



**SCHOOL OF NURSING**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## Midwifery Program Handbook



You are a midwife; you are assisting at someone else's birth.  
Do good without show or fuss. Facilitate what is happening rather than what you think ought to be happening. You must take the leap, leap so that the mother is helped yet still free and in charge. When the baby is born, the mother will rightly say: we did it ourselves!  
The Tao Te Ching – Chinese Classic Text 400 BC

**University of  
Michigan Nurse  
Midwifery Student  
Handbook  
Updated August  
2025**

## Table of Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE NURSE-MIDWIFERY PROGRAM.....	3
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF THE NURSE-MIDWIFERY PROGRAM.....	4
DEFINITION OF MIDWIFERY PRACTICE AND SCOPE OF MIDWIFERY PRACTICE.....	4
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
ACADEMIC ADVISOR.....	5
PARKING.....	6
TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE LEARNING IN THE NURSE-MIDWIFERY PROGRAM.....	6
TEXTS, VIDEOS, TAPES.....	6
EMPLOYMENT WHILE ENROLLED IN THE NURSE-MIDWIFERY PROGRAM.....	7
FINANCIAL AID.....	8
WRITTEN WORK.....	8
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT.....	8
PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION STANDARDS FOR MIDWIFERY STUDENTS.....	8
<b>DIDACTIC.....</b>	<b>8</b>
CLASSES/SEMINARS.....	8
GRADING.....	9
TESTING.....	9
COURSE UNITS.....	10
COMPREHENSIVE EXAM.....	10
STUDENT CHECK-OUT.....	10
<b>CLINICAL EXPERIENCE.....</b>	<b>11</b>
GENERAL INFORMATION.....	11
CLINICAL PLACEMENTS.....	12
CLINICAL HOURS.....	13
CLINICAL PERFORMANCE.....	13
CLINICAL EXPERIENCES.....	13
STUDENT CLINICAL RESPONSIBILITIES.....	14
CLINICAL FACULTY RESPONSIBILITIES.....	14
ACHIEVING COMPETENCY AS A STUDENT MIDWIFE.....	14
<b>PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES.....</b>	<b>15</b>
THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE-MIDWIVES.....	15

## WELCOME!

Welcome to the University of Michigan School of Nursing, Nurse-Midwifery Program. The faculty are delighted to have you join us and look forward to a productive and rewarding experience.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information related to the nurse-midwifery program and about nurse-midwifery in general. ***The handbook should be used in conjunction with the University of Michigan School of Nursing Graduate Handbook.*** It is available on the School of Nursing webpage at: <http://www.nursing.umich.edu/info/current-students/handbooks-policies>. It is important for your successful progress through the program that you become thoroughly familiar with the policies and information contained in this and the other handbooks. This handbook is reviewed and/or revised regularly and the current version supersedes all previous versions.

## **THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE NURSE-MIDWIFERY PROGRAM**

The faculty affirms the philosophy of the [American College of Nurse-Midwives \(ACNM\)](#) and is dedicated to providing an educational setting reflective of that philosophy. Nurse-midwives are nurses with advanced skills and formal education who are prepared to provide safe and satisfying care to pregnant people and their newborns. They facilitate health promotion through a collaborative model of evidence-based care that is equitable, ethical, and accessible, and is based upon clinical competence, respect for cultural diversity, human dignity, and client self-determination within a framework of social justice and basic human rights. Nurse-midwives provide care that honors the normalcy of reproductive and lifecycle events and includes watchful waiting and non-intervention, as well as individualized and appropriate use of interventions. They use interpersonal communication skills to foster client self-determination. Nurse-midwives provide care to pregnant people and their infants, in the context of their families and communities.

Adult learning is a life-long process that is largely self-directed and requires critical thinking and the ability to utilize conceptual knowledge and research. The educational setting should provide reinforcement of theoretical, ethical, and philosophical principles through regular repeated clinical experiences. Faculty welcome the responsibility to foster adult learning skills while supporting each student's need to maintain a personal life and a sense of humor. It is also our goal to foster students' potential for leadership and expansion of the knowledge evidence base to support midwifery practice. Preparing highly qualified nurse midwives ultimately promotes optimum health for parents and babies. The Program defines competence as: Demonstrating safe, beginning-level, NMW care in both knowledge and skill that reflects ACNM core competencies. This expectation includes demonstrating knowledge and skill in evidence based practice encompassing primary care of individuals seeking midwifery care and newborns as well as antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum care. Competence must be demonstrated in both the didactic and the clinical components in order to pass each course and progress to the next clinical course.

