



November 9, 2020

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Dear MEAC community:

On behalf of the MEAC Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce that the standards revision process has been completed!

The standards revision process was started in January 2017. The Standards Revision Committee collected all the feedback MEAC had received on the 2013 Standards from schools, MEAC staff, peer-reviewers, and Board of Directors. The Committee then began looking through the 2013 Standards, keeping all the feedback in mind, to identify benchmarks in need of revision. The focus of this revision was on clarity and consistency of benchmarks, improvement in equity and access, improvement in oversight of clinical experiences, and reworking, reducing or removing benchmarks that were confusing, unnecessary, or overly complicated. This initial process was completed in January 2019.

The initial set of revisions were sent to subject-matter experts for input in the areas of distance and correspondence education, degree-granting, direct assessment and competency based education, and equity and access. The focused review was conducted over several rounds of revisions through the duration of 2019 until a set of Draft Revised Standards was ready for the MEAC Board of Directors to review. The MEAC Board applied an additional equity and access review as well as a general review of the proposed revisions. The MEAC Board voted in April 2020 to release the Draft Revised Standards for public input.

Broad public input was solicited from MEAC's stakeholders during an open comment period from June through August 2020. While the amount of public feedback was lower than hoped for, it was taken into consideration and numerous edits were made to address concerns and suggestions from the community.

On October 8, 2020 the MEAC Board of Directors voted to adopt the 2020 Standards for Accreditation. Implementation will occur as described in the following pages.

We look forward to working with our schools and volunteers under these new standards. In support of that, we will be releasing additional materials through mid 2021 that will help explain MEAC's standards and how they will be evaluated. Thank you to all who participated in and contributed to this standards revision process. Your support has helped strengthen the future of midwifery education!

Best,

Amari Fauna
Director of Education

Key Dates For Implementation of the MEAC 2020 Standards for Accreditation

Date	Activity
January 1, 2021	<p>2020 Standards take effect.</p> <p>After this date, all initial and reaccreditation applications will be held to the new standards. <i>Applications currently under review will continue under the 2013 Standards.</i></p> <p>Currently accredited schools and schools who submitted an initial application prior to this date should begin planning for compliance with the new standards.</p>
August 30, 2021	<p>Compliance planning due.</p> <p>All currently accredited schools and schools who submitted an initial application prior to January 1, 2020 must finish planning for compliance with the new standards. A compliance plan will be required to be submitted with the 2020 Annual Report. <i>This plan will be processed as a TRAC Report.</i></p>
July 25, 2022	<p>Expected Compliance Date.</p> <p>All currently accredited schools must be in full compliance with the 2020 Standards.</p>
August 29, 2022	<p>Compliance Report due.</p> <p>All currently accredited schools must demonstrate compliance with the 2020 Standards. A Compliance Report will be required to be submitted with the 2021 Annual Report.</p>

Compliance Planning and Reporting

The following benchmarks represent a significant enough change from the 2013 Standards that schools will be required to plan for and demonstrate compliance with the changes. Compliance plans will need to speak to the following benchmarks, as applicable to each institution or program:

- I.B1: program goals and learning outcomes
- I.C1: program enrollment goals
- II.A4: essential competencies for advanced midwifery programs
- II.B2: publication of learning objectives, learning activities, learning materials, learning resources, and student evaluation/assessment methods in clinical preceptorship courses or practicum
- II.B5: learning activities and/or competencies on working in a cross-cultural setting
- II.B6: learning activities and/or competencies on personal bias and structural societal injustices and inequities
- III.A1: faculty qualifications
- III.A5: faculty nondiscrimination
- III.B2: academic faculty orientation and training in legal and ethical concepts
- III.B3: clinical faculty orientation and training in legal and ethical concepts
- III.B4: academic faculty ongoing opportunities for development and training
- III.B5: clinical faculty ongoing opportunities for development and training
- IV.C2: clinical site selection criteria
- IV.C3: considerations in clinical placement
- IV.D2: technology plan
- V.B5: financial responsibility via composite score calculation
- V.C3: administrative staff nondiscrimination
- V.C4: development and retention of a diverse administrative staff
- V.C5: administrative staff orientation and training in legal and ethical concepts
- VII.A1: student nondiscrimination
- VII.B3: preparation for travel outside the United States
- IX.A2: protections against discrimination, harassment and retaliation in complaint/grievance policies
- X.A1.4: process for monitoring and encouraging repayment of federal student loans

Each school is encouraged to develop a compliance plan that works best for their own institution or program. There are some general items that MEAC will be looking for in the plan, this includes a list of steps and actions that will be taken to come into compliance with each of the identified benchmarks, a general timeline of when those steps and actions will be taken, and a list of identified person(s)/position(s) who will be responsible for completing the steps and actions.