

ACME Glossary of Terms

As used throughout ACME documents, the following terms and abbreviations are defined as follows:

Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME)	Formerly known as the Division of Accreditation (DOA) of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), an administratively and financially autonomous accrediting agency of the American College of Nurse-Midwives that is responsible for all aspects of programmatic accreditation in midwifery education.
ACME Staff	ACME Executive Director and ACME Accreditation Assistant.
Academic Institution	Based on the definition by the US Department of Education, “an institution of higher education that is a public or private... institution... legally authorized to provide educational programs beyond secondary education... for which it awards a... degree... for credit...” and is “accredited or preaccredited” by an agency recognized by the US Department of Education. [34 CFR Part 600 § 600.4]
Academic Unit	College/School, Institute, Department (e.g. nursing, public health, college of health-related professions) within or affiliated with an academic institution.
Accrediting Agency	As defined by the U.S. Department of Education, “ A legal entity, or that part of a legal entity, that conducts accrediting activities through voluntary, non-federal peer review and makes decisions concerning the accreditation or pre-accreditation status of institutions, programs, or both.” [34 CFR §602.3 Definitions]
Accreditation	As defined by the U.S. Department of Education, “...the status of public recognition that an accrediting agency grants to an educational institution or program that meets the agency's standards and requirements.” [34 CFR §602.3 Definitions]
Administrative Unit	The person, group or area responsible for the midwifery program budget.
Adverse Accrediting Action or Adverse Action	As defined by the U.S. Department of Education, “the denial, withdrawal, suspension, revocation, or termination of accreditation or preaccreditation, or any comparable accrediting action an agency may take against an institution or program.” [34 CFR § 602.3 Definitions]
Affiliation	A written agreement between an organization, school, or midwifery program, and an institution to offer education cooperatively.
All Faculty	Faculty who teach midwifery students in any setting.

American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)	Professional association that represents Certified Nurse-Midwives and Certified Midwives in the United States. ACNM provides research, administers and promotes continuing education programs, and creates liaisons with state and federal agencies and members of Congress.
American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB)	The national certifying body for certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives.
Board of Commissioners (BOC)	The ACME governing board members who plan, implement, and evaluate the accreditation process for programs offering midwifery education.
Board of Directors (BOD)	Board of Directors of the American College of Nurse-Midwives.
Board of Review (BOR)	Board of Review of the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education; the body that reviews education programs in relation to ACME criteria and determines program preaccreditation or accreditation status.
Certificate	A graduate level credential awarded for successful completion of an ACME pre/accredited education program that includes all aspects of the ACNM 'Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice'. An ACME pre/accredited program may award a certificate or a post graduate certificate. A post-graduate certificate may be awarded for those who already possess a graduate degree recognized by the program. Note that in accordance with the ACNM Position Statement 'Mandatory Degree Requirements for Entry into Midwifery Practice', "completion of a graduate degree shall be required for entry into clinical practice."
Certified Midwife (CM)	Individual who has met the requirements and passed the certification exam administered by the American Midwifery Certification Board.
Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM)	Individual who is a registered nurse and has met the requirements and passed the certification exam administered by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) (formerly administered by the American College of Nurse-Midwives).
Clinical Faculty	Midwives and others who provide direct care and precept or conduct clinical teaching of students at their clinical sites, who are employed by the clinical site, who generally do not hold academic appointments, and who may participate in evaluation of students for whom they have served as preceptors.

Companion Program	A program leading to a different credential than the one currently offered within an academic unit that is designed to augment the midwifery education options for students and mesh with the existing ACME accredited program. Some of the elements may be similar for the existing and companion programs, such as institutional administration, academic facilities, and the like. Students may share a number of the same classes. However, the companion program leading to its separate credential will have its own objectives, completion requirements and its own curricular path. Faculty, clinical sites, library resources, evaluation and other aspects of the companion program may be added or changed as needed from the existing ACME accredited program.
Core Faculty	Midwives and others who are employed directly by the institution offering the program, hold academic appointments in the institution, who participate in didactic instruction, and/or whose position descriptions include the responsibility to regularly develop, implement, evaluate, and revise the program’s curriculum.
Correspondence Education	As defined by the US Department of Education, Correspondence education means: (1) Education provided through one or more courses by an institution under which the institution provides instructional materials, by mail or electronic transmission, including examinations on the materials, to students who are separated from the instructor. (2) Interaction between the instructor and the student is limited, is not regular and substantive, and is primarily initiated by the student. (3) Correspondence courses are typically self-paced. (4) Correspondence education is not distance education.” [34 CFR §602.3 Definitions]
Distance Education	As defined by the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008, “Distance education means education that uses one or more of the technologies listed in paragraphs (1) through (4) to deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and to support regular and substantive interaction between the students and the instructor, either synchronously or asynchronously. The technologies include -- (1) The internet; (2) One-way and two-way transmissions through open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite, or wireless communication devices; (3) Audio conferencing; or (4) Video cassettes, DVDs, and CD-ROMs, if the