## **Statement of Purpose of the Nurse-Midwifery Program**

The purpose of the Nurse-Midwifery Education Program is:

- To prepare safe, beginning level nurse-midwives whose knowledge and skills reflect the ACNM core competencies
- To prepare graduate nurse-midwives whose evidence-based practice, provided within a collaborative health care system, encompasses the primary care of individuals and newborns.
- To provide an educational setting which is based on sound principles of adult learning and excellent clinical experience, which encourages innovation, creativity, and cultural humility
- Prepare graduates to provide care that values and respects people of all genders, ages, races, sexual orientations or gender identities, cultural backgrounds, religions, abilities, nationalities, and beliefs.
- To provide an opportunity for global engagement through clinical, service, and research experiences.
- To prepare graduates who are eligible for certification by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB)

*(Updated 8/23, reaffirmed 8/2025)*

***The University of Michigan Nurse-Midwifery Program successfully completed the reaccreditation process in Fall 2015 and is accredited by the ACNM Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) through January 2026.***

## **ACNM Definition of Midwifery Practice and Scope of Midwifery Practice:**

Midwifery as practiced by certified nurse midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) encompasses the independent provision of care during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period; sexual and reproductive health; gynecologic health; and family planning services, including preconception care. Midwives also provide primary care for individuals from adolescence throughout the lifespan as well as care for the healthy newborn during the first 28 days of life. Midwives provide care for all individuals who seek midwifery care, inclusive of all gender identities and sexual orientations. Midwives provide initial and ongoing comprehensive assessment, diagnosis, and treatment. They conduct physical examinations; independently prescribe medications including but not limited to controlled substances, treatment of substance use disorder, and expedited partner therapy; admit, manage, and discharge patients; order and interpret laboratory and diagnostic tests; and order medical devices, durable medical equipment, and home health services. Midwifery care includes health promotion, disease prevention, risk assessment and management, and individualized wellness education and counseling. These services are provided in partnership with individuals and families in diverse settings such as ambulatory care clinics, private offices, telehealth and other methods of remote care delivery, community and public health systems, homes, hospitals, and birth centers.

CNMs and CMs are educated in graduate level midwifery programs accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME). CNMs and CMs pass a national certification exam administered by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) to receive the professional designation of CNM (if they have an active registered nurse [RN] credential at

the time of the certification exam) or CM.

CNMs and CMs must demonstrate that they meet the Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice<sup>1</sup> of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) upon completion of their midwifery education programs and must practice in accordance with ACNM Standards for the Practice of Midwifery.<sup>2</sup> ACNM competencies and standards are consistent with or exceed the global competencies and standards for the practice of midwifery as defined by the International Confederation of Midwives.<sup>3</sup> To maintain the designation of CNM or CM, midwives must be recertified every 5 years through AMCB and must meet specific continuing education requirements.]

#### REFERENCES:

1. American College of Nurse-Midwives. ACNM core competencies for basic midwifery practice. Published March 20, 2020. Accessed April 13, 2021.  
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2. American College of Nurse-Midwives. Standards for the practice of midwifery. Published 2011. Accessed April 13, 2021.  
[http://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/acnmldata/uploadfilename/000000000051/standards\\_for\\_practice\\_of\\_midwifery\\_sept\\_2011.pdf](http://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/acnmldata/uploadfilename/000000000051/standards_for_practice_of_midwifery_sept_2011.pdf)
3. International Confederation of Midwives. Essential Competencies for Midwifery Practice: 2019 Update. Published October 2019. Accessed April 13, 2021.  
[https://www.internationalmidwives.org/assets/files/general-files/2019/10/icmcompetencies-en-print-october-2019\\_final\\_18-oct-5db05248843e8.pdf](https://www.internationalmidwives.org/assets/files/general-files/2019/10/icmcompetencies-en-print-october-2019_final_18-oct-5db05248843e8.pdf) Source: Scope of Practice Taskforce Approved: ACNM Board of Directors, Dec. 2011. Updated: Feb. 2012, Dec. 2021

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### **Academic Advisor**

Graduate academic advising is available for all midwifery students at [UMSN-GradAdvisors@med.umich.edu](mailto:UMSN-GradAdvisors@med.umich.edu). Students are also assigned a midwifery faculty advisor who will facilitate group meetings for all students within their group. Individual advising sessions are available at any time by contacting the program lead or your midwifery faculty advisor and appointments will be set up with the appropriate faculty member. If there are any changes or desire for a change to your program plan, you must contact the graduate advisors and program lead/s first to confirm that the change is possible given the clinical sequencing and requirements for program progression.

#### **Parking**

We know parking can be a challenge. You are advised to attend the School of Nursing orientation for "tips" on options, such as the free AATA bus usage when you show your UM ID.

