



Program Description:

The SWTC Direct Entry Midwifery Program is a two-year associate degree program designed to equip aspiring midwives with the skills and knowledge necessary for certification and licensure in Wisconsin. This program focuses on providing comprehensive, hands-on holistic care throughout the childbearing years, with a particular emphasis on low-risk pregnancy assessment and appropriate referral practices. Throughout the program, students will develop essential competencies in various aspects of pregnancy assessment, including nutritional evaluation, overall health monitoring, risk assessment, fetal growth and development monitoring, lactation techniques, initial newborn care, and evaluating family support and child transition while identifying available community resources.

The goal of the program is to prepare graduates for the Certified Professional Midwife Credential (CPM) examination, achieved through a combination of academic education and practical experience gained during the program, focused on the perinatal period, labor, birth and postpartum in an out-of-hospital setting.

To ensure a well-rounded education, students will participate in virtual face-to-face academic classes, on-campus skills training held once per semester, and clinical internships under the guidance of NARM and SWTC-recognized preceptors. This multifaceted approach ensures that students receive both theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience essential for their future roles as competent and compassionate midwives.

Courses:

The midwifery curriculum at SWTC adopts a competency-based approach to instruction and assessment, carefully designed by our experienced faculty. Through this approach, students gain a clear understanding of the required competencies and the expected demonstration of knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to succeed in each unit of study and ultimately become proficient entry-level midwives.

Throughout the academic and clinical program, students engage in ongoing competency-based instruction and assessment. In addition to fulfilling a minimum number of clinical hours and hands-on skill experience, students are provided with comprehensive learning plans, activities, and measurement criteria for each course. They are also equipped with performance assessment tools specific to each subject.

The midwifery program is designed with a recommended two-year timeframe. However, the actual duration may vary based on factors such as students' preferences for clinical course mapping, transferred credits, full or part-time enrollment options, availability, and volume of clinical sites.

At our institution, we are committed to providing a robust and supportive learning environment that nurtures the development of competent and confident midwives. Our competency-based curriculum ensures that graduates are well-prepared for the challenges of entry-level midwifery practice.



Please go to the [Curriculum and Costs](#) tab of the Midwife Program website and click the hyperlink for each course to see a brief description and any pre- or co-requisites.

<https://www.swtc.edu/academics/programs/health-occupations/midwife#curriculum-costs>

Midwife Theory Classes

Course Number	Name of Class	Method Offered	Credits
10-501-153	Body Structure and Function	Online Class	3
10-510-140	Nutrition	Online Class	3
10-510-153	Applied Pharmacology	Online Class	2
10-510-155	Introduction to Midwifery Practice	Face-to-Face Virtual Class	2
10-510-160	Antepartum Theory	Face-to-Face Virtual Class	4
10-510-146	Well Person Gynecology	Online Class	3
10-510-164	Intrapartum	Face-to-Face Virtual Class	3
10-510-165	Postpartum	Face-to-Face Virtual Class	1
10-510-166	Neonate	Face-to-Face Virtual Class	1
10-510-149	Professional Issues in Midwifery	Face-to-Face Virtual Class	2
10-510-150	OB/Medication Management	Online Class	1
10-510-154	Midwife Research	Face-to-Face Virtual Class	1

Midwifery Program Lab Classes

Course Number	Name of Class	Method Offered	Credits
10-510-156	Midwife Science Lab	Face-to-Face Virtual Class (On campus test out required)	1



Course Number	Name of Class	Method Offered	Credits
10-510-157	Physical Exam for the Midwife	Face-to-Face Virtual Class (On campus test out required)	2
10-510-161	Antepartum Lab	Face-to-Face Virtual Class (On campus test out required)	1
10-510-148	Midwife Clinic Lab I	Face-to-Face Virtual Class (On campus test out required)	1
10-510-152	Midwife Clinic Lab II	Face-to-Face Virtual Class (On campus test out required)	2

Midwifery Clinical Classes

Course Number	Name of Class	Method Offered	Credits
10-510-155	Intro to Midwife Clinic	Requires 5 Observe role	1
10-510-159	Midwife Clinic 1	Clinical Hours: 72 Requires 5 Observed Births	1
10-510-162	Midwife Clinic 2	Clinical Hours: 144 (Assistant)	2
10-510-163	Midwife Clinic 3	Clinical Hours: 72 (Assistant)	1
10-510-167	Midwife Clinic 4	Clinical Hours: 144 (Assistant)	2
10-510-168	Midwife Clinic 5	Clinical Hours: 144 (Primary)	2
10-510-169	Midwife Clinic 6	Clinical Hours: 144 (Primary)	2
10-510-170	Midwife Clinic 7	Clinical Hours: 216(Primary)	3

