



VAIMH Endorsement® Infant Mental Health Mentor-Research/Faculty

Leaders in Academic Settings

This category of Endorsement is for those in academic settings who conduct research that promotes infant mental health, or teaches about IMH principles and/or practices.

Education

Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MS), Master of Education (MEd), Doctorate in Education (EdD), Master of Social Work (MSW), Master of Nursing (MSN), Doctor of Psychology (PsyD), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of Osteopathy (DO), Medical Degree (MD) or other degree specific to one's professional focus in IMH, post-graduate specialization, or university certified program in accordance with the [Competency Guidelines](#).

Work Experience

3-years post-graduate experience as a leader in university-level teaching and/or published research related to IMH principles and practices, in the context of family and other caregiving relationships.

Leadership

Minimum 3-years of practice leader experience relevant to the infant, young child-family field.

- Leadership activities may be demonstrated through paid **and** unpaid work experience.
- The list below is meant to demonstrate some of the activities in which leaders might engage and is not comprehensive. Also, applicants would not need to engage in all the activities listed in order to earn Endorsement as an IMHM.

Examples:

- Provide leadership in higher education IMH programs.
- Serve as instructor for higher education for IMH courses.
- Participate in interdepartmental efforts to integrate IMH competencies into appropriate syllabi.
- Participate as member of doctoral candidate's committee when IMH-related topics are proposed.
- Participate in planning for regional, statewide, or national IMH-specific conferences.
- Present and/or publish on topics related to the promotion or practice of IMH.
- Serve in a leadership role or as an active committee member in local/state IMH association.
- Engage in reflective consultation.
- Serve as an Endorsement ambassador, application advisor or reviewer, or exam reviewer for local/state IMH association.

Trainings

Minimum 30 clock hours of relationship-based training and/or continuing education that meet competencies as specified in the [Competency Guidelines](#).

***Beginning January 1, 2024, IMHM-R/F applicants will be required to list a minimum of 33 hours of training. Of those hours:**

- **A minimum of 30 hours of in-service training specific to IMH principles, and**
- **A minimum of 3 hours should be specific to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in IMH.**

If an applicant holds a degree in a field that is unrelated to IMH, more specialized in-service training may be required to meet the breadth and depth of the competencies.

Training content will include the promotion of social-emotional development and the relationship-based principles of IMH.

Typically, successful IMHM applications include an average of **75 or more hours** of specialized training unless the applicant has completed coursework specific to the Competency Guidelines.

Reflective Supervision

Reflective Supervision/Consultation is not required for IMHM-R/F applicants/endorsees. However, VAIMH recommends that all infant and early childhood professionals seek RSC.

References *(this is the last step in the Endorsement Application process)*

Total of three professional reference ratings from:

1. (1) from a current department supervisor or chair if they are familiar with IMH. (If not, a colleague may be asked.)
2. (1) from a person providing RS/C to you, if applicable. (If not applicable, a colleague may be asked.)
3. (1) from a student taught and/or supervised by you.

Exam

YES

Annual Endorsement® Renewal

IMHM-R/F Endorsement® is a commitment to the **ongoing** process dedicated to annual professional development as it relates to IMH principles through:

1. Documentation of a minimum of 15 training hours per year of relationship-based education and training pertaining to the promotion of social-emotional development and/or the practice of IMH.
2. The maintenance of membership in the [Virginia Association for Infant Mental Health \(VAIMH\)](#).