INFORMATION PACKET · SAMPLE EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY

Certified Nurse-Midwife Education

Educational pathway, accreditation, clinical preparation, and national standards for nurse-midwifery practice

Accredited education · National certification · State licensure

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DATE
October 2026

Certified Nurse-Midwife Education

Educational pathway, accreditation, and national standards

EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY

STEP	PREPARATION	WHAT IT INCLUDES
1	**Bachelor of Science in Nursing**	Professional nursing coursework and supervised clinical education across patient-care settings. **Sample program: 120 credits | 1,035 clinical hours**
2	**Graduate nurse-midwifery education**	Graduate preparation in advanced pathophysiology, health assessment, pharmacology, primary and reproductive health, pregnancy, labor and birth, postpartum, and newborn care. **Sample program: 50 credits | 945 precepted clinical hours**
3	**National certification and state licensure**	Graduation from an accredited nurse-midwifery program, AMCB national certification examination, and state RN and APRN-CNM licensure.

NATIONAL COMPETENCIES

Every accredited nurse-midwifery program prepares graduates to:

- **Assess and diagnose**
- **Prescribe safely**
- **Promote health and prevention**
- **Provide primary care**
- **Provide gynecologic and reproductive care**
- **Care for pregnancy, labor and birth**
- **Provide postpartum care**
- **Care for newborns**
- **Integrate science, evidence, ethics, communication, and clinical judgment**

TWO LEVELS OF US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

Programmatic accreditation	Institutional accreditation
Nurse-midwifery programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME), a programmatic accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.	ACME criteria also require each program to reside within or be affiliated with an institution accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-recognized accreditor, such as the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

CLINICAL PREPARATION

1,980 supervised clinical hours

in the two sample educational programs included with this packet

1,035 undergraduate nursing clinical hours + 945 graduate nurse-midwifery clinical hours.

These sample-program figures are not presented as a universal national total.

Additional experience is common

8.3 years average RN practice before certification

2022 AMCB Task Analysis

~17,000 hours at full-time equivalency

Average, not a certification requirement. An active RN license, however, is required for certification.

Clinical experiences are documented and verified by preceptors. Published encounter expectations are minimums; programs and individual students may exceed them. Graduation reflects demonstrated competence, not completion of hours alone.

Selected graduate clinical minimums: 100 prenatal visits; 80 gynecologic visits; 60 labor and birth experiences, including at least 35 births managed as the primary student provider; 50 postpartum visits; 40 primary care visits; 30 newborn examinations.

Nurse-midwifery preparation is a layered professional pathway: nursing education, graduate APRN and midwifery education, supervised clinical practice, nationally standardized competencies, national certification, and state licensure.

Sources: Sample BSN curriculum (Bryan College of Health Sciences); sample graduate nurse-midwifery curriculum (Rutgers School of Nursing); Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME), 2025 accreditation criteria approved 2026; U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agencies; ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice (2025); AMCB Candidate Handbook and 2022 Task Analysis materials.

Bryan COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Traditional 4-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Newly Revised Curriculum

Sample Plan of Study for Fall 2025 Implementation

Semesters 1 & 2			
Semester 1	**Hours**	**Semester 2**	**Hours**
HIMS100 Medical Terminology	1	PSYC121 Introduction to Psychology	3
GSTU 101 Intro to BCHS Experience	1	BIOS203 Anatomy & Physiology I	4
SOCI101 Introduction to Sociology	3	PHIL210 Ethics in Healthcare	3
CHEM103 Principles of Chemistry	4	Communications Elective	3
ENGL104 English Composition 1	3		
Math for Healthcare Providers	3		
Total	**15**	**Total**	**13**
Semesters 3 & 4			
Semester 3	**Hours**	**Semester 4**	**Hours**
PSYC201 Human Growth and Development	3	NUTR121 Nutrition	3
BIOS204 Anatomy & Physiology II	4	STAT210 Elements of Statistics	3
BIOS205 Microbiology	4	BIOS221 Pathophysiology	3
Humanities Elective	3	Business/Management Elective	3
		Cultural Study Elective	3
Total	**14**	**Total**	**15**
Semesters 5 & 6			
Semester 5	**Hours**	**Semester 6**	**Hours**
Principles of Professional Nursing	3	Community Health Nursing	4
Pharmacology	2	Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing	4
Health Assessment Across the Lifespan	4	Nursing Care II	8
Nursing Care I	7		
Total	**16**	**Total**	**16**
Semesters 7 & 8			
Semester 7	**Hours**	**Semester 8**	**Hours**
Applied Pathophysiology & Pharmacology	2	Research & Evidence Based Practice in Nursing	2
Family and Pediatric Health Nursing	6	Transition to Professional Nursing Practice	4
Nursing Care III	8	Nursing Leadership & Management	5
		Nursing Capstone	4
Total	**16**	**Total**	**15**