During the academic year, to assure yourself a metered spot, it is best to arrive well before 8:00 am. On street parking around the School of Nursing is limited to two hours only if you don't have a resident parking sticker and violators are frequently ticketed.

Student parking stickers and bus passes are available at: Parking Customer Service, 777 North University, Ann Arbor, MI 734-764-8291. Orange and yellow parking is available at Chrysler Arena from which you are then transported by shuttle bus into the main campus. Regardless of the option you choose for parking, you must plan ahead and include the necessary time so that you can arrive in class at the regularly scheduled start time.

### **Information Technology**

Most of the master's core courses at the University of Michigan School of Nursing have been web-based or supported for several years, and some of the nurse-midwifery courses have class sessions that are web-based as well. Sometimes web-based courses are offered in a 'blended' format combining on campus classes and web-based assignments and discussions.

Graduate students will use computers for accessing course web pages, word processing, statistical analyses, literature searching, reference management, maintaining a database of clinical experiences and most importantly, communicating with students and faculty through email and discussion areas.

Email is widely used to disseminate information; students are expected to check their umich.edu email daily so as not to miss any important communications, such as scholarship opportunities and important events or deadlines. It is also important to note that all official communication with the offices in the School of Nursing must be sent from your official email account, even if you route all your email to a central account, such as Gmail. The address that all official email will come to is the umich.edu account as well. Most courses use a student "email list" to facilitate communication between students and faculty that is run through the Canvas site. Within the nurse-midwifery program, important announcements are posted to the "umsn- allmidwifery@umich.edu" email list, such as scholarship and employment opportunities.

Registered students can obtain a computer ID number to access the University of Michigan Computing Environment (UMCE). The following describes the process for getting connected: Your computing ID at U-M is called a username. Your username and its accompanying UMICH password provide proof of identity to log into many computing systems and services on campus, including the computers at Campus Computing Sites. New students receive their usernames and passwords at orientation and/or when you are admitted to the University of Michigan as a student.

A computer center for student use is available on the fourth floor of the School of Nursing, as well as in Taubman Library and many other areas on campus.

### **Textbooks**

Buy textbooks with your future courses in mind. Increasingly, students are buying textbooks using internet-based resources for convenience and to avoid long lines; Text book listings are provided on the Canvas sites for the courses you enroll in and there is a link to the local book

stores to secure them. It is wise to consult with the faculty **before** purchasing textbooks in case changes have been made. Some textbooks are available on the UM Library site.

### **Employment while in the Midwifery Program**

We recognize the need to support yourself and possibly your family, as well as accommodate the costs of your education or to maintain health benefits. If you are in the 3-year MSN or 4 year DNP program you have some flexibility for working during the first portion of your program. However, 2-year MSN, 3 year DNP and dual FNP/midwifery students need to plan to work very little if at all during their entire program. For all midwifery students, the final three clinical semesters (NURS 546, NURS 676, NURS 677) have a very heavy clinical component and we strongly recommend you work as little as possible or not at all to get the best educational experiences possible and to be prepared to successfully complete the program requirements. There are factors, such as preceptor's schedules and class days/times, that cannot be adjusted to accommodate student's work schedules. The greater flexibility you have the more likely you are to accomplish the educational and clinical needs of the program.

Students who work several days a week will have very limited options for clinical placements, as the site or preceptors may not be able to accommodate a particular day of the week. If your availability is very limited, it can also limit the options you have for a clinical placement. There is also drive time involved in the placements which require you to account for that in your schedule. The UM Nurse-Midwifery program is fortunate to have a number of preceptors that are exceptionally experienced and dedicated that are not in the Ann Arbor area so plan on commuting for at least one or more of your clinical experiences. For some of these sites this may require students to find accommodations near those sites. Finally, during the integration experience (NURS 677), it is expected that you are in clinical full time (mirroring the schedule of a full time CNM), thus holding a regular position outside of school is not possible. It is also noted that the rich clinical experiences that can be gained in some sites require you to be on call more than the actual clinical "hours" indicated for that clinical course. Outside work commitments can alter your ability to be placed in practices such a birth center setting or small midwifery practices. It is also expected that work commitments will not interfere with your ability to be in the classroom and the additional labs prior to the start of that clinical portion of your classes. This includes not working the night before class. Fatigue interferes with your ability to fully retain information and to participate in classroom discussions to assure you are clinically ready for the necessary experiences you will have in your clinical placements. We ask that you be in close communication with the program lead at the outset of the program and with the faculty for the clinical course you are enrolled in to assist in proactive planning to try to blend what we hope will not be two competing needs for employment and quality education

