

ACME | ACCREDITATION COMMISSION for MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

8403 Colesville Road • Suite 1550 • Silver Spring, MD 20910 • 240-485-1802 • acme@acnm.org • www.midwife.org/acme

VIA EMAIL

Steve.dorman@gcsu.edu

June 17, 2020

Steve Dorman, PhD
President
Georgia College and State University
231 W Hancock St
Milledgeville, GA 31061

Dear President Dorman,

The Board of Review (BOR) of the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) met on June 9, 2020. The BOR reviewed the Mandatory Progress Report (MPR) that was submitted on April 30, 2020 to address specific criteria that were not fully met in the pre-accreditation report for the Georgia College and State University Master of Science in Nurse-Midwifery program and the post master's certificate.

The following specific criteria were addressed and met in the MPR report:

Criteria IV. E.1. (MET): The curriculum will be consistent with the ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice.

The MPR contains a complete mapping of the full curriculum including MSN core courses to the Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice. A Core Competencies Table that shows the entire curriculum, Masters core courses as well as Midwifery courses was provided. Syllabi were provided for the additional courses used in the complete Core Competencies Table.

The MPR addresses that NRS 5500 provides content for Midwifery Core Competencies number II.2 and II.3. MPR and table identified where Hallmarks of Midwifery and the history of midwifery content it taught.

Criteria IV.E.2 (MET) The curricular content includes the most up-to-date evidence base for midwifery practice and will be congruent with ACNM Standards for the Practice of Midwifery and other practice documents.

A revised Table IV.E.2 was submitted in the MPR which fully demonstrates which courses meet the ACNM Standards, especially Standards 5 through 8 and eliminated duplication.

Criteria V.A.1. (MET) Adequate number of qualified faculty.

The PAR information did not explain the process for determining adequacy of faculty number nor a plan to address this problem if the number of faculty are found to be lacking. This is a concern especially if there is rapid growth in student enrollment in the program. The MPR provided a complete description of how the program will determine adequacy of faculty number and what the process will be to address the problem if the program determines the number of faculty is lacking.

The PAR was unclear if midwifery faculty would be teaching in other programs. Clarification was requested about midwifery faculty course responsibilities in addition to the NMW program.

The MPR stated midwifery faculty will be primarily teaching within the midwifery concentration and some of the courses may also have Women's Health Nurse Practitioner students; however, as more faculty are added the midwifery faculty may also teach outside of the midwifery concentration to meet the course workload requirements.

Criteria V. A.2. (MET) Adequate number of staff for secretarial, technical and student support.

The PAR did not explain the process for determining adequacy of staff and the plan to address adequate staffing if the program should find the number and type of staff are lacking. The MPR provided a description of how the program will determine adequacy of staff and what the process will be to address the problem if the program determines the number and type of staff needs to increase.

Additionally, the following criteria were met but required attention:

Criteria III. A The institution will have admission criteria and policies, including a nondiscrimination policy, which will be publicly available.

The non-discrimination statement link listed in the PAR was for employees (Section 8 of Policy Manual). The reviewers found the non-discrimination statement regarding students in the Graduate Catalog 2019-2020 at <http://catalog.gcsu.edu/en/2019-2020/Graduate-Catalog/Academic-Policies/Non-Discrimination>. The SON Policy #3001 gives detail of admission, progression and dismissal. It does not have language about non-discrimination.

The BOR highly recommended a handbook for the nurse-midwifery program and post master's certificate and to include the correct non-discrimination statement. As well the MSN handbook needs to include the correct URL. In addition, the BOR requested where non-discrimination statements can be found in the SON admission policies.

The MPR provided a link to the current graduate college non-discrimination statement and states it is included in the student handbook. The GC School of Nursing Policy 3001 link (https://drive.google.com/file/d/16pPZYK4AfILOG_5O0dfQaxCTjqKZPFXP/view) to the actual policy was included in Appendix 2 of MPR; however, the policy found at this link is not updated to include the non-discrimination paragraph. The BOR advises that the formal Policy link needs to also reflect the update. We hope to see an updated link in the Annual Monitoring Report for 2020.

Criteria III. F. 3. Clearly defined mechanisms for consideration of grievances, complaints or appeals.

The link provided in the PAR was a Grievance Policy for employees not students. The correct link is in the Graduate Catalog 2019-2020 <http://catalog.gcsu.edu/2019-2020/Graduate-Catalog/Academic-Policies/Appeal-Process/Procedures-for-an-Academic-Grievance-Or-Appeal>. Non-academic grievances are here: <http://catalog.gcsu.edu/2018-2019/Graduate-Catalog/Academic-Policies/Non-Academic-Grievances-or-Appeals-Process>. The MSN Handbook states the policy is followed from the Graduate Catalog.

When the BOR advised the development of a nurse-midwifery handbook, we requested including the correct URL.

The Student Handbook in the MPR appendix has the link to the 2013-2014 Graduate Catalog section for grievances. Please update Student Handbook links to the most current graduate catalog. As noted above, the BOR did find the grievance sections in the 2019-2020 Graduate Catalog. We hope to be directed to the correct link in the Annual Monitoring Report for 2020.

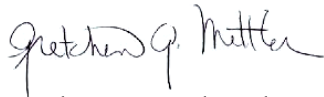
Criteria IV. A. 1. a. The curriculum is based on three distinct statements which provide the foundation for the development, implementation and evaluation of the curriculum. They are 1) a statement of philosophy, 2) a statement of purpose/mission, and 3) a statement of objectives/outcomes. Criteria Instructions: In the PAR or in the appendices to the PAR, provide each of the three statements of midwifery program philosophy, purpose/mission, and outcomes/objectives.

The PAR provided only the alignment of GC Nurse-Midwifery Program Philosophy and ACNM philosophy in table format. The BOR advised including the nurse-midwifery philosophy on the website, in the proposed Nurse-Midwifery student handbook and in promotional materials for the Nurse-Midwifery program and post master's certificate.

The MPR notes the philosophies have been placed on GC SON webpage and included in the student handbook. The MPR does not note whether these have been included or if there are plans to include these statements in promotional materials. We hope you will do so and once it is done, show an updated copy in the Annual Monitoring Report for 2020.

Thank you for your submission of the MPR. All required updates to criteria have been met. If you have any questions please notify Gretchen Mettler, CNM ACME BOR Chair (ggm@case.edu (216) 798-1255). We are very excited to see a program increasing access to midwifery education in the Southeastern United States. We wish you health and safety as you embark on the opening of the Georgia College Midwifery Concentration.

Sincerely,



Gretchen G. Mettler, Ph.D., CNM, FACNM
Chair, ACME Board of Review
ggm@case.edu

Cc:

Costas Spirou, PhD, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
costas.spirou@gcsu.edu

Sandra Gangstead, PhD, Interim Associate Provost and Director of the Graduate School
Sandra.gangstead@gcsu.edu

Sheri Noviello, PhD, RN Dean & Professor, College of Health Science sheri.noviello@gcsu.edu

Deborah MacMillan, PhD, CNM, RN, Director and Professor School of Nursing
Debby.macmillan@GC.edu

Monica Ketchie, DNP, CNM, ANP, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, WHNP and Midwifery Program Coordinator monica.ketchie@gcsu.edu

Anne Z. Cockerham, PhD, CNM, WHNP-BC, CNE, FACNM, ACME Chair, Board of Commissioners anne.cockerham@frontier.edu

Maryann Long, PhD, CNM, FACNM, Site Visit Coordinator, Board of Commissioners maryann.long@gmail.com

Angela Smith, ACME Executive Director asmith@acnm.org