General Education Courses

Course Number	Name of Class	Method Offered	Credits
10-801-195	Written Communication	Online Class	3



Course Number	Name of Class	Method Offered	Credits
10-809-172	Intro to Diversity Studies	Online Class	3
10-804-123	Math with Business Applications	Online Class	3
10-809-199	Marriage & Family	Online Class	3
10-809-198/10-809-199	Intro to Psychology 'OR' Psychology of Human Relations	Online Class	3
10-801-196	Oral/Interpersonal Communication	Online Class	3
10-809-166	Intro to Ethics: Theory & Application	Online Class	3

Total Credits: 68

Schedule:

The Direct Entry Midwife Associate degree (ASM) program typically requires a minimum of 2 years to complete; however, it's worth noting that many students opt for a slightly longer timeframe, taking around 2.5 to 3 years to finish the program. For added flexibility, students are allowed up to 5 years to complete all program requirements. For those who qualify, financial aid is available to support their educational journey.

Unlike most Southwest Tech programs, the Direct Entry Midwife program offers a unique January start, commonly referred to as the Spring Semester start. Upon program acceptance, students may have the opportunity to begin some courses early. The program primarily features face-to-face zoom virtual courses, ensuring direct interaction with instructors and peers.

- Classes typically run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (CST), with a convenient one-hour break for lunch.
- During the first semester of core courses, classes are conducted virtually on two days per week
- In subsequent semesters, students have the option to schedule classes on a single day, resulting in one virtual class day per week.
- Our instructors conduct classes virtually, creating a collaborative learning environment that allows seamless interaction between students and instructors, regardless of their physical locations. It simulates the experience of being in a face-to-face classroom, fostering effective communication and engagement.
- Virtual students are expected to be actively present and logged in during all scheduled class times. Just like in a physical classroom, we encourage virtual students to eliminate distractions and treat class time with the same level of focus and participation as if they were physically present. This ensures a meaningful and productive learning experience for all students, regardless of their mode of access to the program.



- Clinical classes are done at preceptorship sites under the guidance of the SWTC-qualified preceptor who is in constant with the student's assigned Clinical Site Coordinator (CSC).
- The students meet with the Clinical Faculty member of the course throughout the semester to review clinical progress.
- Lab classes require on-campus time for test out to assess skills attainment.
- All general education courses have an online option.

Required Travel

As part of the program, all students are required to attend in-person classes on the Southwest Tech campus in Fennimore, Wisconsin, for three to five class days during specific semesters. For added convenience, the spring semester labs also offer an option for summer lab classes.

Prior to the start of each semester, students will receive information regarding the specific on-campus travel dates. These dates are typically scheduled in October for the Fall semester, in May for the Spring semester, and in June for the Summer semester. This on-campus time is crucial as it provides opportunities for reviewing and testing essential skills, along with engaging in other important activities related to the program.

The on-campus requirement ensures that students receive hands-on training, practice, and assessments to further enhance their learning experience and prepare them for a successful career in the field. Students are responsible for travel and lodging expenses.

Clinical Training

Clinical experiences in the Direct Entry Midwife Program are carefully structured to align with the academic theory coursework, creating a seamless progression of learning. To demonstrate proficiency in linking theory to practice, students are required to exhibit competency in all NARM skills, MANA core competencies, and linked MEAC competencies.

Timely completion of each clinical course is expected, with a recognition that academic coursework and clinical work are closely interconnected. Before proceeding to the next clinical course, students must successfully finish and receive a grade for the current course.

Clinical placements are exclusively arranged with NARM-approved preceptors with the support of the Clinical Site Coordinator (CSC). The CSC works one on one with their assigned students to support in clinical placement, clinical accountability, and preceptor support.

The preceptor must also hold recognition in their jurisdiction of practice. Furthermore, the jurisdiction in which the preceptor operates must legally recognize the CPM credential for midwifery practice or have entrance as an educational clinical site via the Department of Education.

For comprehensive information on the clinical training aspect of the Direct Entry Midwife Program, students can refer to the NARM and Southwest Tech Midwife Program Clinical Requirements document.



