

CPM Licensure Legislation: *Education Standards*

ACOG position: Licensure laws should support a **minimum education and training standard** that all midwives must meet whatever their title or professional designation and regardless of where in the United States they practice. **ACOG supports the worldwide midwifery education standards set by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) in 2010 – as a baseline for licensure here in the U.S., state-by-state.** All midwives – including certified professional midwives (CPMs) educated through non-accredited pathways and CPMs previously licensed and credentialed – should meet the ICM standards. (April 2015 statement endorsing the ICM standards)

International standards: In 2010, the **International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)** called on all countries to evaluate, upgrade and strengthen their midwifery workforce.

- **ICM recommends that all midwives worldwide:**
 - ✓ Use a common title.
 - ✓ Meet a common, minimum education and training standard.
 - ✓ Be licensed and regulated.
 - ✓ www.internationalmidwives.org

- **Here in the United States:**
 - ✓ There are 3 separate midwifery credentials: certified nurse-midwives (CNM), certified midwives (CM), and certified professional midwives (CPM). Each credential accepts different levels of education, training and experience.
 - ✓ CNMs and CMs meet and exceed ICM’s educational standards.
 - ✓ However, about two-thirds of CPMs are trained in apprenticeship and self-study programs that lack accreditation and don’t meet international standards.
 - ✓ A **“bridge certificate”** program – operational in late 2015 – is a pathway for CPMs credentialed thru non-accredited apprenticeship programs to meet the higher educational and training standards specified by ICM.
 - ✓ Applicants must complete 50 CEUs of accredited coursework within 5 years of application. www.narm.org/midwifery-bridge-certificate

- **ICM’s baseline midwifery education standards include:**
 - curriculum is a minimum of 40% theory and 50% practice
 - minimum length of direct-entry education is 3 years
 - minimum length of post-nursing education is 18 months
 - faculty is formally prepared to teach
 - time limited certification
 - certifying body should not simultaneously define/validate education and develop/administer exam
 - defined continued education requirements
 - periodic external review of education program effectiveness

STATE LICENSURE LAWS THAT MEET *ICM's* EDUCATION STANDARDS

These state laws permit licensure of CPMs for the first time. To be eligible for licensure, CPMs must obtain their education, training and credentialing thru *accredited* programs.

Alabama HB 315, enacted 2017

- Establishes licensure for certified professional midwives (CPMs).
Education requirements to be eligible licensure:
 - ✓ Completion of a **MEAC-accredited midwifery education program** or other accreditation recognized by the US Dept. of Education (US DOE).
 - ✓ **CPMs certified before January 1, 2020 and out-of-state CPMs** whose education was not MEAC-accredited must obtain the **midwifery bridge certificate** to be eligible for licensure in Alabama or complete another accredited education program recognized by US DOE.

Delaware HB 70, enacted 2015

- Establishes licensure for certified professional midwives (CPMs) and certified midwives (CMs).
- Creates a new Midwifery Advisory Council under the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline.
Education requirements to be eligible for licensure:
 - ✓ **Effective immediately**, any midwife holding a valid CPM credential is eligible for licensure including CPMs who obtained their education and training through a non-accredited program.
 - ✓ **CPMs credentialed after 2019** must complete a **MEAC-accredited midwifery education program** or a program that meets International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) standards and is recommended by the new Midwifery Advisory Council and approved by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline.

Maine LD 690, enacted 2016

- Establishes licensure for certified professional midwives (CPMs) and certified midwives (CMs), effective beginning January 1, 2020.
Education requirements to be eligible for licensure:
 - ✓ NARM certification.
 - ✓ Completion of a **MEAC-accredited midwifery education program**.
 - ✓ CPMs **certified before January 1, 2020 through a non-accredited program** must obtain the **midwifery bridge certificate**.
 - ✓ CPMs who have **maintained licensure in another state** that does not require accredited education must obtain the **midwifery bridge certificate** to be eligible for licensure in Maine, regardless of the date of their certification.

Maryland HB 9, enacted 2015

- Establishes licensure for direct-entry midwives (DEMs).
Education requirements to be eligible for licensure:
 - ✓ NARM certification.
 - ✓ Completion of a **MEAC or ACME-accredited midwifery education program**.
 - ✓ **DEMs certified before January 15, 2017 through a non-accredited program** must complete 50 CEU hours in the past 2 years, including:
 - 14 hours of OB emergency skills training.

- 36 hours covering pharmacology, lab interpretation of pregnancy, antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum complications, and neonatal care.
- Current CPR certification and completion of the AAP & American Heart Association *Neonatal Resuscitation Program* in last 2 years.
- Note: Maryland's law was passed *prior* to the development of the **midwifery bridge certificate**.

South Dakota SB 136, enacted 2017

- Establishes licensure for certified professional midwives (CPMs).
Education requirements to be eligible for licensure:
 - ✓ CPMs **certified after December 31, 2019**, must complete a **MEAC-accredited midwifery education program**.
 - ✓ CPMs **certified before January 1, 2020 through a non-accredited program** must obtain the **midwifery bridge certificate**.
 - ✓ CPMs who have **maintained licensure in another state** that does not require accredited education must obtain the **midwifery bridge certificate** to be eligible for licensure in South Dakota, regardless of the date of their certification.