



Midwifery

A loving commitment...

A calling...

A passion...

An art...

What is a Midwife?

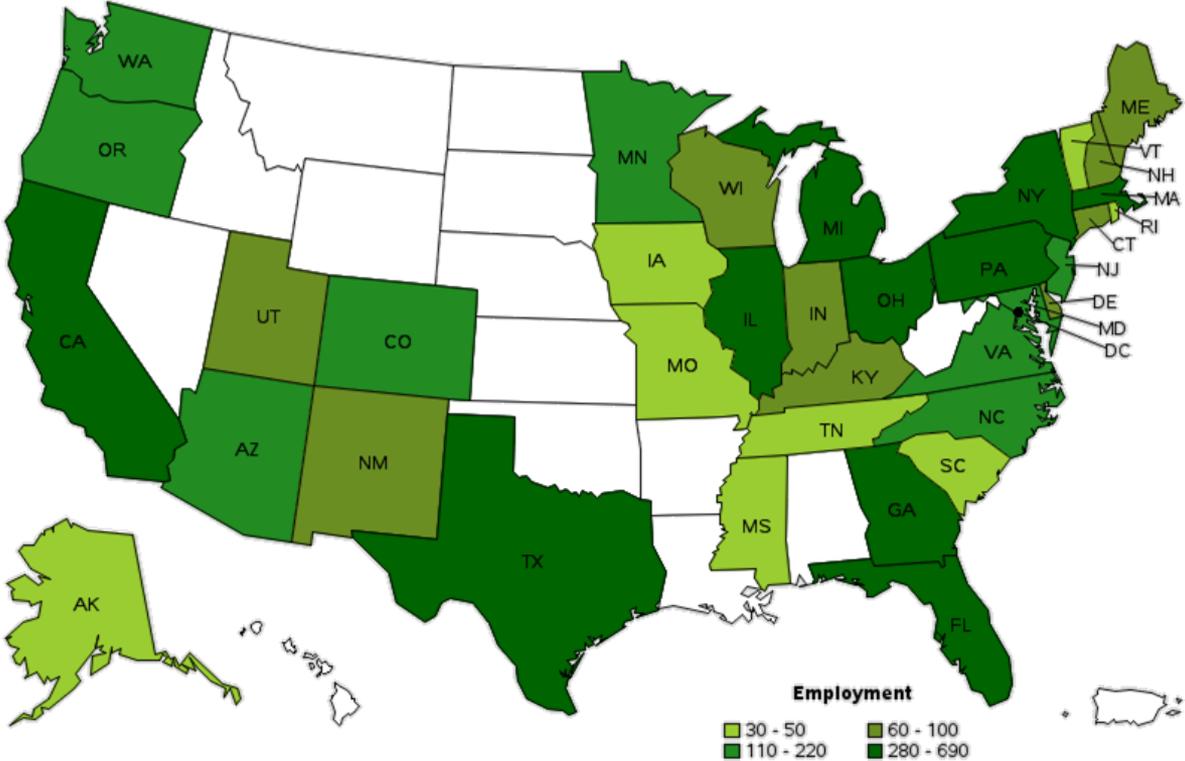
- Midwives are primary health care providers to women throughout the lifespan. Midwives perform prenatal care, gynecological care, labor and birth care, as well as health education and counseling to women of all ages.



Popular Industries for Nurse Midwives

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

Where Nurse Midwives Practice



Blank areas indicate data not available.

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/acnmidwives.

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-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.

Apply to Nursing School

- Princeton graduates would be considered “career changers” and have [numerous options](#) to pursue a midwifery career.
- See [Nursing Degree Comparison](#) and description of [accelerated nursing programs](#) for additional information about pathways into nursing.
- The [American Association of Colleges of Nursing](#) maintains a [program directory](#) to help you find accredited programs.
- The application opens in the August prior to desired matriculation date. For example, if you want to start in Fall 2021, you would apply as early as Summer 2020. Deadlines and entry terms vary by program.

Admission Requirements

- The admission requirements for master's programs in nursing vary a great deal and may include:
 - **Bachelor's degree**
 - **Coursework including anatomy and physiology, microbiology, psychology, statistics**
 - **Graduate Record Examination (GRE)**
 - **Letters of reference**
 - **Resume**
 - **Personal statement**
 - **Minimum GPA (often 3.0)**
- Admission officers look at a student's transcripts, clinical work, and letters of reference together holistically.

Sample Master's Programs

Because pathways to the career vary widely, we recommend contact midwifery programs to inquire about the best option as a non-nursing degree student:

- [Case Western Reserve University](#)
- [Emory University](#)
- [New York University](#)
- [Rutgers School of Nursing](#)
- [University of California San Francisco](#)
- [University of Pennsylvania](#)
- [Vanderbilt University](#)



Sample Nurse Midwife Program

at Penn Nursing

YEAR I	Summer	Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology
		Advanced Physical Assessment and Clinical Design Making
		Health Care of Women and Primary Care
	Fall	Advanced Pharmacology and Therapeutics for Nursing Practice
		Complementary/Alternative Therapies in Women's Health
		Well Women Health Care, Theory
		Well Women Health Care, Clinical
	Spring	Public Policy Leadership in the American Public/Private System of Health Care
		Fetal Evaluation
Health Care of Childbearing Women, Theory		
Health Care of Childbearing Women, Clinical		
YEAR II	Summer	Introduction to Research Methods and Design
		Intrapartum/Postpartum/Newborn Care, Theory
		Intrapartum/Postpartum/Newborn Care, Clinical
	Fall	Professional Issues in Midwifery
		Integration I
		Integration II: Midwifery Integration

News and Inspiration

- [Welcoming New Life In A Pandemic: Local Midwives See Surge Of Inquiries](#), WUFT News, Oct 2020
- [Doc Talk | Midwives continuing to assist in miracle of life in age of COVID-19](#), WHP Harrisburg, Oct 2020
- [44-year-old Kaysville mother delivers surprise baby with help of a midwife](#), KSL Utah Oct 2020
- [Local midwife works to combat racial disparities in pregnancy mortality rates](#), WFLA Tampa Oct 2020
- [Midwife vs. OB-GYN: Who's Right for You?](#), Healthline, Sept 2020
- [Stephanie's Midwife Story: Like having a Friend Who Really Cares About You](#), Dailyhealth Wire, Oct 2018
- [I Am a Midwife and These Are Our Stories](#), Intrahealth.org, May 2016

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:
www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm

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