

AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION
2016 Annual Report

The mission of the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) is to protect and serve the public by leading the certification standards in 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.

This was a busy year for AMCB as it was time to submit applications for reaccreditation to AMCB's accrediting body, Institute for Credentialing Excellence's National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) for both the CNM and CM credentials. NCCA has modified their standards and now require additional activities in exam development that increase the rigor and standardization of the certification exam. These changes required AMCB to add three additional sub-committees and create new versions of the exam. These changes created an increase AMCB expenses and the potential for a deficit in the 2017 budget. In addition, this is the year that AMCB conducted its Task Analysis. In response to the increase in expenses with three new committees that must continue, the AMCB Board of Directors (BOD) made the difficult decision to modestly increase the annual fee and eliminate the lump sum payment fee. The increased annual fee remains below the 2014 fee structure. This increase will allow AMCB to maintain a positive cash flow and remain fiscally sound.

Table 1. Percent of Certificants to Recertify and # Retired			
Year of Recertification	# Of Certificants Eligible to Recertify	% Recertified	# Chose to be put in Retirement Category
2006	551	93%	
2007	495	93.7%	
2008	458	92.1%	
2009	427	93.4%	
2010	402	90%	
2011*	1563	84.4%	87 (5.6%)
2012	2748	77.4%	115 (4.2%)
2013	2063	64.3%	100 (4.8%)
2014	2680	69.5%	147(5.5%)
2015	3120	84.3%	54 (1.7%)
2016	1535	85%	36(2.3%)

*Beginning in 2011 all certificants were required to begin recertifying. Before this, anyone certified prior to 1996 did not have to meet recertification requirements.

Since the move to all time-limited certificates, a small portion of the certificant pool continues to retire. AMCB continues to anticipate that the recertification pool will grow as

the number of new certificants increases and the proportion of retired CNMs decreases or levels off (Table 1).

The national certification exam (NCE) has now been administered via computer-based testing (CBT) for 12 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 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. Candidates receive 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. The number of newly certified CNMs and CMs has steadily increased, except for a small decrease in 2015, and currently is 29 percent greater compared to 2000 (Table 2).

Year	First Time Candidates	Total New CNM/CM	New CNM	New CM	Annual % Increase or (Decrease) in new CNM/CM
2000		458	451	7	N/A
2001		428	422	6	(6.6%)
2002		402	400	2	(6.1%)
2003		340	335	5	(15.4%)
2004		356	341	15	4.5%
2005	297	299	293	6	(16%)
2006	307	295	291	4	(1.3%)
2007	281	287	285	2	(2.7%)
2008	342	320	318	2	10.3%
2009	332	325	323	2	1.5%
2010	371	344	339	5	5.5%
2011	419	398	392	6	13.6%
2012	488	474	467	7	16%
2013	542	539	536	3	12.1%
2014	579	571	563	8	5.6%
2015	561	558	547	11	(2.3%)
2016	623	644 ξ	632	12	15.4%
Note: Total New CNM/CM includes successful first time and repeat testing					
ξ Overall increase in new CNM/CMs since 2000 is 29%					

Traditionally, since 2000, AMCB has not reported on the total number of candidates who have taken the exam, or pass/fail statistics, however, changes in reporting requirements by NCCA require that this information be included. Therefore, in this report additional information is included in Table 3 to meet these requirements. Future reports will continue to include this information.

Year	Total Candidates Examined	Pass Rate	Fail Rate	Total Number of CNM Certified	Total Number of CMs Certified	Total Number of Certificants
2015	610	560/91.8%	50/8.2%	11,111	99	11,210
2016	687	645/93.9%	42/6.1%	11,628	100	11,728

Over the past five years, AMCB participated in meetings with the US Midwifery Education, Regulation, and Association (US MERA) workgroup. This workgroup has met through members of a steering committee throughout the year. These meetings, and the formation of a number of committees to address specific issues, have led to productive discussions on how to expand access to high quality midwifery care and physiologic birth for all women in all birth settings in the United States in alignment with global standards of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM). Along with AMCB, the group included leaders from ACNM, ACME, MEAC, MANA, NACPM, and NARM. These meetings have led to the potential for collaborative efforts between CNM/CM organizations and CPM organizations.

2016 marked the end of terms for two AMCB Board members, Dr. Penelope Strauss (one of our Professional Liaisons) and Dr. Barbara McFarlin, Chair of the Research Committee. We are grateful for their significant contributions to the AMCB BOD and Dr. McFarlin's continued support of the finalization of the Task Analysis. Additionally, Dr. Tanya Tanner has agreed to move to Dr. McFarlin's position as Chair of the Research Committee. This created two vacancies on the BOD, Secretary and Professional Liaison. A search was conducted and the BOD was pleased to receive a number of qualified applications, creating a tough decision to fill each position. After discussion and full agreement, the BOD will welcome Erin McMahan, EdD, CNM, RN, MSN and Nathaniel Apatov, CRNA, PhD to the BOD in 2017.

The 2016 AMCB Board of Directors was composed of the following individuals:

Cara J. Krulewitch CNM PhD FACNM, FAAN, President

Tanya Tanner, PhD, MBA, RN, CNM, Secretary

Kathleen Bailey, CNM, MA, MS, Treasurer

Linda Hunter CNM, Chairperson, Certificate Maintenance Program Committee

Elizabeth Pickett, CM, LM, MS, Chairperson, Credentials, Administration & Reporting Committee

Robin Neumeier, CNM, MSN, Chairperson, Examination Committee

Barbara McFarlin, PhD, CNM, RDMS, FACNM, Chairperson, Research Committee

Kate Hodges, Consumer Member

Arlene M. Sperhac PhD, CPNP, FAAN, Professional Liaison Member

Penelope Strauss, PhD, CRNA, Professional Liaison Member

Ronald Burkman, MD, Professional Liaison Member

Carrie Bright, IOM, CAE, Executive Director, Ex-officio Member