



meac
midwifery education
accreditation council

Annual Accreditation Report 2023

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Accreditation Staff

Director of Accreditation

Caroline Clark Rivera, MA, MS, PhD

Caroline started in her position as Director of Accreditation in March of 2024. She brings over 20 years of higher education experience to her position at MEAC. Among her experiences are 10+ years of higher education administration as a Department Head, Academic Dean, Student Affairs Dean, Dean of Academic Affairs and Operations, and Accreditation Specialist. Additionally, Caroline has been teaching, creating curriculum, and designing courses for distance education for more than 20 years.

Note From the Director of Accreditation

2024 in Brief

Because I have only been with MEAC since March 11, 2024, I can only comment on MEAC's accreditation activities over the last six months.

MEAC experienced several positive changes in 2024, including changes in the leadership and makeup of the Board of Directors. Recently, MEAC received word that USDE XXXXX.

Over the last six months, I have worked hard to identify areas for improvement in MEAC's accreditation policies and procedures. MEAC will no longer limit the number of schools/programs that may apply for initial accreditation per year, nor will MEAC continue with the previous submission timetable (accepting applications twice a year). Instead, MEAC will accept rolling applications throughout the year so that schools/programs may submit applications whenever they are ready to apply. I am all about streamlining processes and making things as accessible as possible.

Looking Ahead to 2025

2025 promises to be an excellent year for MEAC and midwifery education. I will continue working closely with MEAC's member schools and prospective schools to help bring attention and legitimacy to midwifery education. The field of midwifery is on the precipice of significant change, and I am excited to be along for the ride, offering support wherever I can.

MEAC's Mission

The Midwifery Education Accreditation Council's mission is to promote excellence in midwifery education through accreditation. It creates standards and criteria for the education of midwives. MEAC standards incorporate the nationally recognized core competencies and guiding principles set by [The International Confederation of Midwives](#) (ICM) and the requirements for national certification by the [North American Registry of Midwives](#) (NARM). MEAC's accreditation criteria for midwifery education programs reflect the unique components and philosophy of the [Midwives Model of Care](#).

MEAC aims to establish standards for the education of competent midwives and provide a self-evaluation and peer evaluation process for diverse educational programs. MEAC is a non-profit organization approved by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a [nationally recognized accrediting agency](#).

MEAC's Board of Directors

Tanya Smith-Johnson, Board President

Sarah McBride, Board Vice President

Angelique Steadman, Board Treasurer

Edith Pomposo, Board Secretary

Karen Ehrlich, Historian

Dr. Kimberley Green

Tracie L. Washington, Esq.

Alechia Abioye

Accreditation Review Committee Members

ARC members are peers responsible for conducting comprehensive reviews of all institution/program applications for initial accreditation, renewal of accreditation, and some substantive changes. The Director of Accreditation appoints ARC members in coordination with the MEAC Board President. Member Schools are allowed to request alternate appointments.

MEAC is currently accepting applications for new ARC members. If interested, go to MEAC's website, look for the [Accreditation tab](#), scroll down to the bottom, and you will see "I want to be an Accreditation Review (ARC) Member!" You will find a [document outlining the responsibilities](#) and a link to a [Google Form](#) for application purposes.

ARC Members

Claudia Breglia - Southwest Technical College

Molly Dutton-Farrell - National Midwifery Institute

Gina Gerboth - Public Member

Megan Koontz - Midwives College of Utah

Marinah Farrell - Cedar Medicine School of Midwifery

Hilary Schlinger - International Institute for Health Care Professions

Sakina O'Uhuru - A Wombman's Way Warrior Midwife Training

Romy Sharieff - Public Member

Sedona Lercara - Public Member

Abby Reese - Public Member

Your name here!

2023 Accreditation Activities

The Director of Accreditation position was vacant for six months, resulting in a backlog of reports. The following list includes the active open reports and accreditation activities when I started as Director of Accreditation.