### **Financial Aid**

The School of Nursing and University in general have multiple financial aid resources and services. During your admission process to the program, you will have gotten materials from the Financial Aid office. Your first step is to complete the FAFSA each year to then be considered for financial aid options. There is both need based support and scholarship and targeted recruitment support. There is also the Terri L. Murland Scholarship offered each year to two midwifery students. The faculty will also provide you with links and emails about scholarship options and loan forgiveness opportunities as they become available. While the faculty works hard to stay on top of the many options that are available, we strongly encourage you to be in contact with the Financial Aid Office. <https://nursing.umich.edu/admissions-aid/financial-aid>

### **Written Work**

The expectation is that students will be able to write at a graduate level. If writing is challenging for you, we strongly recommend you utilize the Sweetland Writing Center resources <https://lsa.umich.edu/sweetland>. The writing style for student papers, case studies and other assignments follows the guidelines of the latest edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. These additional links include helpful information about using the APA style for course and / or research papers. <http://www.apastyle.org/electref.html>. The university also has available for free citation managers such as Zotero. <https://www.lib.umich.edu/research-and-scholarship/help-research/citation-management>

### **Student Code of Conduct**

Students are expected to abide by the code of academic conduct as written in the **Graduate Student Handbook**. This includes, but is not limited to, exams, written work, and use of computers, hospital information system and patient records, as well as nurse-patient relationships.

### **Professional Communication Standards for Midwifery Students**

Communication between faculty and students is at the core of midwifery education. Communication should primarily occur through email, face-to-face or Zoom. The student is expected to respond within 72 hours to email or phone requests from faculty. If the matter is marked urgent, the student should respond as soon as possible within 24 hours of the email or phone request.

## **DIDACTIC**

### **Classes/Seminars**

Students are expected to attend **all on-site lectures and seminars**. Timely arrival is essential to avoid disruptions to faculty, guest speakers, and fellow students. Please plan accordingly, including allocating extra time for potential parking delays.

Nurse-midwifery specialty courses are delivered primarily in a **seminar format**, which requires students to be fully prepared and actively engaged. Students should complete all assigned readings in advance and come ready to participate in meaningful discussions. While not every objective will be explicitly addressed during seminar sessions, students are responsible for mastering all course objectives outlined in the syllabus and module materials.

Active participation is expected in both on-campus seminars and web-based discussions. These sessions are designed to enhance understanding, connect theory to clinical practice, and support collaborative learning.

### **Seminar and Web Discussion Goals:**

1. Clarify complex topics and emphasize key concepts.
2. Organize and synthesize subject matter.
3. Facilitate discussion of assigned readings.



4. Provide a forum for sharing clinical experiences related to the topic.
5. Progressively build clinical readiness—from normal to complex and high-risk situations.
6. Encourage student input on additional relevant topics; students are invited to share suggestions with course faculty early in the semester.
7. Include presentations by expert guest speakers who contribute valuable insights based on their professional experience.

Cell phones and pagers are to be placed on 'do not disturb' during classes/seminars. Wearable devices such as Apple watches should be removed so they do not distract you. You should not take calls/answer texts unless there is an emergency. Policies vary regarding use of computers during classes. Some professors request that you do not use them during guest speaker presentations or in general, while others allow their use for focused note taking. In either case, please be respectful of the course policies, and if using a computer in class, it should be for class purposes.

If students must miss an on-site lecture or seminar, they should email the faculty prior to their absence if possible and will need to submit an alternative plan for making up that work to faculty within seven days of their absence.

### **Grading**

To pass a nurse-midwifery course, students must successfully complete both the didactic and clinical components. A minimum grade of B- is required in each nurse-midwifery course to progress to the next course in the clinical sequence and to remain eligible for program completion. Students must also maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 (B) to remain in good standing within the master's program. While a standardized grading scale is used across the School of Nursing, individual courses may apply slight variations. Students should refer to each course syllabus for specific grading criteria and expectations.

Failure to pass either the clinical or didactic component will result in the student being unable to progress to the next nurse-midwifery clinical course. In such cases, the entire course—including both components—must be repeated the following academic year, space permitting. The student will then resume the program by following the clinical sequence from that point forward. In the event of a course failure, an individualized Academic Success Plan will be developed in collaboration with the graduate academic advisor and course faculty. This plan will identify the area(s) of deficiency and outline options for remediation and continued learning during the interim period before re-entry into the clinical sequence.

### **Testing**

All testing is confidential. Do not share test questions or answers. Students are expected to know and follow the University of Michigan and School of Nursing Code of Honor. Tests may be reviewed in the nurse-midwifery faculty offices but may not be taken outside the office or duplicated in any way.

