

MIDWIFERY EDUCATION ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

www.meacschools.org

928-214-0997

Founded in 1991 to set standards for direct-entry midwifery education and implement an accreditation process, MEAC achieved national recognition by the U.S. Secretary of Education in 2001. Graduates of MEAC-accredited programs are eligible for state licensure and national certification as Certified Professional Midwives.

MEAC is deeply committed to the principles of midwifery care and to the preservation of creative, flexible educational pathways that are based on achievement of core competencies and include apprenticeship as the basis for clinical training. MEAC also believes in the value of accreditation as a measure of an educational program's adherence to established standards, commitment to self-evaluation and willingness to be held accountable to peers, state requirements and other third parties. Accreditation is useful to students and others interested in determining the legitimacy of a program or institution offering a course of study leading to a national certification.

MEAC scope of recognition includes:

- Freestanding institutions, including degree-granting institutions, specializing in midwifery education
- Midwifery programs that reside within accredited institutions, including colleges and universities
- Programs that are offered via distance learning.

MEAC standards for accreditation address:

- Success in relation to mission (graduates must be capable of passing the NARM examination to become CPMs and/or meet requirements for state licensure)
- Curriculum requirements (including MANA Core Competencies and NARM clinical experience requirements and essential knowledge and skills identified by NARM)
- Faculty qualifications, rights and responsibilities
- Facilities requirements
- Fiscal and administrative capacity
- Student services
- Student affairs, rights and responsibilities
- Length of program
- Grievance mechanism
- Title IV compliance (if institution is participating in student financial aid programs)

MEAC accreditation process includes:

- Preliminary application that describes corporate structure, legal authority, overview of midwifery program
- Self-evaluation report prepared by the applicant program or institutions to document how the standards are met
- Site visit by experts in the field to verify information provided by the applicant
- Accreditation decision by MEAC Board of Directors
- Annual reporting and notification of any substantive changes
- Renewal of accreditation every three to five years

Association of Midwifery Educators

<http://www.associationofmidwiferyeducators.org/>

In 2005, MEAC launched a project to reach out to midwifery educators across the U.S., regardless of their institutional affiliation, with the aim of sharing useful information and building a network of mutual support. The project led to the establishment of the Association of Midwifery Educators, an independent organization, which now hosts a website, produces a quarterly

newsletter, is developing a peer-reviewed journal, and provides training and support to teachers, preceptors and administrators. MEAC supports AME's commitment to develop and sustain a cadre of educators, working in a wide array of institutional and community settings, in order to preserve and promote diversity and accessibility in midwifery education.

Midwifery Education Programs/Institutions Accredited by MEAC

There are currently eight free-standing institutions and two programs within other institutions that have combined enrollments of more than 500 midwifery students. These institutions are located in eight different states. Four offer distance education courses that allow students to combine local clinical preceptorships with their didactic studies, thereby making midwifery education available to students in virtually every state in the country. Three are degree-granting institutions offering entry-level and/or advanced degrees in midwifery. Three institutions are certified by the U.S. Department of Education to participate in Title IV student financial aid programs. At least five newly-established or proposed institutions/programs in four additional states have expressed their intent to apply for pre-accreditation in the coming year and several more schools are reportedly in the formative stages.

Bastyr University, Naturopathic Midwifery Program Kenmore, Washington

Certificate of Naturopathic Midwifery. Length: 1 – 2 years. Classroom-based courses and external preceptorships. University participates in Title IV Student Financial Aid.

<http://bastyr.edu/education/midwifery/certificate/training.asp> *The naturopathic midwifery program is open to graduates of, and to students currently enrolled in, any naturopathic medical program that is accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME). Graduates are uniquely qualified among naturopathic physicians and among midwives. As comprehensive naturopathic family physicians, they enjoy an extended scope of practice in the provision of care to the birthing woman and her family. In their role as naturopathic midwives, they augment the midwifery model of care with the naturopathic principles of practice and exceed the midwifery scope of practice by providing ongoing pediatric, gynecological and family care. The depth and breadth of naturopathic medicine is wholly embodied in the naturopathic doctor specializing in maternity care.*

Birthingway College of Midwifery Portland, Oregon

Certificate in Midwifery; Bachelor of Science in Midwifery. Length: 3 + years. Classroom-based courses and external preceptorships. College participates in Title IV Student Financial Aid.

<http://www.birthingway.org/> *Birthingway has developed a new model of caring for women and families during the childbearing year. We refer to this model as biodynamic birth, in which birth is not only a natural part of human life, it is a necessary part, and one that is intimately connected with what it is to be human. The “bio” in biodynamic reflects overarching relationships to life and biological processes, while the “dynamic” describes the natural energy and intention that ensures our model is very woman-centered and individual. A biodynamic birth will be one with the least amount of intervention, while still protecting the well-being of mother and baby. Intervention takes on different meanings depending upon the type of care provider; therefore, each of our programs develops specific tools for the various types of services our students will be providing.*

Birthwise Midwifery School Bridgton, Maine

Certificate in Midwifery. Length: 3 years. Classroom-based courses and external preceptorships. School participates in Title IV Student Financial Aid.

<http://www.birthwisemidwifery.org/> *Birthwise Midwifery School is a three-year direct-entry midwifery education program located in southwestern Maine. At Birthwise Midwifery School we see midwives as spinning a continuous thread through time, maintaining a*

steadfast tradition of women being with women in childbirth. In their work they have safeguarded the dignity, power, beauty and reverence of this transitional event. We view midwives as protectors of natural childbirth in an age when women's collective memory of giving birth under their own power is in jeopardy of being buried under modern birth technology. Birthwise participates in preserving and building on traditions of family centered natural birth that have been preserved by our sister midwives before us.