TRAC Reports

TRAC Reports: 6

Focus Benchmarks 2020 Standards:

- II.A5, II.B1, II.C1, III.B1, III.D1, III.A6, IX.A1, IX.A3, X.A1, X.B1, X.B3

Monitoring Reports

Monitoring Reports: 4

Focus Benchmarks 2020 Standards:

- II.A3, IID1, III.C1, III.D1, IV.C1, VII.D2

Compliance Reports

Compliance Reports: 11

Focus Benchmarks 2020 Standards:

- I.B1, I.C4, II.A3, II.A4, II.A5, II.B2, II.B5, II.B6, II.D1, III.A1, III.A5, III.B2, III.B3, III.B4, III.B5, IV.C2, IV.C3, IV.D2, V.B2, V.B4, V.B5, V.C3, V.C4, V.C5, VII.A1, VII.A2, VII.B3, IX.A2, X.A1

Substantive Change Reports

Substantive Change Reports: 1

Preaccreditation/Initial Accreditation and Renewal of Accreditation

Part I Application for Preaccreditation/Initial Accreditation = 2

Part I Application for Renewal of Accreditation = 1

Part II Self-Evaluation Reports (Initial and Renewal) = 3

Part II Materials and Information Request = 2

Site Visits

Part III Site Visits (Initial and Renewal) = 1

Accreditation Decisions

Institutions/Programs granted Preaccreditation/Initial Accreditation = 0

Renewal of Accreditation = 1

Substantive Change = 1

2022 Annual Reports Compiled Data

This data is being provided as a part of public transparency to see how MEAC Member Schools are performing in relation to MEAC's quantitative benchmarks. Only aggregate data was provided. Individual school data is not publicly released at this time. For more information on any of the key indicators listed below, see the corresponding benchmark in MEAC's 2020 Standards for Accreditation.

This data is also being provided for MEAC Member Schools to use in planning and improvement processes. Member Schools may use their submitted 2022 Annual Reporting Workbook, and 2022 Annual Report Board Reports to compare their individual data and the compiled data below.

Key Indicator 2: Financial Composite Score

Corresponding Benchmark 2020 Standards V.B5

Evaluate the institution's most recent fiscal year (institutional accreditation only)

- N = 5 institutions
- Range: 0.76 to 3% (possible range -1.0 to 3.0, 1.5 and higher indicates financially responsible)
- Median: 2.29

Key Indicator 4: Enrollment Count and Changes

Corresponding Benchmark 2020 Standards I.C1

Evaluate the enrollment as of 12/31/2022 compared to the previous year

- N = 14 programs
- Range: -83% to 400% (prior year -57% - 450%)
- Median change: -3% (prior year 6%)
- Total Count: 885 students enrolled as of 12/31/2022 (prior year 853)
- Range per Institution: 46-257 (prior year 46-292)
- Range per Program: 1-253 (prior year 2-231)
- Median Count per Institution: 123 (prior year 124)
- Median Count per Program: 29 (prior year 27)

Key Indicator 5: Significant Enrollment Growth of Institutions/Programs Offering Distance Education

Corresponding Benchmark 2020 Standards NA, required by 34 CFR 602-19(e)

Evaluate the enrollment as of 12/31/2021 compared to the previous year

- N = 14 programs
- Range: -35%-21% (prior year 3%-283%)

- Median: 6% (prior year 15%)

Key Indicator 6: Student Retention

Corresponding Benchmark 2020 Standards I.C2

Evaluate retention into the second year of cohorts enrolling in each program during years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021

- N = 14 programs
- Range: 59%-100% (prior year 60% to 100%)
- Median: 74% (prior year 84%)

Key Indicator 7: Student Completion

Corresponding Benchmark 2020 Standards I.C3

Evaluate the most recent five-year period within which cohorts have reached 150% of the normal time to completion; years evaluated vary by individual program