For midwifery core courses (NURS 561, NURS 546, NURS 676, NURS 677) an average grade of

80% must be attained on examinations. In addition, satisfactory clinical practice including professional behavior, must be demonstrated in order to achieve satisfactory course completion. An individual exam lower than 80% will initiate an Academic Success Plan

### **Course Units**

Course syllabi and units of instruction are set up for mastery learning based on adult learning theory. The principles are as follows:

#### *Principles Governing Adult Learning*

- Adults respond better in a non-threatening learning environment.
- Adults want to assess their progress against a relevant standard.
- Adults prefer to select their own learning experiences.
- Adults prefer a problem-oriented, patient-centered approach to learning, with an opportunity to apply their new-found knowledge to real situations.

**Students are strongly encouraged to contact the course faculty to clarify questions and concerns as they arise and in a timely manner.**

### **Comprehensive Exam**

In the last semester of the program, all students are required to take the nurse-midwifery comprehensive exam. The exam covers course content from the previous semesters in the midwifery clinical sequence of courses. This includes primary care, well person, family planning, antepartum, intrapartum, post-partum, newborn care, and professional issues. Pharmacology content specific to each of these areas is also included, as well as physical assessment evaluation of health conditions in each of these areas.

In order to facilitate successful completion of board examinations students must pass the comprehensive exam with a grade of 80% or higher. Successful completion of the exam is one of the criteria for completing the nurse-midwifery education program. If students score between 80% to 85%, we strongly recommend students do the retake exam. Students may retake another version of the exam up to two times at an interval determined with the N677 faculty and Program Lead.

### **Student Check-Out**

Before graduation, all students are required to “check-out” with the program lead. This may take varied forms, including a block of appointment times set aside in April, phone conferences after the exam period, and written program evaluations.

**In order to be successfully “checked-out” students will:**

- 1) Have a short exit interview with program director.
- 2) Make sure all other completed evaluations are in your file.
- 3) Have on file a completed final Summary Statistics Sheet (submitted to Typhon).

***Students will not be endorsed by the program lead to take the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) certification exam until the requirements are fulfilled.***

## CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

### General Information

- Compliance requirements for all students in the School of Nursing are detailed in the Graduate Student Handbook. Students must be in compliance with the necessary immunizations and documentation requirements by the noted deadlines or there are resulting fines. Students who have not met these requirements, will not be able to participate in clinical until they are completed. More information about compliance requirements is available from the Office of Practice and Professional Graduate Programs. Email [UMSN-graduateclinicalplacement@med.umich.edu](mailto:UMSN-graduateclinicalplacement@med.umich.edu) with questions or for more information. The notice for compliance requirements and deadlines is emailed to all students with multiple reminders as the deadline approaches each year. Clinical participation will be delayed if you are not in compliance and students are disenrolled from their clinical courses if they do not meet the compliance deadline. Please watch for this information and follow up in a timely fashion to assure compliance and to not disrupt the process of being placed clinically.
- There are some clinical sites that require additional testing or screening in order to be placed in their health system or setting. This may include drug testing or added vaccination documentation. The clinical placement coordinator will inform students about any of these requirements prior to being placed in a particular site. This information will come to your umich.edu email so please check this often.
- In addition to health compliance requirement most sites also require completion of training courses for use of medical records and to assure knowledge of privacy requirements. Training sessions are established by the clinical sites and students are expected to work with the clinical placement office to complete these requirements in a timely fashion to allow for an on time start for their clinical courses.
- Clinical experiences obtained while functioning as an employee (i.e., RN on Labor and Delivery etc.) cannot be counted toward your nurse-midwifery clinical experience statistics. Only those experiences obtained while being precepted and functioning as a nurse-midwifery student at your clinical site are considered clinical experiences. Any change in times and place of clinical experiences must be discussed with the clinical faculty and approved by **before** the change is made.
- All statistics and evaluation forms must be kept up to date and entered into Typhon in a timely manner. Keep a copy for your own records.
- Compliance with universal precautions is **mandatory**.
- Clinical sites are located in a variety of locations throughout the State of Michigan including Benton Harbor, Kalamazoo, Saginaw and Traverse City. Site locations and availability vary from semester to semester.
- The majority of clinical preceptors are CNMs, although our preceptors for N546 include some NPs and physicians.
- Respect for the uniqueness of settings and individual service protocols/guidelines are part of professional behavior and a component of collaborative practice.
- It is expected that students will respect the privacy of clients and their families. All information about clients is considered privileged and confidential. Compliance with HIPPA standards is mandatory. This includes NOT removing or emailing (except to your preceptor's work email address) any materials that have protected patient information.
- Students must dress appropriately in scrubs or business casual as appropriate to their

- clinical setting. While the midwifery model of care generally discourages the use of lab coats, some clinical sites may require students to wear one in accordance with site policies
- Additionally, to ensure patient comfort during physical examinations, fingernails must be kept trimmed so they do not extend beyond the fingertip this standard must be upheld at all times during NURS 503 and all clinical courses.
- Students must contact their faculty immediately should they not be able to attend a planned clinical day for any reason. It is expected that the student will make up that day and should submit a plan to do so within seven days of their absence.

