

Criterion I Addendums

D. The midwifery program will reside within or will be affiliated with an institution that will be currently accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, or it will meet ACME's policy requirements for institutions based outside the United States (see Appendix B).

The MSN-NM and NM post masters certificate will be an academic program offered through the SON at GC. Program admissions will be administered through the Graduate Admissions office of GC. GC is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS- COC). GC is a Level V university which is able to offer baccalaureate degrees, masters of science degrees, an education specialist degree and doctoral degrees.

[View the SACS-COC website.](#)

The undergraduate programs of GC SON are approved by the Georgia Board of Nursing. The current BSN, MSN, and DNP GC programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

[View the CCNE website.](#)

Appendix I.D contains the current SON organizational chart and the CoHS organizational chart showing the reporting lines from the Program Director of the MSN-NM up through the system.

D.1. There will be evidence of commitment to the proposed midwifery program from key administrators in the institution and academic unit.

The proposal for the addition of a midwifery focus and a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner focus under the existing MSN was drafted by Dr. Monica Ketchie and Dr. Josie Doss during the AY2017. The Women's Health Nurse Practitioner focus is a companion program that shares two courses with the midwifery focus (NRS 7300 Women's Health I and NRS 7310 Women's Health II) as well as the core and support courses for the MSN. The WHNP student will sit for national certification with the National Certification Corporation (NCC). It is important to note that while there are clear differences in the roles of NM and WHNP there are also some areas of overlap in their responsibilities as the GC curriculum indicates. During this time it was discussed and reviewed by the SON faculty at Graduate Nursing Committee meetings and SON

Curriculum meetings. It was brought to a vote during Nursing Faculty Organization Meeting and received full approval. It was submitted on August 1, 2018 to the College of Health Science Curriculum Committee where it received full endorsement and was sent forward to the GC University Graduate and Curriculum Committees. During each phase of the evaluation the proposal was fully supported. The proposal was presented to the GC Senate for informational purposes prior to being sent to the University System office for final approval. GC SON received confirmation from the USG for the midwifery concentration and the women's health concentration on January 11, 2019. The Women's Health Nurse Practitioner program enrolled the first cohort in summer of 2019 and will be reviewed at the CCNE site visit that is scheduled for the fall of 2020. This can be viewed as Approval letter, Exhibit I. C.

The basis for the strong support across the university and at the USG level can be traced to the GC 2016 -2021 Strategic Path to Preeminence. Specifically Goal 3: to offer a limited number of exceptional quality graduate programs that are highly relevant to workforce demand and supportive of the university mission and Goal 6: to strengthen community and regional ties through service, research, programs, and partnerships that enhance economic, educational, and cultural opportunities to improve the quality of life for citizens of Milledgeville/Baldwin County and the middle Georgia region.

View the [Georgia College 2016 – 2021 Strategic Plan](#)

The new midwifery focus will utilize core courses from the existing MSN concentrations as well as major support courses including NRS 5480 Advanced Assessment, NRS 6300 Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology, and NRS 5800 Applied Pharmacology. The concentration will require the addition of 7 new courses that will provide the didactic and clinical requirements for students to sit for the Certified Nurse Midwifery (CNM) exam. Three of the new courses will be offered concurrently to students completing the existing Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP) concentration and the NM concentration, while 3 additional courses will be specific to the Nurse Midwife students. Our existing MSN programs have strong support and an excellent track record of attracting students because of our record of student retention and certification pass rates as documented on the Institutional Research Office webpage for [Performance on External Examinations Report](#).

It is estimated that 1 million mothers per year do not receive adequate prenatal care. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) has reported that nearly 50% of all U.S. counties do not have obstetrical care providers. In Georgia, there are 79 counties without an OB/GYN provider and patients are often required to travel 40 miles or more for care. At times, a single provider is covering up to eight counties or over 2500 square miles. As a result, in 2014 it was reported that 7.8% of live births in GA were to women receiving late or no prenatal care. This was up from 7.4% in 2013, and 6.9% in 2012. America's health rankings indicate that Georgia currently ranks 44th in women's health risk, and 48th in infant health risk of the 50 states. This gap in quality care is partially due to a national shortage of providers of primary, reproductive, gynecologic, and obstetric health care for women. Due to a decline in the number of graduates from OB/GYN medical residency programs, a 25% shortage of women's health care providers is predicted by the year 2030. There is currently one Nurse Midwifery program in the state of Georgia. Both are offered through a private institution un-affiliated with the University System of Georgia (USG). In its 2015 white paper, ACNM vowed to strengthen the quality, capacity, affordability and accessibility of midwifery education programs and to increase the number and diversity of the midwifery workforce. GC was approached by stake holders in rural and medically underserved Georgia to consider offering a midwifery program to help address this urgent need.