- N = 14 programs
- Range: 13%-100% (prior year 17% to 100%)
- Median: 50% (prior year 47%)

Key Indicator 8: NARM Pass Rates

Corresponding Benchmark 2020 Standards I.C4

Evaluates students from each program taking the NARM exam in years 2019, 2020, and 2021

- N = 14 programs
- Range: 50%-100% (prior year 50%-100%)
- Median: 96% (prior year 96%)
- Total Count: 74 (prior year 109)
- Range per Institution: 5-23 (prior year 5-23)
- Range per Program: 0-19 (prior year 0-21)
- Median Count per Institution: 11 (prior year 16)
- Median Count per Program: 5 (prior year 8)

Informational Data: Graduate Count

Counts the number of students who graduated in 2022

- N = 14 Institutions/Programs
- Range per Institution/Program: 0-35 (prior year 0-22)
- Median Count per Institution/Program: 4 (prior year 5)
- Total Count: 99 (prior year 105)

2023 Annual Reports Compiled Data

This data is being provided as a part of public transparency to see how MEAC Member Schools are performing in relation to MEAC's quantitative benchmarks. Only aggregate data has been provided. Individual school data is not publicly released at this time. For more information on any of the key indicators listed below, see the corresponding benchmark in MEAC's 2020 Standards for Accreditation.

This data is also being provided for MEAC Member Schools to use in planning and improvement processes. Member Schools may use their submitted 2023 Annual Reporting Workbook and 2023 Annual Report Board Reports to compare their individual data and the compiled data below.

Key Indicator 2: Financial Composite Score

Corresponding Benchmark 2020 Standards V.B5

Evaluate the institution's most recent fiscal year (institutional accreditation only)

- N = 6 institutions (3 reported)
- Range: 2.6-3.0 (possible range -1.0 to 3.0, 1.5 and higher indicates financially responsible)
- Median: 3.0

Key Indicator 4: Enrollment Count and Changes

Corresponding Benchmark 2020 Standards I.C1

Evaluate the enrollment as of 12/31/2023 compared to the previous year

- N = 13 programs
- Range: -100%-10% (prior year -83% - 400%)
- Median change: -20% (prior year -3%)
- Total Count: 795 students enrolled as of 12/31/2022 (prior year 885)
- Range per Institution: 23-252 (prior year 46-257)
- Range per Program: 1-250 (prior year 1-253)
- Median Count per Institution: 126.5 (prior year 124)
- Median Count per Program: 64 (prior year 27)

Key Indicator 6: Student Retention

Corresponding Benchmark 2020 Standards I.C2

Evaluate retention into the second year of cohorts enrolling in each program during years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022

- N = 13 programs

- Range: 61%-91% (prior year 59% to 100%)
- Median: 74% (prior year 79%)

Key Indicator 7: Student Completion

Corresponding Benchmark 2020 Standards I.C3

Evaluate the most recent five-year period within which cohorts have reached 150% of the normal time to completion; years evaluated vary by individual program

- N = 13 programs
- Range: 0%-65% (prior year 13% to 100%)
- Median: 34% (prior year 47%)

Key Indicator 8: NARM Pass Rates

Corresponding Benchmark 2020 Standards I.C4

Evaluates students from each program taking the NARM exam in years 2020, 2021, and 2022

- N = 13 programs
- Range: 0%-100% (prior year 50%-100%)
- Median: 97% (prior year 96%)
- Total Count: 142 (prior year 74)
- Range per Institution: 4-33 (prior year 5-23)
- Range per Program: 0-35 (prior year 0-19)
- Median Count per Institution: 17 (prior year 16)
- Median Count per Program: 7 (prior year 8)

Informational Data: Graduate Count

Counts the number of students who graduated in 2023

- N = 13 Institutions/Programs
- Range per Institution/Program: 0-40 (prior year 0-35)
- Median Count per Institution/Program: 16.5 (prior year 4)
- Total Count: 155 (prior year 99)