This document covers all relevant details related to the clinical training component, guiding students through their practical training journey in the program. [See details of enrollment and clinical course requirements found in the enrollment agreement](#)

Clinical course requirements:

It's essential to highlight that each clinical course within the program is associated with specific credit hours, competencies, and clinical experiences. This division allows students to request financial aid for each clinical course individually, making the financial process more manageable.

To progress from one clinical course to the next, students must meet several criteria. First, they are required to achieve a minimum grade of 78% in core midwifery courses. Additionally, their preceptors must approve their demonstrated competencies and skills through evaluations. Students must successfully complete all time and experience requirements for the current clinical course. Lastly, a site visit with the Clinical site coordinator and preceptor is necessary to ensure comprehensive assessment and coordination. By adhering to these guidelines, students can smoothly advance through the clinical component of the program, staying on track for their successful journey toward becoming competent and qualified midwives.

Clinical course progression:

Course	Requirements	Clinical encounters required
Introduction to Midwife Clinic.	NRP, BLS, Doula Course, Childbirth Education Classes for In and OOH birth, Lactation support groups, Background Check, Physical Exam,	5 observe births.
MWC1	Complete IMWC	72 hrs. in observation of clinical experience, 5 observed births
MWC2	Complete MWC1	Clinical Hours:144 ~ Births: 7 ~ Prenatal Exams: 10 ~ Initial Prenatal Exams: 2 ~ Newborn Exams: 7 ~ Postpartum Visits: 3 All as Assistant under Supervision
MWC3	Complete MWC2	Clinical Hours: 72 ~ Births: 3 ~ Prenatals: 5 ~ Initial Prenatals: 1 ~ Newborn Exams: 3 ~ Postpartum Visits: 2 All as Assistant under Supervision
MWC4	Complete MWC3	Clinical Hours: 144 ~ Births: 10 ~ Prenatals: 10 ~ Initial Prenatals: 3 ~ Newborn Exams: 10 ~

		Postpartum Visits: 5 All as Assistant under Supervision
MWC5	Complete MWC4	Clinical Hours: 144 ~ Births: 5 ~ Prenatals: 25 ~ Initial Prenatals: 8 ~ Newborn Exams: 5 ~ Postpartum: 10 All as Primary under Supervision
MWC6	Complete MWC5	Clinical Hours: 144 ~ Births: 10 ~ Prenatals: 20 ~ Initial Prenatals: 6 ~ Newborn Exams: 10 ~ Postpartum: 14 All as Primary under Supervision
MWC7	Complete MWC6	Clinical Hours: 216 ~ Births:10 ~ Prenatals: 30 ~ Initial Prenatals: 6 ~ Newborn Exams: 5 ~ Postpartum: 22 Preconception visits: 10 Lactation counseling: 10 All as Primary under Supervision ~ Includes 5 Continuity-of-Care Clients (5 PN + Birth + NB Exam+ 2 PP), Exit Exam. Professional Issues exam

Graduation Requirements

To be eligible for graduation from the Midwifery Program at Southwest Tech, students must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Complete all mandatory courses specified in the program curriculum.
2. Students must satisfactorily complete the required curriculum and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above. In some programs, students must complete every course with no lower than a "C" grade to meet graduation requirements." ([Student-Handbook.pdf](#))
3. Maintain a minimum GPA of 78% to demonstrate academic proficiency.
4. Satisfy the required number of supervised clinical hours, lab hours, and hands-on experience, in accordance with CPM (Certified Professional Midwife) requirements based on Wisconsin Act 292, NARM (North American Registry of Midwives) Skills, and MANA (Midwives Alliance of North America) Core Competencies.
5. Adhere to any additional program-specific requirements as outlined by Southwest Wisconsin Technical College.

Please note that the Southwest Technical College Direct Entry Midwife program is tailored to fulfill the licensing requirements for Certified Professional Midwives (CPM) in Wisconsin. It does not cover the specific licensure requirements of other states.

The clinical experiences must span at least two (2) years and encompass a total of clinical placement and lab hours. While prior learning credit and transfer credit for clinical experiences may be considered, they do not apply to transfer credit for academic coursework.



To progress in the program, students are required to achieve a minimum average of 78% on all tests and a cumulative average of 78% on all assignments. Additionally, a final grade of at least 78% (equivalent to a 'C' grade) is mandatory for each program course to successfully graduate. If a student has been granted prior learning credit or transfer credit, they must still complete at least 25% of the program's core courses and pass them with a minimum of 78% or 'C' grade.

