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midwifery education
accreditation council

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MEAC MEMBER SCHOOLS LETTER #14

New NARM Eligibility Requirements

September 9, 2015

Dear MEAC Member Schools:

Please be advised that NARM has finalized a change to the eligibility requirements for graduates of MEAC-accredited schools. This proposed change was discussed at our Member School meeting on May 27, 2015 and all schools were given the opportunity to provide feedback. NARM has already updated their website and we expect NARM to send a formal communication to schools in the next week.

Applications received from MEAC students beginning January 1, 2016, will need to document ten Primary under Supervision births in out-of-hospital settings in the US or Canada.

NARM's eligibility requirements can be found here:

<http://narm.org/narm/equivalency-applicants/graduate-of-a-meac-accredited-program/>

How does this affect your students?

The following students will NOT be affected by this change:

Students enrolling before January 1, 2016 who fall into one of the following categories:

- Apply to NARM before January 1, 2016
- Will not apply to NARM

Students enrolling on or after January 1, 2016:

MEAC's standards require that any program that prepares students for entry-level practice as midwives must enable students to meet the requirements set forth by NARM to qualify for the CPM credential, regardless of whether any particular student chooses to pursue that credential. Therefore, *all* students enrolling on or after January 1, 2016 must meet the requirement for attending 10 primary under supervision out-of-hospital births in the United States or Canada.

Students enrolling before January 1, 2016 AND applying to NARM on or after January 1, 2016:

The way these students will be affected depends on whether or not your program requires the NARM exam as a graduation requirement.

1. If the school does NOT require the NARM exam as a graduation requirement:

These students may graduate under the old requirements, but will still need to demonstrate the 10 OOH primary under supervision births in the United States or Canada as part of their NARM application if they intend to apply for the CPM credential. If they need to attend additional births in order to do this, they may attend those births for up to three years after graduation in accordance with NARM policies.

2. If the school DOES require the NARM exam as a graduation requirement:

Because these students must take the NARM exam in order to graduate from their program, and because NARM will require documentation of the 10 OOH primary under supervision births in the United States or Canada in order to be eligible to take the exam, these students must obtain the required experience prior to graduation. For some students, this may delay their graduation if they need to attend additional births in the United States or Canada.

What do MEAC-accredited/applicant programs and institutions need to do?

1. Notify current and prospective students of the change and how it will affect them.

- For students enrolling prior to January 1, 2016, ensure that students understand whether and how they are affected by this change.
- For students enrolling on or after January 1, 2016, ensure that students know that this requirement applies to them, regardless of whether they intend to pursue the CPM credential. The terms of enrollment for these students must clearly indicate this, either by specifying it in the enrollment agreement or by incorporating it by reference to catalog or other document where it is clearly delineated.

2. Track completion of requirements for all affected students.

As with all other NARM experience requirements, MEAC schools are required to document completion of this requirement for each affected student. Records are subject to audit by MEAC.

3. Ensure sufficient faculty and clinical sites to allow all affected students to meet the new requirements.

Under Standard III, MEAC schools are required to ensure adequacy of faculty. Under Standard IV, MEAC schools are required to ensure that clinical sites are sufficient.

How will MEAC monitor compliance?

For all currently-accredited schools, MEAC will require demonstration of compliance in the annual reports due March 31, 2016. Beginning January 1, 2016 MEAC will also evaluate this for each school the next time it considers the relevant benchmarks for that school. This may occur as part of a review for re-accreditation, or if a relevant benchmark is otherwise evaluated as part of an interim report, substantive change, or other matter brought before the board.

For applicant schools, this will be considered as part of the initial accreditation process.

Please let me know if you have questions about this change to eligibility requirements.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra B. Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sandra Bitonti Stewart