



AMERICAN COLLEGE
of NURSE-MIDWIVES

Comparison of Certified Nurse-Midwives, Certified Midwives, and Certified Professional Midwives

*Clarifying the distinctions among professional midwifery credentials in the U.S.**

	CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIFE (CNM) [®]	CERTIFIED MIDWIFE (CM) [®]	CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFE (CPM) [®]
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION			
	American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)		Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA) and National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM)
CERTIFICATION			
Certifying Organization	American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB)**		North American Registry of Midwives (NARM)**
Certification Requirements (minimum degree and other requirements prior to taking national certifying exam)	Graduate degree required		No degree required
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Graduation from a nurse-midwifery education program accredited by ACNM Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME); AND 2. Verification by program director of completion of education program; AND 3. Active registered nurse (RN) license 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Graduation from a midwifery education program accredited by ACNM Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME); AND 2. Verification by program director of completion of education program 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of NARM's Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) pathway; OR 2. Graduate of a midwifery education program accredited by Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC); OR 3. AMCB-certified CNM or CM; OR 4. Completion of state licensure program.
Recertification Requirement	Every five years		Every three years
EDUCATION			
Minimum Education Requirements for Admission to Midwifery Education Program	<p>Bachelor's degree from accredited college/university</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some programs require RN license. If the applicant has a bachelor's degree, but not an RN license, some programs will require attainment of an RN license prior to entry into the midwifery program; others will allow the student to attain an RN license prior to graduate study; OR 2. If the applicant is an RN but does not have a bachelor's degree, some programs provide a bridge program to a bachelor's degree prior to the midwifery portion of the program; other programs require a bachelor's degree before entry into the midwifery program. 	<p>Bachelor's degree from accredited college/university and successful completion of specific science courses</p>	<p>There are two primary pathways for CPM education, with differing admission requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP) pathway: an apprenticeship program; no degree or diploma required. Student must find a midwife preceptor who is nationally certified or state licensed, has practiced for at least 3 years, and attended at least 50 out-of-hospital births; OR 2. Accredited formal education pathway: For this pathway, a high school diploma from an accredited state or private school is required for admission.
	<p><i>Note: Currently, the majority of AMCB-certified midwives enter midwifery through nursing.</i></p>		
	<p><i>Note: Currently, the majority of CPMs have completed the apprenticeship-only (PEP) pathway to the CPM credential.</i></p>		

Continued...

Comparison of Certified Nurse-Midwives, Certified Midwives, and Certified Professional Midwives

Clarifying the distinctions among professional midwifery credentials in the U.S. (Continued)*

	CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIFE (CNM) [®]	CERTIFIED MIDWIFE (CM) [®]	CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFE (CPM) [®]
EDUCATION (continued)			
Clinical Experience Requirement	Attainment of clinical skills must meet Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Education (ACNM 2008). Clinical education must occur under the supervision of an AMCB-certified CNM/CM or Advanced Practice RN (APRN) who holds a graduate degree and has clinical expertise and didactic knowledge commensurate with the content taught. Clinical skills include management of primary care for women throughout the lifespan, including reproductive health care, pregnancy, and birth; care of the normal newborn; and management of sexually transmitted infections in male partners.		Attainment of clinical skills must meet the Core Competencies developed by the Midwives Alliance of North America. Clinical education must occur under the supervision of a midwife who must be nationally certified, legally recognized and who has practiced for at least three years and attended 50 out-of-hospital births. Clinical skills include management of prenatal, birth and postpartum care for women and newborns.
Degree Granted	Master's or doctoral degree; a master's degree is the minimum requirement for the AMCB certification exam	Master's degree; a master's degree is the minimum requirement for the AMCB certification exam	No degree is granted through the PEP pathway. MEAC-accredited programs vary and may grant a certificate or an associate's, bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree. Most graduates attain a certificate or associate degree; there is no minimum degree requirement for the CPM certification exam.
ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION			
	The Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) is authorized by the US Department of Education to accredit midwifery education programs and institutions.		The PEP pathway is not eligible for accreditation. The Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC) is authorized by the US Department of Education to accredit midwifery education programs and institutions.
LICENSURE			
Legal Status	Licensed in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia and US territories	Licensed in New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island. Authorized by permit to practice in Delaware. Authorized to practice in Missouri.	Regulated in 26 states (variously by licensure, certification, registration, voluntary licensure, or permit)
Licensure Agency	Boards of Nursing, Boards of Medicine, Boards of Midwifery/Nurse-Midwifery, Departments of Health	Board of Midwifery, Board of Medicine, Department of Health	Departments of Health, Boards of Medicine, Boards of Midwifery

Continued...

Comparison of Certified Nurse-Midwives, Certified Midwives, and Certified Professional Midwives

Clarifying the distinctions among professional midwifery credentials in the U.S.* (Continued)

	CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIFE (CNM®)	CERTIFIED MIDWIFE (CM®)	CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFE (CPM)®
SCOPE OF PRACTICE			
Range of Care Provided	Independent management of women's health care throughout the lifespan, from adolescence through menopause. Comprehensive scope of practice including primary care and gynecologic care, family planning, annual exams (including breast and PAP screening), pregnancy, birth in all settings, and postpartum care. Care of the normal newborn. Management of sexually transmitted infections in male partners.	Independent management of care for women and newborns during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum. Birth in homes and birth centers. Care of the normal newborn.	Independent management of care for women and newborns during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum. Birth in homes and birth centers. Care of the normal newborn.
Prescriptive Authority	All US jurisdictions	New York	None. However, may obtain and administer certain medications in some states.
Practice Settings	All settings — hospitals, birth centers, homes, and offices. The majority of CNMs attend births in hospitals.		Homes, birth centers, and offices. The majority of CPMs attend out-of-hospital births.
THIRD-PARTY REIMBURSEMENT			
	Most private insurances; Medicaid coverage mandated in all states; Medicare; Champus	New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island — most private insurance; Medicaid	Private insurance in some states; Medicaid in 10 states for home birth, additional states if birth occurs in birth center.

*This document does not address individuals who are not certified and who may practice midwifery with or without legal recognition.

**AMCB and NARM are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, which "was created in 1987... to help ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the public through the accreditation of a variety of certification programs/organizations... Certification organizations... are evaluated based on the process and products, not the content, and are therefore applicable to all professions and industries." (<http://www.credentialexcellence.org/ProgramsandEvents/NCCAAccreditation/tabid/82/Default.aspx>)

Reviewed ACNM-MANA Liaison Committee February, 2011

Approved by ACNM Board of Directors March, 2011

Last updated August, 2011