

Name: Midwifery Education Accreditation Council	Meeting Date: 02/07/2018	Response Submit Date: 11/09/2017	Status: Final Review	Type: Compliance Report
--	---------------------------------	---	-----------------------------	--------------------------------

U.S. Department of Education

Staff Report

to the

Senior Department Official

on

Recognition Compliance Issues

Recommendation Page

1. **Agency:** Midwifery Education Accreditation Council
2. **Action Item:** Compliance Report
3. **Current Scope of Recognition:** The accreditation and pre-accreditation throughout the United States of direct-entry midwifery educational institutions and programs conferring degrees and certificates, including the accreditation of such programs offered via distance education.
4. **Requested Scope of Recognition:** Same as above.
5. **Date of Advisory Committee Meeting:** February 07, 2018
6. **Staff Recommendation:** Renew the agency's recognition for three years.
7. **Issues or Problems:** None

Executive Summary

Part I: General Information About The Agency

The Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC) is both a programmatic and an institutional accreditor. It accredits direct-entry midwifery educational programs and institutions throughout the United States awarding certificates and degrees. MEAC currently accredits two programs and nine institutions located in eleven states. Four of the institutions have components offered via distance or correspondence education.

The agency's accreditation enables its certificate and degree-granting institutions to establish eligibility to participate in Federal programs administered by the Department of Education under the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended. Currently, four institutions accredited by MEAC participate in HEA Title IV programs.

Recognition History

MEAC developed its accreditation standards and administrative policies and procedures in 1991 using a national consensus-building process with input from representative midwifery educators and schools. The agency began conducting its accreditation activities in 1993-94 and accredited its first institution in 1995. The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) considered MEAC for initial recognition at its Fall 2000 meeting and the Secretary's letter officially conferring recognition was sent to the agency in 2001. The agency's most recent petition for renewed recognition was reviewed at the Fall 2015 NACIQI meeting. At that time, the agency's current recognition was continued, and the agency was requested to submit a report demonstrating compliance with three issues. That report is the subject of the current staff analysis.

Part II: Summary Of Findings

602.19(b) Monitoring

(b) The agency must demonstrate it has, and effectively applies, a set of monitoring and evaluation approaches that enables the agency to identify problems with an institution's or program's continued compliance with agency standards and that takes into account institutional or program strengths and stability. These approaches must include periodic

reports, and collection and analysis of key data and indicators, identified by the agency, including, but not limited to, fiscal information and measures of student achievement, consistent with the provisions of §602.16(f). This provision does not require institutions or programs to provide annual reports on each specific accreditation criterion.

ASL_MVC_v1.Models.TblAslstep2Analyst??.Remarks

Analyst Remarks to Response:

In the draft staff analysis, ED staff accepted the agency's narrative and supporting documentation and determined that the agency had addressed the compliance issues identified in the Fall 2015 staff analysis of the agency's petition for continued recognition. However, ED noted in the draft that the agency had not provided three sets of documentation in support of its narrative, as is currently required under ED's focused review process.

In response to the draft staff analysis, the agency provided the additional sets of documentation, as requested, which demonstrate the agency's compliance with the requirements of this section. ED staff accepts the agency's supplemental documentation, and no additional information is requested.

602.20(a) Enforcement Timelines

(a) If the agency's review of an institution or program under any standard indicates that the institution or program is not in compliance with that standard, the agency must--

(1) Immediately initiate adverse action against the institution or program; or

(2) Require the institution or program to take appropriate action to bring itself into compliance with the agency's standards within a time period that must not exceed--

(i) Twelve months, if the program, or the longest program offered by the institution, is less than one year in length;

(ii) Eighteen months, if the program, or the longest program offered by the institution, is at least one year, but less than two years, in length; or

(iii) Two years, if the program, or the longest program offered by the institution, is at least two years in length.

ASL_MVC_v1.Models.TblAslstep2Analyst??.Remarks

Analyst Remarks to Response:

In the draft staff analysis, ED staff accepted the agency's narrative and supporting documentation and determined that the agency had addressed the compliance issues identified in the Fall 2015 staff analysis of the agency's petition for continued recognition. However, ED noted in the draft that the agency had not provided three sets of documentation in support of its narrative, as is currently required under ED's focused review process.

In response to the draft staff analysis, the agency provided the additional sets of documentation, as requested, which demonstrate the agency's compliance with the requirements of this section. The evidence demonstrates that the agency takes the appropriate action within the timeframes required. ED staff accepts the agency's supplemental documentation, and no additional information is requested.

602.20(b) Enforcement Action

(b) If the institution or program does not bring itself into compliance within the specified period, the agency must take immediate adverse action unless the agency, for good cause, extends the period for achieving compliance.

ASL_MVC_v1.Models.TblAslstep2Analyst??.Remarks

Part III: Third Party Comments

The Department did not receive any written third-party comments regarding this agency.