In the clinical setting, it is expected that students will work under the supervision and guidance of a preceptor who has been selected for you at that site. Your preceptor should be readily and directly available to support you when you are completing any clinical care with clients. This means on site with you when you are providing client care, whether in the office, hospital, home, or birth center setting.

When students are in the clinical setting, they must abide by the clinical guidelines and standards that govern that particular practice, as well as the Nurse Midwifery Program guidelines for working with a preceptor and providing care consistent with the clinical course and experience you have had thus far in your courses. During your clinical rotations, you may have experiences which do not go as desired or planned. We ask that you alert your clinical faculty or the program lead if you have concerns or there is an unexpected outcome in the process of your clinical experiences.

Timely contact is desired, and a process of discussion and debriefing is a usual step that the preceptor, student, and clinical faculty will use to review clinical cases and outcomes as a system of peer review. The general rule should be that if you have any questions, it is better to ask and seek guidance than to make assumptions. Your faculty and preceptors are here to support your learning and to guide your experiences as much as possible. To do this effectively, it requires timely, open communication as a key part of that process.

### **Special Note to Students without Labor and Delivery RN Experience**

A solid background of Labor and Delivery nursing experience can be helpful to midwifery students in the Intrapartum course which is taken at the beginning of the second (last) clinical year. As experienced nurse-midwifery educators, we have found that if a student is comfortable working with women in labor, interpreting fetal heart rate monitoring patterns, has knowledge of neonatal resuscitation techniques, they can be free to concentrate on the new skills that a beginning midwife must learn. Therefore, in order to prepare you to have the best experience possible in the Intrapartum course, those with minimal or no Labor and Delivery nursing experience will have the opportunity to complete a clinical experience with a nurse in a labor and birth environment during NUR 561 or NUR 546.

### **Clinical Placements**

Decisions about clinical placements are based on individual student's strengths, experiences needed, and clinical site availability. The faculty will place students in settings where they believe you can best meet your learning objectives. Student preferences are taken into consideration but are not guaranteed. Expect to commute for at least one or more semesters for your clinical

experiences. This commute could be more than 150 miles from your home and may require overnight accommodations. These accommodations are the responsibility of the student. For the safety of you and the patients, you must maintain adequate rest both before and after clinical experiences. Factor rest as well as weather into your planning.

For the final semester, clinical placements for Integration, N677, may be at out of state or international sites. If a site is desired that has not previously been offered, the clinical coordinator must be notified as soon as possible in order to negotiate a possible placement as contracts take time. Students going out-of-state for Integration sites may be required to obtain an RN license for that state. The faculty tries to have student Integration site plans confirmed before Thanksgiving; however this varies depending on locations desired and types of student placements being requested. Students are encouraged to begin the process of securing any additional licensure as soon as they know their integration site.

### **Clinical Hours**

Midwifery education is competency based ([ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice](#)). The following clinical hours are the **minimum** required and in some cases, students may need (or wish) to spend additional time in order to meet course objectives and ACNM competencies and guidelines for clinical experiences. The clinical hours follow:

#### **N546 (Midwifery care during pregnancy and primary care)**

224 hours (averages to 2 days per week)

#### **N676 (Intrapartum/Postpartum/Newborn)**

312 hours. This may be in two blocks of time or on an “on call” of 24 to 48 hours call time per week and may include 8 hours of clinic (outpatient care – AP, or PP follow-up) time / week depending on the site. Days, nights, and/or weekends is nearly always a component of this time.

#### **N677 (Integration) 36-44 hours/week**

Integration is a full-time clinical commitment equivalent to 40 hours clinical time per week.

Clinical will include weekends, on-call, and/or off shifts as schedules dictate.

### **Clinical Performance**

Although we take into account the ACNM guidelines for number of clinical management experiences, we recognize that these are the **minimum** requirements and do not indicate skill mastery. Using a mastery approach, we do not count hours of clinical experience or assume that being part of particular care events accomplish mastery, but instead rely on the ongoing evaluations of the preceptors and course faculty during site visits to verify the competency of the students in the clinical environment.

