

DISCOVER MIDWIVES



ABOUT THE MIDWIFERY PROFESSION

WHO IS A MIDWIFE?

An advanced practice clinician that specializes in providing primary, sexual, and reproductive care to people from all communities; from the teenage years through menopause and beyond.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Accredited master's or doctoral education
- National certification

WHAT DO CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIVES (CNMs) AND CERTIFIED MIDWIVES (CMs) DO?

- Provide primary care for individuals from adolescence throughout the lifespan
- Provide annual exams and preventative visits
- Discuss and prescribe birth control/family planning
- Address gynecological concerns such as vaginal infections or heavy period bleeding and menopause
- Prescribe medications and order diagnostic tests such as labs or ultrasounds
- Do procedures such as pap smears, IUD insertions, circumcisions, or endometrial biopsies
- Provide primary care and gender affirming care for transgender and non-binary people
- Care for infants the first 28 days of their lives
- Identify and treat abnormal findings
- Assist physicians during cesarean section operations

WHERE DO MIDWIVES WORK?

- Offices
- Clinics
- Hospitals
- Birth centers
- Homes
- Abroad
- Uniformed Services
- Tribal Facilities
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Universities

WHY DO PEOPLE CHOOSE TO SEE A MIDWIFE? BECAUSE MIDWIVES...

- take extra time to listen to their clients
- encourage clients to participate in their care
- think about a person's feelings, emotions, values, and well-being when planning their care

THE CREDENTIALS CNM AND CM

Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) and Certified Midwives (CMs) are educated in graduate-level midwifery programs accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME). CNMs and CMs pass a national certification examination administered by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) to receive the professional designation of CNM (if they have an active RN at the time of the certification exam) or CM.

LEGAL RECOGNITION

Laws and regulations governing the practice of midwifery are rapidly changing. CNMs and CMs are regulated on the state level, and professional practice and interaction with other healthcare professionals, such as physicians, can vary from state to state. CNMs are also recognized in federal statute governing the licensure and regulation of midwives in federal health insurance programs (i.e., Medicare and Medicaid) and within federal agencies (e.g. Indian Health Services, Department of Veteran's Affairs, and the Department of Defense).

For individual state laws and regulations, check with the regulatory agency in each state. This may be the state board of nursing, the board of medicine, the board or midwifery, or the state department of health or public health.

Learn more about the pathways
to becoming a midwife



HOW DO I BECOME A MIDWIFE?

CHOOSE YOUR PATHWAY

CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIFE OR CERTIFIED MIDWIFE?

Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) and Certified Midwives (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 RN at the time of the certification exam) or CM. CNMs are educated in two disciplines – nursing and midwifery, and may work as a nurse before becoming a midwife.

CNMs are legally recognized to practice in every state in the United States and the District of Columbia. CMs are currently legally recognized to practice in Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

I DO NOT HAVE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

CNM Pathway

1. ENTER AND COMPLETE A PROGRAM THAT LEADS TO A BACHELOR'S IN NURSING

2. APPLY FOR GRADUATE MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

CM Pathway

1. ATTAIN YOUR BACHELOR'S DEGREE MAKING SURE TO INCLUDE THE SCIENCE PREREQUISITES

2. APPLY FOR GRADUATE MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

I DO HAVE AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE, BUT NOT IN NURSING

CNM Pathway

1. ATTAIN YOUR BACHELOR'S OR MASTER'S IN NURSING

A. ACCELERATED NURSING PROGRAM, THEN APPLY FOR GRADUATE MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

B. ACCELERATED NURSING PROGRAMS WITH AUTOMATIC ENTRY TO MIDWIFERY EDUCATION (APPLY TO BOTH AT THE SAME TIME)

C. BSN PROGRAM, THEN APPLY FOR GRADUATE MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

CM Pathway

1. COMPLETE SCIENCE PREREQUISITES

2. APPLY FOR GRADUATE MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

I AM AN RN WITH AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

CNM Pathway

FIND THE RIGHT GRADUATE MIDWIFERY EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR YOU AND APPLY

FINANCIAL AID

There are federal funding grants and loan repayment opportunities for both student nurse-midwives and student midwives.