



Becoming a *Registered Midwife*

Midwifery means 'with woman'. Midwifery considers women in pregnancy, during childbirth and early parenting to be undertaking healthy processes that are profound and precious events in each woman's life.



A Midwife:

- Is a registered health professional, having acquired the appropriate qualifications to practice midwifery
- Works in partnership with women to give the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour, birth and the postnatal period
- Provides care for the newborn infant
- Is trained in the birthing process and deals capably with any adverse situation including seeking medical assistance when required
- Will commence emergency procedures in the absence of medical help
- Educates and provides health counselling for the woman, family and community.

Midwives work in:

- Maternity units in public and private hospitals
- Antenatal clinics – providing care to mothers and babies before birth
- Birth / labour suites
- Birth Centres
- Postnatal and neonatal units
- Childbirth and parent education
- Private midwifery practice
- Community based health service
- Universities as teachers and researchers
- Caseload / Midwifery Group practice
- Practice with obstetricians (doctors)

What studies do I need to undertake?

There are two pathways to becoming a Registered Midwife. One is to complete a Bachelor of Nursing course at university and then complete postgraduate studies in Midwifery. The other is to complete a Bachelor of Midwifery course (three years full-time or the equivalent part-time).

These degrees provide a mixture of theory and clinical experience in a range of midwifery settings to give you broad exposure to the areas of midwifery practice.

To apply for these courses, you need to have completed your High School Certificate (HSC) with the required subjects and an appropriate Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) or equivalent. Check with the Universities Admissions Centre for each university's entry prerequisites.

Most universities require you to have studied English, Mathematics and at least one Science subject as part of your HSC.

In some cases, you may also need a First Aid Certificate.

If you don't have a HSC then you will need to talk directly to the university about other entry pathways such as Tertiary Preparation Courses (TPC) and Special Tertiary Admissions Tests (STAT).

If you are thinking of doing nursing and then entering into a midwifery program, the application process will be different.

Becoming a **Registered Midwife****What happens when I finish at university?**

Once you graduate, you are required to apply to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) to practice as a Registered Midwife. You must renew your registration annually with the NMBA in order to practise in Australia. Once registered, your career as a midwife can really begin.

If you're interested in an exciting and dynamic career in midwifery or simply want more information, you may find the following helpful:**Nursing & Midwifery Office**

www.nursing.nsw.gov.au/nursing

NSW Aboriginal Nursing & Midwifery Strategy

www.nursing.nsw.gov.au

aboriginalnursing@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

Australian College of Midwives

www.midwives.org.au

Nursing Midwifery Board Australia (NMBA)

www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au

Universities Admissions Centre

www.uac.edu.au

The following universities offer undergraduate midwifery courses in NSW/ACT:**Southern Cross University**

www.scu.edu.au

University of Canberra

www.canberra.edu.au

University of Newcastle

www.newcastle.edu.au

University of Technology, Sydney

www.uts.edu.au

University of Western Sydney

www.uws.edu.au

The following universities offer postgraduate midwifery courses (after completion of a Bachelor of Nursing):**Charles Sturt University**

www.csu.edu.au

University of Technology, Sydney

www.uts.edu.au

University of Western Sydney

www.uws.edu.au