Florida School of Traditional Midwifery Gainesville, Florida

Certificate in Midwifery. Length: 3 years. Classroom-based courses and external preceptorships.

<http://www.midwiferyschool.org/> *We have worked to blend our strong academic curriculum with the invaluable direct learning experiences that can only be provided by working with seasoned midwives. We feel that it is essential that experienced midwives be intimately involved with the education of future midwives. In our view, this sharing of the art of midwifery is one of the most vital components of a student's education. In addition to technical skills and academic knowledge, our programs also cultivate the essential qualities of nurturing, intuition, compassion and strength. We have learned from and borrowed from the experiences of generations of midwives and wise women. At FSTM, we have developed a special environment to nurture students as they become part of the next generation of midwives. We believe that every woman should have access to the maternity care provider of her choice and to the information necessary to make informed decisions. We believe that midwives should be based in their communities where they are able to provide maternity care, education and social support to women and their families. e, education and social support to women and their families.*

Maternidad la Luz El Paso, Texas

Certificate in Midwifery. Length: 1 year and 3 year options. Classroom-based courses and birth center preceptorship.

<http://www.maternidadlaluz.com/> *Since its inception in 1987, Maternidad La Luz has been both a birth center and a school of midwifery. This dynamic partnership benefits the birthing woman as well as the student. Through an integrated model of academic and clinical training, Maternidad La Luz offers a unique and holistic learning experience for aspiring midwives. The educational program, provided within a busy birthing center, allows students to solidify clinical skills while integrating their academic learning. A large percentage of the population of El Paso is Mexican nationals. Many people living in the border region have no medical insurance and limited or no access to medical care. Maternidad La Luz is able to provide low cost, high quality care for all pregnant women in the community, regardless of nationality or residency status.*

Miami-Dade College, Associate in Science Degree - Midwifery Miami, Florida

Associate of Science Degree in Midwifery. Length: 3 years. Classroom-based courses and external preceptorships. College participates in Title IV Student Financial Aid.

http://www.mdc.edu/medical/Nursing/Programs/Midwifery_Prog/main.htm *Midwives are community-based practitioners who provide comprehensive, holistic, individualized maternity care and alternative birthing services to low risk clients. They also serve as health care team members for at risk pregnancies. Midwifery care is family-centered and individualized to consider the client's unique cultural, ethnic, psychosocial, nutritional, and educational needs and supports healthy lifestyle habits that benefit the whole family. Licensed Midwives have been delivering babies in Florida since 1931. The goal of the Florida Midwifery Resource Center is for 50% of low-risk deliveries to be attended by midwives.*

Midwives College of Utah Salt Lake City, Utah

Associate of Science Midwifery, Certificate of Traditional Midwifery, Bachelor of Science in Midwifery, and Master of Science in Midwifery. Length: Varies by degree, 3 – 5 years. Internet-based courses and external preceptorships.

<http://www.midwifery.edu/> *MCU believes that excellent core midwifery training must be accompanied by entrepreneurial business and life development-balance skills in order to create a wholistic midwifery education. MCU provides curriculum in all three of these areas which are key to the success of a midwife's personal and professional life. MCU allows you to study wherever you may live through our Distance Education curriculum. Students are required to work with an approved midwife in their local area for the clinical portion of their program.*

National College of Midwifery Taos, New Mexico

Associate of Science in Midwifery, Bachelors of Science in Midwifery, Master of Science in Midwifery, and Doctoral Degree of Science in Midwifery. Length: Varies by degree, 3 – 5 years. College without walls: courses and preceptorship individually designed with college approval.

<http://www.midwiferycollege.org/> *The mission of the National College of Midwifery is to provide aspiring direct-entry midwives with access to superlative clinical and didactic education culminating in an accredited degree emphasizing maternal and infant risk-reduction. The degree programs of the National College of Midwifery are implemented in diverse learning environments chosen by the student and the preceptor, from individual and group apprenticeships to classroom settings, allowing for multiple approaches to learning while requiring a high degree of initiative and discipline from of the student.*

National Midwifery Institute Bristol, Vermont

Certificate in Midwifery. Length: 3 years. Courses delivered via distance education and external preceptorships.

<http://www.nationalmidwiferyinstitute.com/> *We believe that the study of midwifery is a self-motivated and organic process, springing forth from the fertile ground of community and family. Just as there have always been and will always be birthing women, so the midwife is called into practice. We recognize and value the tradition of the midwifery learning cycle: knowledge being passed from woman to woman, experienced midwife to apprentice. We believe birth is a transformational process with its own intrinsic value for personal growth and development.. We support woman-centered birth and seek to uphold the right of each woman to define her needs and identify her support system. While the midwife sets parameters of safety, it is the birthing woman who, through the process of informed consent, makes her own decisions regarding the care of herself and her baby. Our focus in developing this program has been to preserve community-based midwifery care and education.*

Seattle Midwifery School Seattle, Washington

Certificate in Midwifery. Length: 3 years. Combination of web-based and classroom-based courses and external preceptorships. School participates in Title IV Student Financial Aid.

<http://www.seattlemidwifery.org/> *Our mission is to education and inspire leaders in the childbirth professions. We strive for a world where every family has access to care, education and options contributing to a safe and joyous pregnancy, birth and postpartum. Since 1978 SMS has trained more than 200 midwives and 3000 doulas. Midwives are experts in normal pregnancy and birth and provide primary preventive care. The midwifery model of care includes a commitment to continuity of care and informed choice, is sensitive to the spiritual and emotional aspects of childbearing, and recognizes the importance of family-centered care.*