Statement of Philosophy</i>⁶, ACNM <i>Standards of Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁸, <i>Code of Ethics</i>⁹ and ability to meet student learning needs to accomplish the <i>ACNM Core Competencies</i>⁴.</p>
ICM Standard VI – Assessment Strategies		
ICM Educational Standard¹	ACME Accreditation Criteria²	Comments
<p>Standard VI.1 Midwifery faculty uses valid and reliable formative and summative evaluation/assessment methods to measure student performance and progress in learning related to a. knowledge, b. behaviours, c. practice skills, d. critical thinking and decision-making, and e. interpersonal relationships/communication skills.</p>	<p>Criterion III</p> <p>E. Evaluation of students is an ongoing process that assesses the student’s movement toward and ultimate achievement of the midwifery program objectives/outcomes.</p> <p>E.1. Students are formally informed of course objectives/outcomes and methods of evaluation at the beginning of each course.</p>	<p>Note: Programs provide samples of documents used for student evaluation in both didactic and clinical courses and examples of completed evaluations.</p>

	E.2. Students are apprised of their progress on an ongoing basis.	
Standard VI.2 The means and criteria for assessment/evaluation of midwifery student performance and progression, including identification of learning difficulties, are written and shared with students.	<p>Criterion III D. Upon entering the program, students have access to and are informed of support services designed to meet their needs in order to promote their retention and progression through the program.</p> <p>E.2. Students are apprised of their progress on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Criterion IV. F. Regular communication occurs among and between faculty and students during implementation of the curriculum.</p> <p>Criterion VI A. Each program has a comprehensive plan for ongoing assessment of the program philosophy, mission/purpose, and objectives/outcomes to achieve continuous quality improvement.</p> <p>A.1. The program assessment process includes ongoing data collection and analysis to achieve program improvement.</p>	
Standard VI.3 Midwifery faculty conducts regular review of the curriculum as a part of quality improvement, including input from students, programme graduates, midwife practitioners, clients of midwives and other stakeholders.	<p>Criterion VI A. Each program has a comprehensive plan for ongoing assessment of the program philosophy, mission/purpose, and objectives/outcomes to achieve continuous quality improvement.</p>	

	<p>A.1. The program assessment process includes ongoing data collection and analysis to achieve program improvement. These data include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. 1.a. Evaluations of the program by students and by graduates. A. 1.b. Evaluations from external constituents such as employers of graduates and public comment as available. 	
<p>Standard VI.4 Midwifery faculty conducts ongoing review of practical learning sites and their suitability for student learning/experiences in relation to expected outcomes.</p>	<p>Criterion VI</p> <p>A.4. The assessment process includes periodic evaluation of clinical education. Clinical evaluation will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.4.a. Initial and periodic evaluation of the ability and effectiveness of clinical sites to meet student learning needs A.4.b. Evaluation of the clinical experiences in relation to enabling students to achieve clinical competence. A.4.c. Current contract for each clinical site. <p>A.5. The assessment process includes a plan for evaluation of faculty teaching in the program. All faculty are evaluated annually on the following basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.5.a. Didactic teacher competence as applicable. A.5.b. Clinical teacher competence as applicable. A.5.c. Currency of knowledge and clinical competence in area(s) of practice related to 	<p>Note: Evaluation of clinical sites includes a description of the process the program uses to evaluate the ability and effectiveness of clinical sites to meet student learning needs, including their congruence with the <i>ACNM Statement of Philosophy</i>⁶, <i>ACNM Standards of Basic Midwifery Practice</i>⁸, <i>Code of Ethics</i>⁹ and ability to meet student learning needs to accomplish the <i>ACNM Core Competencies</i>⁴.</p>

	<p>midwifery program responsibilities.</p> <p>A.5.d. Non-discriminatory, respectful approach to students, colleagues, and patients in keeping with the basic principles of the <i>ACNM Code of Ethics</i>.</p>	
<p>Standard VI.5 Periodic external review of programme effectiveness takes place.</p>	<p>Preface to ACME Accreditation Document²</p> <p>“Programmatic accreditation is a quality assurance process combining self-assessment and peer evaluation. Institutions offering midwifery education voluntarily participate in the accreditation process with the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) to assure that standards of midwifery education are maintained, competencies and skills are learned, and graduates are appropriately qualified.</p> <p>The accreditation process is available to any education program or institution that meets the eligibility requirements as outlined in the <i>ACME Policies and Procedures Manual</i>. To be accredited, a program is expected to meet and maintain compliance with all of the criteria in this document.”</p> <p><i>ACME Policies and Procedures Manual</i>¹⁰</p> <p>Pre/Accreditation by ACME, a US Department of Education approved accrediting agency, requires a written, extensive self-evaluation and a peer review of the midwifery education program. A Self Evaluation Report is prepared by the program faculty, third party comments</p>	

	<p>are requested, and a site visit by midwifery peers is conducted to identify, evaluate and validate that all information obtained. The Board of Review then reviews the site visitors report and all programmatic materials submitted in order to determine if all criteria are met. Preaccreditation is attained before the first group of midwifery students enter the program. Initial accreditation is applied for after the first class of graduates. Initial accreditation is for 5 years, while re-accreditation is for 10 years. Annual reports are also required and are reviewed by the Board of Commissioners to assure on-going compliance. If substantial changes are made to a program, an additional report and review is required.</p>	
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Summary

This crosswalk, comparing the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) *Global Standards for Midwifery Education*¹ and the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) *Criteria for Programmatic Accreditation of Midwifery Education Programs with Instructions for Elaboration & Documentation*² did not reveal any significant gaps, although a few minor deficiencies or differences should be noted. Most notably, ACME does not have a criterion that specifies that the midwifery program director has experience with management/administration, nor does ACME take into account national policies related to the midwifery workforce, since they do not exist in the United States. However, there are numerous national public and private foundation policy documents that call for an increased midwifery workforce. In addition, the Federal government Health Resource and Services Administration has identified numerous national primary care and obstetrical-gynecological health profession shortage areas, where a midwifery workforce increase could be an important part of the solution. ACME has no specific requirement for written policies related to student and teacher safety. However, policies related to personal safety, universal precautions, required immunizations and background checks are usually incorporated into the department, school, college or university within which the midwifery education program resides. In addition, ACME criteria do not identify specific percentage breakdown in the midwifery curriculum between

didactic courses and clinical experiences. ACME criteria do require both types of coursework in the midwifery curriculum in an adequate amount to educate competent midwives.

Graduates of ACME accredited or preaccredited programs are eligible to take the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) examination to become Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) or Certified Midwives (CMs). Attending an ACME accredited midwifery education program, which also meets the *ICM Global Standards for Midwifery Education* and attaining AMCB national certification, upon which licensure rests, assures that CNMs/CMs meet the ICM International Definition of a Midwife.

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**Prepared by Katherine Camacho Carr, CNM, PhD, FACNM
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