Nurse-Midwives of America — NMOA

POLICY BRIEF
Education and certification

Educated, Certified, Accountable

Every certified nurse-midwife (CNM) is a registered nurse with a graduate degree in midwifery and national board certification.

The path to becoming a nurse-midwife

Step 1
Bachelor's degree
Required for every accredited program

Step 2
Registered nurse
Licensed RN, often with years at the bedside

Step 3
Graduate degree
Master's or doctorate from an ACME-accredited program

Step 4
National board exam
American Midwifery Certification Board

Step 5
State license
Licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse

8.3 years
average nursing experience before midwifery, about 17,000 hours, in one 2026 state review

Every 5 years
nurse-midwives recertify through board competency modules and continuing education

Global standard
U.S. competencies meet or exceed the International Confederation of Midwives' standards

What nurse-midwives are trained to do

- Prenatal care, labor and birth, and postpartum care
- Care of the healthy newborn through the first 28 days
- Gynecologic, family planning, and preconception care
- Primary care from adolescence through menopause and beyond
- Pharmacology and prescribing
- Recognizing complications early, then consulting, co-managing, or transferring care

Prepared for every setting

- Every accredited program teaches birth outside the hospital.
- Nurse-midwifery is one of four advanced practice registered nurse roles, and the one built around pregnancy, birth, and the newborn.
- Every graduate must demonstrate the national Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice before certification.

WHY IT MATTERS FOR POLICY

Nurse-midwives bring nursing experience, graduate-level clinical education, and ongoing board certification to every patient. Laws that require physician supervision or limit where nurse-midwives practice do not reflect this preparation.

OUR ASK

Let nurse-midwives practice to the full extent of their education, training, and national certification.

Nurse-Midwives of America

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Sources: American Midwifery Certification Board, eligibility and Certificate Maintenance Program; ACNM, Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice; ACNM, Education and Certification position statement; ACNM, Become a Midwife; APRN Consensus Model (2008); International Confederation of Midwives, Global Standards for Midwifery Education; Nebraska DHHS 407 Credentialing Review (2026).