Completion of the entire program must be accomplished within 5 years from the original program registration date. By adhering to these graduation requirements, students can successfully complete the Direct Entry Midwife program and move forward in their careers as skilled and qualified midwives.

The start date of enrollment and the minimum and maximum timeframes for completion

Upon enrollment, the program advisor has each student complete their preferred/goal start and preferred/goal end date and then adds the 5-year deadline on the enrollment agreement. [Enrollment Agreement](#)

Clinical training

The Midwifery Program at SWTC is committed to assisting the student in achieving student success in academic and College Obligations as seen on the Preceptor-Student Contract.

The College agrees to:

- Provide guidelines for clinical study expectations to the preceptor and the student.
- Provide materials and guidelines for the evaluation of the student.
- Provide individual supervision on a regular basis (not to be less than once per semester).
- Meet with the preceptor and student for a clinical site visit at least once per semester either virtually or in person to evaluate the progress of the student.
- To meet by phone or other means more often as necessary.
- Assume final responsibility for grading of the student.
- Treat all information received pertaining to the records of the preceptor in a confidential manner.
- Maintain student/instructor academic liability insurance during preceptor affiliation.
- Evaluate clinical placement site for future placements.

Preceptor/ Clinical Site placement responsibilities:

In the Introduction to Midwife Clinic, students will engage in several important tasks to secure a qualified preceptor for their clinical training. They will begin by writing an introductory letter and arranging potential preceptor interviews. Additionally, students will complete a student questionnaire to aid in finding the most suitable preceptor for their needs.

The Clinical Site Coordinator (CSC) will provide valuable assistance throughout the process of securing a vetted clinical site and a preceptor and/or utilize the roster of registered preceptors to match students with appropriate clinical placements.



Every effort is made to place students in clinical sites near their place of residence. While most students will drive a maximum of 3 hours to reach their clinical site, there may be instances where temporary relocation is necessary for a more diverse practice experience or due to limited local placement opportunities. The SWTC CSCs work diligently to minimize any personal and financial strain during the students' clinical courses.

Registered SWTC preceptors:

To become preceptors in compliance with SWTC and MEAC standards, all preceptors must register with the SWTC midwifery program and complete the required steps:

1. Successfully complete the preceptor training available on the website or sent by the assigned CSC.
2. Submit necessary documents through the unique Typhon account provided, including an updated curriculum vitae, CPM certificate, NARM preceptor approval letter, current copies of BLS and NRP certification, and a copy of the state license (if applicable).
3. Sign and submit the Safety Form, Preceptor Equipment and Resources form, and Preceptor Handbook Affidavit directly to the CSC.
4. Upon completion of the SWTC preceptor training and submission of the required documents, preceptors will receive a certificate of completion. The preceptor, along with the CSC, will then schedule a one-on-one onboarding meeting and establish the student-preceptor contract, ensuring a smooth and successful clinical training experience.

Administrative Fees and Tuition

Tuition and fees are established according to state statutes and Wisconsin Technical College System guidelines and may change from year to year. Students must pay all required fees according to Southwest Tech policies. The

College's tuition and fees can be viewed through the following link:

<https://www.swtc.edu/student-resources/financial-resources/tuition-fees>

The Payment and Refund Schedule

The Refund Policy, including the refund schedule, can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.swtc.edu/student-resources/financial-resources/student-refunds>

The Student's Obligations, Financial and Otherwise

Estimated tuition can be found on the program page, under the "[Curriculum & Costs](#)" tab. Additional costs that students will incur include the following items:

- Textbooks: estimated at approximately \$5,000 for the full 68 credits in the program
- Charger Tech 360 program: \$300 per semester
- Travel costs: travel costs depend on where the student resides. Some students estimate that they spend approximately \$2,000 - \$6500 on travel costs throughout the program.
- Additional requirements needed at the end of the first semester: Cost of Doula Course, NRP, BLS, Physical Exam and Vaccine Information, Background Check, Childbirth Education Course.



- Approximate cost between \$1000-\$2000, depending on whether the student has prior learning experience and has access to the required documents.

Additional details about the curriculum and costs can be accessed through the following page of the Southwest Tech website:

<https://www.swtc.edu/academics/programs/health-occupations/midwife#curriculum-costs>

Release Certification Test Results

The student's permission to release certification test results to the school for the purposes of compiling student achievement data for compliance with MEAC standards. Students provide permission to release certification test results to the school for the purposes of compiling student achievement data through their signature on the enrollment agreement. [Enrollment Agreement](#)