

Overview of the Midwifery Education Program Accreditation Process

Conducted by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME)

The overall accreditation process, as defined and used by ACME, is a periodic review by which a midwifery education program is recognized as possessing the organizational characteristics, the professional orientation, and the resources necessary to provide an educational experience of high quality for its students to become competent, safe midwives.

The basic process:

- The education program:
 - conducts a self-evaluation study which analyzes the program's activities in relation to its stated philosophy, purpose, and outcomes/objectives and in relation to the criteria for accreditation established by ACME;
 - produces a Self-Evaluation Report (SER), based on this study, which is submitted to ACME and read by ACME Site Visitors and Board of Review members;
 - hosts a site visit from ACME.
- ACME Site Visitors:
 - verify information presented in the SER with their observations of the program, the wider university, and the program's and university's resources and facilities;
 - conduct interviews with faculty, students, and deans and other administrators of the university in which the program is housed;
 - review all program curricula materials;
 - observe students in the classroom and in clinical sites;
 - write a report based on their findings which is submitted to the ACME Board of Review.
- ACME Board of Review (BOR:)
 - Meets twice per year;
 - Reviews the Site Visitors Report and the SER;
 - Determines whether or not to grant pre/accreditation status with or without recommendations and for a specific length of time (5 – 10 years).
- The education program:
 - Uses the results of this process to maintain or improve program performance;
 - Submits annual monitoring reports to ACME regarding student attrition rates, certification exam pass rates, and any substantive changes to the program.

New midwifery education programs must receive pre-accreditation status before admitting students to the program and apply for full accreditation following graduation of the first class.

For a detailed explanation and copies of documents related to the above processes, please see <http://www.midwife.org/ACME-Documents>