



VAIMH Endorsement®

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor-Research/Faculty

Leaders & Mentors in Academic Settings

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

“Research/Faculty professionals work to promote what we know in the IECMH community through research and academia. They use their IECMH expertise to inform students, professionals, programs, and systems.” – The Alliance

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 IECMH, 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 IECMH 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 a Mental Health Mentor.

Examples:

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

Trainings

Minimum 30 clock hours of relationship-based training/continuing education that meet competencies as specified in the Competency Guidelines. <https://www.vaimh.org/competency-guidelines>

Training content will encompass the promotion of social-emotional development and the relationship-based principles and practices of I/ECMH. In addition to the 30 clock hours of relationship-based training/continuing education, the following are also requirements:

- 3 hours of training must be dedicated to diversity, equity, and inclusion in infant/early childhood mental health.
- Typically, successful MHM applications include an **average of 75 or more** hours of specialized training.

Reflective Supervision

Reflective Supervision/Consultation is not required for I/ECMHM-P 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 infant and/or early childhood mental health. (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 Renewal

Applicants *(those in process of attaining Endorsement)*: <https://www.vaimh.org/vaimh-membership>

1. Renew VAIMH Membership annually by December 31.

Endorsees *(those already Endorsed)*:

Endorsees commit to the ongoing process dedicated to annual professional development as it relates to IECMH principles through:

1. **VAIMH Membership Renewal:** <https://www.vaimh.org/vaimh-membership>
 - annually by December 31
2. **Training/Professional Development:** <https://www.vaimh.org/endorsement-renewal>
 - minimum of 12 training hours received per year of relationship-based education and training pertaining to the promotion of social-emotional development and/or the practice of IECMH.
 - minimum of 3 hours of training related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in IECMH.

Endorsements are renewed every three years (beginning in 2024). In 2027 endorsees will attest to having received 45(+) hours of training and 36(+) hours of RS/C between January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2027. These hours will be prorated for applicants who earn Endorsement in the “in-between” years.