### **Clinical Experiences**

*This is the minimum recommended number to Be Completed by the End of the Nurse Midwifery Program*

#### **Minimum Clinical Experiences (ACME 2019):**

- Primary care 40 Includes common acute and stable chronic health conditions.
- Gynecologic care 80 Includes preconception, contraception, adolescent, perimenopausal, and postmenopausal.

- Antepartum care 100 Includes new and return prenatal care across gestational ages.
- Intrapartum care 60\* Includes labor assessment, labor management, and births. \*Includes access to or opportunity to attend at least 35 births.
- Postpartum care 50 Includes postpartum visits (0-7 days), up to 8 weeks postpartum, and breastfeeding support.
- Newborn Care 30 Includes newborn assessment and anticipatory guidance.

We expect achievement of course objectives, which may require more than the *minimum* required clinical management experiences and hours. These will be arranged at the discretion of the clinical coordinator or the course coordinator. Students must receive a "Pass" in the clinical component of a course to pass the course and progress in the clinical sequence.

*If, for any reason, student progression in the sequence of nurse-midwifery clinical courses is delayed/interrupted, there is no guarantee that you will have a position in the clinical course when it is offered next. Students whose clinical sequence is interrupted must put in writing their desire to be re-admitted into the subsequent clinical courses by March 1 before a fall term re-entry or by Nov. 1 for a Winter term re-entry and the faculty will review the request.*

### **Student Clinical Responsibilities**

Students will be responsible for his/her own learning by:

1. Being prepared via reading, reviewing course material, reflecting on learning needs, setting goals.
2. Being able to define learning needs and being able to discuss them with clinical faculty at beginning of session. Prior to each clinical practicum, the student's CV/resume, a photo and updated summary of clinical experience, current competencies and learning needs focused on the current semester, will be given to the course clinical coordinator and to the clinical preceptor. This summary of competencies and learning needs will be updated for each subsequent clinical placement.
3. Seeking direction from clinical faculty in choosing experiences to meet objectives.
4. Sharing knowledge deficits and special skills.
5. Evaluating progress daily and seeking validation
6. Maintaining an up-to-date evaluation tool. Students are responsible for filling out clinical evaluations and submitting them to the clinical faculty in a timely manner.
7. Being sensitive to personnel and institutional policies. Recognize that the clinical faculty brings their own life experiences, expertise, unique perspectives, and intuitive abilities to the clinical experience.
8. Knowing and practicing within written nurse-midwifery policies, protocols, or clinical guidelines.
9. Providing care in a professional manner.
10. Notifying clinical and program faculty in advance if need to be absent and accept responsibility for loss of clinical time.

11. Being responsible for making all student entries in client's charts.
12. Being responsible for coming on time and prepared to the clinical site.
13. Dressing modestly and following the dress code of the clinical site.

### **Clinical Faculty Responsibilities**

The Clinical Faculty will:

1. Facilitate student learning with knowledge of site resources, personal expertise and educational opportunities. Have awareness that students need time to learn.
2. Be sensitive to the fact that the student brings life experiences, expertise, unique perspectives and intuitive abilities to the learning experience.
3. Know and practice within nurse-midwifery policies/guidelines/protocols.
4. Role model a professional manner in providing nurse-midwifery care and in giving feedback to students.
5. Notify students in advance if need to be absent and accept responsibility for loss of clinical time.
6. Have time available for evaluation of clinical tool(s) and for student conferences.
7. Provide and take feedback with minimal defensiveness.

### **Achieving Competency as a Student Midwife.**

In order to be considered competent and to progress through the midwifery sequence a student is expected to meet or exceed the following metrics

1. A minimum of 80% on all exams
2. A minimum of 80% on all simulations
3. The minimum clinical hours required per course AND acceptable progress towards meeting the minimal clinical criteria as defined by ACME.
4. Clinical progress as reported by preceptor evaluation and faculty communication with preceptors.
5. Maintenance of Professionalism as demonstrated by timeliness, communication with faculty and preceptors, and preparedness for class and clinical experiences.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Professional activism is an expectation within the midwifery profession.

### **The American College of Nurse-Midwives**

Students are strongly encouraged to join the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) and are strongly encouraged to become involved. Student membership in ACNM is available at a much-reduced fee and includes subscriptions to the *Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health* and *Quickening*. In addition, *Obstetrics & Gynecology* subscriptions are offered at a reduced rate to ACNM members. This also includes your membership in the State of Michigan Affiliate of ACNM.

