

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST FOR NEW PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:
MASTER OF MIDWIFERY**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa for a Master of Midwifery in the Carver College of Medicine.

The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this program.

Description of proposed program. A graduate-level degree in a health-related field is a requirement for Certified Nurse-Midwifery (CNM) students to be eligible for board exams and licensure. This Master of Midwifery (MM) degree will articulate with the Midwifery Education Program (MEP) that is being established at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC). The degree will be housed in the Carver College of Medicine (CCOM) and administered by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (OBGYN).

The MM degree courses will occur concurrently with the MEP courses, over five semesters. The MM portion of the education program will round out the clinical and didactic components from the MEP program and utilize existing courses within health science programs to fulfill the goal of three semester hours per semester. The courses from the MEP will account for 41 semester hours while the concurrent courses for the MM will account for 13 semester hours.

Academic objectives. The mission of this program is to provide midwifery education to a diverse group of nurses, focused on health disparities in rural populations, that addresses the healthcare needs of individuals in the state of Iowa.

Upon completion of this program, graduates will be able to adhere to a family-centered approach in accordance with Core Competencies of Basic Midwifery Practice utilizing the management framework process, principles and skills to:

- Manage the primary, reproductive and gynecologic health care of essentially healthy individuals
- Collaboratively manage the primary, reproductive and gynecologic health care of individuals with obstetrical, gynecological or medical complications
- Manage the care of the normal newborn
- Educate patients to foster health promotion and disease prevention
- Work effectively with diverse geographic, racial, ethnic, cultural and socio-economic populations by identifying barriers to social and structural determinants of health that impede achieving optimal health
- Develop and evaluate midwifery services that optimize health-care delivery for the target population

Need for program. There is an unmet need for more maternity care providers in the state of Iowa, especially in rural areas. Additionally, the maternal mortality rate in the state of Iowa has increased in recent years. The capability of meeting this unmet need is a very high priority of state legislators who represent rural districts in the state. The Iowa Maternal Health Innovation Program is a five-year project (2019-2024) of the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) to improve access to high-quality obstetrical care within the state, targeting underserved and rural populations.

Funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) within the Department of Health and Human Services, and in collaboration with the University of Iowa/University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UI/UIHC) OBGYN, the program has three main objectives:

1. Establish an Iowa Maternal Quality Care Collaborative for maternal care strategic planning
2. Improve state-level data on maternal outcomes
3. Promote and execute innovation in maternal health service delivery

UI/UIHC OBGYN engaged Midwifery Education Design and Development, LLC, (MEDD) in March 2020, to evaluate the need for and feasibility of establishing such an education program at UI/UIHC.

Need and feasibility were both determined through the following means:

1. Consultant site visits (March 23-25, 2020 and July 12-14, 2020)
2. Individual and group meetings with grant principles, interested parties, UIHC Revenue and Reimbursement, and UI/UIHC decision makers
3. Review of the Maternal Health Innovation Program proposal
4. Publicly available information on the UI/UIHC and IDPH websites; publications by the Iowa Center for Nursing Workforce
5. Information from the Iowa Hospital CEO Conference on Maternal Health (March 6, 2020)
6. A tour of the UI/UIHC physical facilities
7. A survey of Iowa CNMs on willingness to provide clinical sites for student nurse-midwife training
8. Review of data detailing UIHC delivery and outpatient volumes, UIHC CNM Clinical Service volume, and resident and medical student clinical experiences with CNMs
9. Consideration of lack of similar programs in surrounding states

Relationship to existing programs at the institution. This program does not duplicate any existing programs within the UI. It will enhance the current programs functioning within OBGYN - the OBGYN residency and OBGYN clerkship. Interdisciplinary, collaborative education is critical to the team environment that exists in the maternity care landscape. The College of Public Health is also expanding its maternal health offerings, which will allow MM student to bring a richness and different skillset to these courses, offering insight to other learners and instructors alike.

The College of Nursing was engaged in discussions regarding this project, but is not planning to pursue a MM program at this time. All current SUI CNMs are faculty through the CCOM.

Relationship to existing programs at other colleges and universities. No other nurse-midwifery programs exist in Iowa.

Resources to establish a high-quality program. CNM OBGYN faculty will be the primary administrators of the program. The CNM faculty are accustomed to working with learners as they supervise OBGYN residents and medical students. Many of the faculty also facilitate lectures in CCOM. The midwifery practice director and the M EP program director work closely with each other to ensure the clinical practice and education program are well integrated. The program will also utilize other team members, including physicians and other medical staff from UIHC, CCOM, and Hardin Library for the Health Sciences. Access to all relevant training equipment utilized for OBGYN Residency and Fellowship programs will also be available for midwifery education.

Student demand. Demand exists for nurse-midwifery education programs nationally. There currently are not enough programs to meet the demands of potential learners, with the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) stating that thousands of qualified applicants are turned away

every application cycle due to lack to availability. The needs assessment and feasibility study survey of maternal health nurses who work at UIHC showed that 39% of those surveyed considered a career in nurse-midwifery and 49% would like a master's degree with an option to obtain a doctorate degree in nursing (DNP).

Workforce need/demand. There is a growing need for CNMs within the state and national workforce. While the annual number of newly CNMs in the US has increased 96% since 2010, the number of practicing CNMs has increased by only 9% since then, due primarily to retirements.

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates a 26% increase in employment opportunities for CNMs between 2018 and 2028 . This trend is consistent with an 84% increase in the number of CNMs in Iowa over the ten-year period from 2008 (n=75) to 2018 (n=138).

There are 38 accredited nurse-midwifery education programs in the US, located in 24 states and the District of Columbia. Ten of the 38 are doctoral level programs, and 28 are master's level. Approximately 80% of nurse-midwives graduating between 2015-2019 chose master's degree programs for entry to practice.

Funding and Cost. Funding sources below are the accumulation of the first seven years of the program. The HRSA grant support is for the initial five program years. The program will otherwise be funded by student tuition and supported by funds from UIHC and CCOM. Other funding opportunities are also being explored.

Iowa Department of Public Health: \$255,000

UIHC: \$431,000

MM Student Tuition: \$126,000

Certificate Student Tuition: \$900,000

CMS Support: \$552,000

Iowa Workforce Grant: A Department of Labor proposal is pending that would off-set the UIHC support for this program.

	Total Costs
Year 1	\$135,000
Year 2	\$184,000
Year 3	\$268,000
Year 4	\$403,000
Year 5	\$416,000
Year 6	\$425,000
Year 7	\$433,000

Projected student enrollment.

	Y1	Y 2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7
Graduate	4	8	8	8	8	8	8

Accreditation. The MM program will not need accreditation at this time. The MEP will require pre-accreditation through the Accreditation Commission on Midwifery Education (ACME). This will occur in the fall 2021.

Evaluation plan. All components mentioned above are monitored on a regular basis via established program evaluations such as learner/preceptor evaluation forms, required program reports and updates to the accrediting body (ACME), and the department's own internal evaluation performed by MEP leadership.

Date of implementation. August 2022.