

Midwifery



WHAT IS A MIDWIFE?

Midwives are primary health care providers to women throughout the lifespan. Midwives perform prenatal care, gynecological care, labor and birth care, as well as health education and counseling to women of all ages.

POPULAR INDUSTRIES FOR NURSE MIDWIVES

- Offices of Physicians
- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Outpatient Care Centers
- Offices of Other Health Practitioners
- Colleges, Universities and Professional Schools

WAYS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PREPARE FOR MIDWIFERY SCHOOL

Gain a solid science background: Science courses like biology, microbiology, chemistry, human anatomy and physiology are typical prerequisites to most midwifery programs

Consider non science majors: A degree in women's studies, anthropology, sociology, or psychology may be useful in your future work as a midwife. Most midwifery programs for non nurses will provide a basic nursing education prior to midwifery training. This path involves an extra year of school, but can result in a more diverse and well rounded education

Volunteer in extra curricular activities that are related to health care, such as volunteering at local health clinics or women's health centers.

Read books that describe the lives of present day American midwives (like those on ACNM's selected reading list

Network with practicing midwives, women's health nurse practitioners, doulas, and childbirth educators in your local community. You can also network with ACNM on Facebook at www.facebook.com/acnmmidwives_midwife.

BECOME A MIDWIFE

Requirements include a graduate degree from an accredited program and successfully passing a certification examination.

There may be additional requirements to practice in certain states based on state regulations.

EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

Baccalaureate degree (BA/BS) to RN and CNM/Graduate option:

Typically a 3 year program commonly referred to as "graduate entry" or "direct entry" which provides nursing + midwifery education to the Bachelor's prepared applicant.

Diploma or associates degree (AD) RN to CNM/Graduate option:

Often referred to as a "bridge" program which provides a BS degree to the RN and then graduate education in midwifery.

DNP option: Doctor of Nursing Practice, either post MS degree or direct from BS to DNP.

Graduate Completion option: For the certificate prepared midwife who wants to add graduate education.

Certified Midwife option: Graduate midwifery education for the Bachelor's prepared applicant who is not a nurse. Basic health

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related prerequisite courses are required and the graduate is eligible to take the same national certification examination, administered by the American Midwifery Certification Board, as the graduate nurse midwife. CMs are currently authorized to practice in only 5 states: DE, MO, NJ, NY, RI.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- American Colleges of Nurse Midwives: Midwife.org
- Nurse Midwifery Programs: Nursemidwifery.org
- Midwives Alliance, North America: MANA.org
- Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC): MEACSchools.org
- North American Registry of Midwives: NARM.org
- National Association to Advance Black Birth: TheNAABB.org
- Bureau of Labor Statistics, nurse midwife profile: bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm