

AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION BOARD  
2010 Annual Report

The mission of the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) is to protect and serve the public by establishing and maintaining the certification standard for individuals educated in the profession of midwifery. AMCB fulfills its mission through three primary activities: a national examination for initial certification as a nurse-midwife (CNM) or midwife (CM), a re-certification program for CNMs or CMs to assist certificants to fulfill their professional responsibilities to maintain competence, and through professional discipline. In 2006, AMCB was reaccredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies for another 5 years.

During 2010 the staff and volunteers worked diligently to inform all CNMs of the requirement effective January 1, 2011 for maintenance of certification with accompanying time-limited certification for every CNM and CM, including those who were certified prior to the implementation of the current Certificate Maintenance Program in 1996. The length of the CMP was changed from 8 years to 5 years. New certificates were mailed to each CNM affected by this change with the new expiration dates. In order to distribute the expiration dates evenly, the length of the first cycle was staggered, with corresponding differences in the CMP requirements for that first cycle. A provision was made for CNMs and CMs who opt not to participate in CMP to be listed on the AMCB verification page as “retired”.

The seventh 8-year cycle of the Certificate Maintenance Program (CMP) was completed in December 2010 for midwives initially certified in 2002. There were a total of 402 CNMs/CMs up for recertification, of whom 90.0% recertified. Of the certificants who did recertify, 7 took the exam as a means of re-certification. Over the 7 year history the rate of recertification has ranged from 90 to 93.7%. With the implementation of a new database, AMCB will be able to begin collecting data regarding the reasons that a CNM/CM does not recertify, such as retirement, never actually practicing, disability, etc.

The national certification exam (NCE) has now been administered via computer-based testing (CBT) for 6 years. In collaboration with AMCB’s testing partner, Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP), the NCE continues to be available 52 weeks of the year, 5 days each week (except for federal holidays) and at least one Saturday per month, at 170 sites serving all 50 states of the U.S. Candidates for certification are able to take the examination at their convenience at any of AMP’s testing sites as soon as their application is approved. Effective July, 2007 the candidates began receiving official pass/fail results at the conclusion of their examination. AMCB issues wallet-sized certification cards in addition to certificates for ease in documenting current certification.

Once again, the number of newly certified CNMs and CMs increased over the previous year. The overall pass rate on the NCE for first-time candidates in 2010 was 80.3%, which is consistent with previous years.

Table 1. Annual Number of New CNM and CM Certificants since 2000.

Table 1. Annual Number of New CNM and CM Certificants since 2000.

Year	First Time Candidates	Total New CNM/CM	New CNM	New CM	Annual % Increase or (Decrease)
2000		458	451	7	N/A
2001		428	422	6	(5.3%)
2002		402	400	2	(6.0%)
2003		340	335	5	(16.8%)
2004		356	341	15	4.7%
2005	297	299	293	6	(15.8%)
2006	307	295	291	4	(1.3%)
2007	281	287	285	2	(2.7%)
2008	342	320	318	2	11.5
2009	332	325	323	2	1.6%
2010	371	344	339	5	5.8%

The 2010 AMCB Board of Directors was composed of the following individuals:

- Barbara W. Graves, CNM, MN, MPH, FACNM, President
- Patricia Caudle, CNM, DNSc, FNP, Secretary
- Cara Krulewitch, CNM, PhD, FACNM, Treasurer
- Mary Barger, CNM, MPH, FACNM, Chairperson, Certificate Maintenance Program Committee
- Jane Mashburn, CNM, MN, FACNM, Chairperson, Credentials, Administration & Reporting Committee
- Tanya Bailey, CNM, MSN, Chairperson, Examination Committee
- Marie Hastings-Tolsma, CNM, PhD, Chairperson, Research Committee
- Suzanne M. Spiry, Consumer Member
- Arlene M. Spherhac PhD, CPNP, FAAN, Professional Liaison Member
- Kathleen A. Fagerlund, RN, CRNA, PhD, Professional Liaison Member
- Kristi L. Boldt, MD, FRCSC, Professional Liaison Member
- Carrie Bright, IOM, CAE, Executive Director, Ex-officio Member
- Tanya Tanner CNM, MS, MBA, ACNM Liaison Ex-officio Member