	cassettes, DVDs, or CD-ROMs are used in a course in conjunction with any of the technologies listed in paragraphs (1) through (3)." [34 CFR §602.3 Definitions]
Institution	An academic degree-granting organization that 1) offers a midwifery education program, 2) holds legal authority from the appropriate government agency to operate a higher education institution, and 3) is accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the US Department of Education or meets the ACME policy for international accreditation.
Institutional Accrediting Agency Institutional	As defined by the US Department of Education, "an agency that accredits institutions of higher education." [34 CFR §602.3 Definitions] As defined by the US Department of Education, "an agency that accredits institutions of higher education." [34 CFR §602.3 Definitions]
Midwife/Midwifery	Throughout this document, the term "midwife" or "midwifery" pertains to certified nurse midwifery or certified midwifery.
Midwifery Core Curriculum	Those courses that contain content that fulfill the ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice.
Midwifery Education Program or Midwifery Program	The administrative/academic unit that offers the education content and oversees completion of the midwifery core curriculum in conjunction with the other requirements set by the institution and/or required by ACME for earning a certificate or a degree.
Midwifery Program Director	CNM or CM with faculty status, clearly identified by title and position to direct the midwifery education program.
National Office	Administrative offices of the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education, located at 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1550, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, 240-485-1802 http://www.midwife.org/ACME
Preaccreditation	As defined by the US Department of Education, "the status of public recognition that an accrediting agency grants to an educational institution or program for a limited period of time that signifies the agency has determined that the institution or program is progressing towards accreditation and is likely to attain accreditation before the expiration of that limited period of time." [34 CFR §602.3 Definitions]
Preaccreditation Report (PAR)	Report submitted for programmatic preaccreditation by institutions wishing to start an education program that addresses the <i>Criteria for Programmatic Preaccreditation of Midwifery Education Programs with Instructions for Elaboration and Documentation</i> .

Probation	Status applied by the BOR to a program that fails to meet expectations when officially warned or that fails to follow ACME criteria.
Program	As defined by the US Department of Education, “a postsecondary educational program offered by an institution of higher education that leads to an academic or professional degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential.” [34 CFR §602.3 Definitions]
Programmatic Accrediting Agency	As defined by the US Department of Education, "...an agency that accredits specific educational programs that prepare students for entry into a profession, occupation, or vocation." [34 CFR §602.3 Definitions]
Public Member	“A person who is not 1) An employee, member of the governing board, owner, or shareholder of, or consultant to, an institution or program that either is accredited or preaccredited by ACME or has applied for accreditation or preaccreditation; 2) A member of any trade association or membership organization related to, affiliated with, or associated with ACME, or 3) A spouse, parent, child, or sibling of an individual identified in paragraph 1) or 2) of this definition.” [34 CFR §602.3 Definitions]
Self-Evaluation Report (SER)	Report prepared by faculty of the education program seeking initial or continuing accreditation that addresses the <i>Criteria for Programmatic Accreditation of Midwifery Education Programs with Instructions for Elaboration and Documentation</i> .
Site Visitor Panel	Group of volunteer midwives with expertise in education and/or clinical practice who are trained to conduct site visits to amplify, clarify, and verify information submitted in an applicant’s PAR or SER.
Site Visitors Report (SVR)	Report of the site visit prepared by the site visit team.
Teach-out Agreement	As defined by the US Department of Education, “a written agreement between institutions that provides for the equitable treatment of students and a reasonable opportunity for students to complete their program of study if an institution, or an institutional location that provides one hundred percent of at least one program offered, ceases to operate before all enrolled students have completed their program of study.” [34 CFR §602.3 Definitions]
US Department of Education (USED)	The federal government department that grants ACME the following scope of recognition: “the accreditation and pre-accreditation of basic certificate, basic graduate nurse-midwifery, direct entry midwifery, and pre-certification nurse-midwifery education programs, including those programs that offer distance education.”

Warning	Action taken by the BOR to inform a program that its pre/accreditation status is in jeopardy because the program has not complied with ACME criteria, policies or procedures.
Withdrawal of Pre/ Accreditation	Action taken by the BOR to notify a program that has not resolved the issues for which it was put on probation that ACME no longer grants pre/accreditation status to the program.