



Midwifery

A loving commitment...

A calling...

A passion...

An art...

The way to a better birth!

What is a Midwife?

- Midwives are primary health care providers to women throughout the lifespan. This means that midwives perform physical exams, prescribe medications including contraceptive methods, order laboratory tests as needed, provide prenatal care, gynecological care, labor and birth care, as well as health education and counseling to women of all ages. Women, children, and families have better lives because of the work of certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs). The American College of Nurse-Midwives is the professional association that represents CNMs and CMs.



Midwife.org

Types of Professional Midwives

- **Certified Midwife (CM):** A [Certified Midwife \(CM\)](#) is an individual educated in the discipline of midwifery, who possesses evidence of certification according to the requirements of the American College of Nurse-Midwives.
- **Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM):** A [Certified Nurse-Midwife \(CNM\)](#) is an individual educated in the two disciplines of nursing and midwifery, who possesses evidence of certification according to the requirements of the American College of Nurse-Midwives.
- **Certified Professional Midwife (CPM):** A [Certified Professional Midwife](#) is a knowledgeable, skilled and professional independent midwifery practitioner who has met the standards for certification set by the [North American Registry of Midwives](#) (NARM) and is qualified to provide the midwifery model of care. The CPM is the only midwifery credential that requires knowledge about and experience in out-of-hospital settings.
- **Direct-Entry Midwife (DEM):** A direct-entry midwife is an independent practitioner educated in the discipline of midwifery through self-study, apprenticeship, a midwifery school, a college, or university-based program distinct from the discipline of nursing. A direct-entry midwife is trained to provide the Midwives Model of Care to healthy women and newborns throughout the childbearing cycle primarily in out-of-hospital settings. Licensed Midwives (LM) and Registered Midwives (RM) are examples of direct-entry midwives.

Become a Midwife

- Midwifery education programs leading to the Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) and Certified Midwife (CM) credentials involve graduate education. Most programs require a Bachelors Degree for entry.
- Some programs leading to the CNM credential require a BSN prior to entry, but many will accept an individual who has a Bachelors Degree but is not an RN, and will provide an accelerated nursing education prior to the midwifery portion of the program. Programs leading to the CM credential require a Bachelors Degree and specific health and science courses prior to entry.



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-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.

Sample Nurse Midwife Program

at Columbia University School of Nursing

	Course Name	Credits	Type
Fall I: 12 Credits	Advanced Physiology	3	Core
	Primary Care of Women Across the Lifespan I	3	Specialty
	Health and Social Policy: The Context for Practice and Research	3	Core
	Advanced Pharmacology	3	Sciences
Spring I: 4 Credits	Interpersonal Violence and Abuse: Prevention, Assessment and Intervention for Health Care Professionals	1	Core
	Primary Care of Women Across the Life Span II	3	Specialty
Summer I: 10 Credits	Maternal-Fetal-Newborn Physiology	2	Sciences
	Pelvic Assessment of the Adult Woman	2	Specialty
	Evaluation and Application of Research	3	Core
	Advanced Clinical Assessment Across the Lifespan	3	Specialty
Fall II: 10 Credits	Normal Antepartum: Didactic	2	Specialty
	Normal Antepartum: Clinical	2	Specialty
	Well Woman Gynecology: Didactic	3	Specialty
	Well Woman Gynecology: Clinical	2	Specialty
	Midwifery Clinical Competency Skills I	1	Specialty
Spring II: 10 Credits	Professional Issues in Nurse-Midwifery	2	Specialty
	Breastfeeding, Postpartum & Newborn Care	3	Specialty
	Intrapartum: Didactic	2	Specialty
	Intrapartum: Clinical	2	Specialty
	Midwifery Clinical Competency Skills II	1	Specialty
Summer II: 5 Credits	Clinical Practicum in Nurse-Midwifery	3	Specialty
	Complex Management of Women's Health Conditions throughout the Lifespan	2	Specialty
	Total Credits	51	

For More Information...

- American Colleges of Nurse-Midwives:
Midwife.org
- Midwives Alliance, North America: MANA.org
- Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC): MEACSchools.org
- North American Registry of Midwives: NARM.org
- International Center for Traditional Childbearing:
ICTCMidwives.org
- Bureau of Labor Statistics, nurse midwife profile:
<http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291161.htm>