Students should become acquainted with ACNM and all official documents that define, guide, and direct nurse-midwives and nurse-midwifery practice. The ACNM web site has

information that is helpful to students. It can be found at midwife<http://midwife.org/>.

The national ACNM office may be contacted directly at:  
ACNM  
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1550  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-6374  
240-485-1800

### **The American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) Certification Exam**

The Nurse-Midwifery Program Lead must recommend each student, without reservation, to the American Midwifery Certification Board to write the examination. This recommendation is made based upon 1) satisfactory completion of the nurse-midwifery program of study, 2) passing the comprehensive examination, and 3) check-out. Students will not be eligible to sit for the certification exam until all three of the previous components are completed successfully.

Students should access the AMCB booklet, Information for Candidates, and an application on the web at <http://www.amcbmidwife.org>. The exam is usually offered via computers in all states.

The cost of the exam is currently **\$500.00 (this can change so please refer to the AMCB website at [www.amcbmidwife.org](http://www.amcbmidwife.org))**. This fee must be paid in full at the time of application by cashier's check, certified check, or money order.

The national AMCB Office address is:  
American Midwifery Certification Board  
849 International Drive, Suite 205  
Linthicum, MD 21090410-694-9424  
410-694-9425 (fax)

### **ACNM State Affiliate**

The ACNM state affiliate group meets at varying locations three times a year. Information about upcoming meetings will be sent via email and on the Facebook group. If you are a member of the ACNM and have a Michigan address, you will be on the Listserve to get emails from the Michigan Affiliate. You may also ask to join the Facebook Group: "Michigan Affiliate of the ACNM". The leadership includes two students on its board. The state affiliate also has an annual winter "forward" where it awards Nurse-Midwifery Student Scholarships to attend the ACNM national meeting. These scholarships are chosen at random – the eligibility requirements are that you are a member, and you must be present to win. Students are strongly urged to attend, as is it a great way to meet other students, CNMs around the state, and have some time to relax while also getting CEUs.



### **ACNM Annual Meeting**

The faculty encourages students to attend the ACNM Annual Meeting. The total cost depends on whether you share a room, how far away from Michigan the meeting is, and how long you decide to stay. Most students share accommodations, which is part of the fun of attending the Annual Meeting. You can apply to act as a page or assist with the meeting to receive a reduced registration fee or the ability to attend a workshop for free.

A student representative is selected from each Midwifery Education program. They participate in developing a report with the students from the other midwifery programs that one of the student representatives reads to the entire Annual Meeting attendees. The student representative brings concerns/issues from the students in each program to student meetings at the Annual Meeting for inclusion in the report. This report is taken very seriously and carries weight with both the Board of Directors, and membership.

An additional student leadership opportunity is as the School student member of the ACNM Government Affairs Committee. This student participates in disseminating information about legislative activity and advocacy work to promote midwifery practice and the health care of women and their families. The student who is in this role the prior year will ask for volunteers for this position as they graduate, or you can ask your advisor for more information.

### **UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN NURSE-MIDWIFERY FACULTY**

The University of Michigan Nurse-Midwifery Faculty is committed to assisting students in their development as a nurse-midwife. While many faculty from within the School of Nursing participate in your education, the nurse midwifery faculty is comprised of those individuals who work specifically within the midwifery clinical courses. Nurse-midwifery faculty can all be reached by e-mail, phone, and fax or, of course in person. The members of the nurse midwifery faculty include:

Faculty	Email
Ruth Zielinski PhD CNM FACNM, FAAN Clinical Professor/Program Lead	<a href="mailto:ruthcnm@umich.edu">ruthcnm@umich.edu</a>
Lee Roosevelt PhD, MPH CNM, FACNM Clinical Associate Professor	<a href="mailto:morgaine@umich.edu">morgaine@umich.edu</a>
Nora Drummond DNP, CNM, FNP-BC Clinical Assistant Professor	<a href="mailto:noradrum@umich.edu">noradrum@umich.edu</a>
Lisa Kane Low PhD, CNM, FACNM, FAAN Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Professional Graduate Programs	<a href="mailto:kanelow@umich.edu">kanelow@umich.edu</a>

### **Meeting with Faculty**

Since many of the faculty have commitments outside the School of Nursing, it is best to make an appointment if you would like to meet with them in person. The program lead is your first point of contact for general information, while your course faculty is your first point of contact or questions about courses. There are also the group advising sessions that will be held each semester. Appointments may be scheduled with faculty by contacting them preferably by e-mail.

The faculty and department staff are delighted to assist you in applying for scholarships, jobs, etc. by writing references. However, we require **two weeks'** notice for fulfilling requests for references, scholarship applications, and/or other documentation.

