

Student Enrollment

All students enrolled in a nurse practitioner or nurse-midwifery education program should be licensed to practice nursing—

(a) At the time of enrollment, or

(b) In the case of a program leading to a graduate degree in nursing, at or prior to the time of completion of a program.

The policies for the recruitment, selection and progression of students should be consistent with the requirements of the sponsoring institution and developed in cooperation with the faculty responsible for conducting the nurse practitioner and/or nurse-midwifery program. Programs should develop, implement, and evaluate specific plans to achieve recruitment, retention, timely progression and graduation of a diverse student body.

Length of Program

A nurse practitioner or nurse-midwifery education program is a formal program of study of a minimum of 1 academic year (9 months) in length and should include at least 4 months in the aggregate of full-time didactic instruction. Post-master's programs must also meet this requirement.

Curriculum

A nurse practitioner or nurse-midwifery education program should be a distinct program of study consisting of didactic instruction and supervised clinical practice designed to teach registered nurses the knowledge and competencies needed to perform the functions and scope of practice of a nurse practitioner or nurse-midwife. The faculty has the ultimate responsibility for evaluation of student clinical performance and achievement of competence. The nurse practitioner and nurse-midwifery specialty portion of the graduate curriculum should be developed and implemented cooperatively by nurse practitioner and/or nurse-midwife educators, other graduate nursing faculty, and appropriate representatives of other health disciplines. Interdisciplinary academic and practice learning experiences are recommended to prepare graduates to serve underserved populations in complex health systems. The program content, both didactic and clinical portions, should prepare the nurse practitioner or nurse-midwife to provide primary health care within community settings. The nurse practitioner and nurse-midwife should be knowledgeable about the cultural factors that affect the health status of the populations served and how to assist

the community in making decisions about its priorities and health services.

The curriculum must include student preceptorships and/or other clinical learning experiences. Faculty should develop and assess clinical learning sites through site visits and prepare clinical faculty and preceptors for teaching, evaluating, and problem solving with nurse practitioner and nurse-midwifery students. Nurse practitioner or nurse-midwifery program faculty retain full responsibility for assuring the quality and effectiveness of each practicum site for student learning. The grant applicant should document in the application the specific criteria used for the selection of clinical learning sites.

Faculty Qualifications

A nurse practitioner or nurse-midwifery education program should have a sufficient number of qualified nursing, medical and other related health professional faculty with academic preparation and clinical expertise relevant to their areas of teaching responsibility and with demonstrated ability in the development and implementation of educational programs. The program director should be a nationally certified nurse practitioner or nurse-midwife, with appropriate academic preparation, clinical expertise and experience as an educator. Nurse practitioner and nurse-midwife clinical faculty and preceptors should have national and/or State certification as appropriate for their specialty and should have at least one year of practice experience as a nurse practitioner or certified nurse-midwife. Other clinicians serving as clinical preceptors should be authorized by the State licensing entity to practice in their specific scope of practice. Faculty qualifications should be consistent with the requirements of their academic institution. The faculty should participate in maintenance of competency and clinical practice according to the National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education guidelines and ACNM guidelines for continued competency.

Resources

A nurse practitioner or nurse-midwifery education program must have available sufficient educational and clinical resources in a variety of practice settings with adequate space and equipment, number, age and type of clients needed for the number of students enrolled in the program. Where the institution or organization conducting the program does not provide the clinical practice settings

itself, it should provide for such settings through written agreements with other appropriate institutions or organizations.

Definitions

The following terms are defined for purposes of the Nurse Practitioner and Nurse-Midwifery Program.

Culturally and Linguistically

Appropriate Services means health care services that are respectful of and responsive to cultural and linguistic needs.

Full-time Student means a student enrolled in at least the number of credits defined as full-time by the institution.

Full-time educational program means an educational program that provides for a full-time program of study as defined by the institution. Students progressing through the program are able to enroll on a full-time basis to complete the program in a timely manner. Students in such a program may be part-time or full-time.

Nurse-Midwife means a registered nurse educated in the two disciplines of nursing and midwifery, who has successfully completed a nurse-midwifery education program accredited by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM). Following national ACNM/American College of Nurse-Midwives Certification Council (ACC) certification, the nurse-midwife has abilities to provide independent management of primary health care for women, in the context of family-centered care, focusing particularly on pregnancy, childbirth, the postpartum period, care of the newborn, and the family planning and gynecological needs of women within a health care system that provides for consultation, collaborative management or referral as indicated by the health status of the client, including the abilities to:

- Assess the health status of women and infants, through health and medical history taking, physical examination, ordering and interpreting diagnostic tests and making diagnoses;
- Institute and provide continuity of primary health care to women and refer to other health care providers as appropriate;
- Prescribe pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapeutics, consistent with current standards of care;
- Provide instruction and counseling to individuals, families, and groups in the areas of promotion and maintenance of health and disease prevention, including involving such persons in planning for their health care; and
- Collaborate with other health care providers and agencies to provide, and