Total Credits	
Curriculum Breakdown	**Hours**
Total General Education Credits	**57**
Total Nursing Major Credits	**63**
Total Program Credits	**120**
Total Clinical Hours	**1,035**

NE State Board Approved 05.09.2024; ACEN approved 08.05.2024

RUTGERS HEALTH
School of Nursing

973-972-3067
snadmissions@sn.rutgers.edu
nursing.rutgers.edu

Excellence in Action

Curriculum effective Fall 2024

Rev. November 2025

Post-Baccalaureate MSN Nurse-Midwifery Program

The Post-Baccalaureate Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Nurse-Midwifery Program is based at the Rutgers Health Campus in Newark, NJ. This program of study prepares students to be independent providers of full-scope midwifery care across the lifespan including primary care; sexual, and reproductive health care; care during pregnancy, labor and birth, and the postpartum period; and care for the healthy neonate. The nurse-midwifery curriculum provides a combination of theory and practicum experiences. The School of Nursing offers students the opportunity to learn from experienced and nationally recognized faculty who are all actively engaged in teaching and clinical practice.

Curriculum: This program is 50 credits with 945 precepted practicum hours and is designed to be completed through a part-time (3 year) plan of study. The following are the required courses for this program:

Clinical Core Courses:

Course #	Course Title	Cr. Hrs.	Clinical Hrs.
NURS 5104	Advanced Pathophysiology	3	
NURS 5105	Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3	
ADHA 5107	Advanced Health Assessment	3	

Core Courses:

Course #	Course Title	Cr. Hrs.	Project Hrs.**
NURS 6060	Clinical Inquiry for Evidence-Based Practice	3	
NURS 6930	Information Technology for Evidence-Based Practice	3	
NURS 6780	Healthcare Economics & Business Practices	3	

Specialty Courses:

Course #	Course Title	Cr. Hrs.	Clinical Hrs.
NMID 7000	Foundations of Midwifery Care	2	
WHNM 7100	Gynecological, Sexual, and Reproductive Health	6	160
NMID 7200	Ultrasound for Midwives	1	
WHNM 7300	Antepartum and Postpartum Care	6	160
WHNM 7500	Primary Care Theory for Midwives and Women's Health Nurse Practitioners	3	
NMID 7400	Intrapartum and Postpartum Care	6	220
NMID 7600	Fetal Assessment and Neonatal Care	3	45
WHNM 7700	Advanced Clinical Midwifery Integration	4	360
NMID 7800	Comprehensive Review	1	
	Total Program Credits and Clinical Hours	**50**	**945**

The MSN Nurse-Midwifery Program at Rutgers School of Nursing is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Comparison of Midwifery Education and Training Pathways

Course-by-course illustration of a sample CNM pathway, alongside current national CPM minimums and the traditional/lay midwife category.

Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM)	Certified Professional Midwife (CPM)	Traditional / Lay Midwife
PATHWAY AT A GLANCE		
Minimum education		
Graduate degree (Master's or Doctorate) plus active RN license	High school diploma or equivalent	No national standard
Accredited education pathway		
Graduate from an ACME-accredited nurse-midwifery program, with three layers of oversight: (1) ACME, recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits the midwifery program (2) the nursing degree is approved by the state board of nursing and accredited by a nationally recognized nursing accreditor (CCNE or ACEN) (3) every CNM school holds institutional (regional) accreditation from a federally recognized agency, such as the Higher Learning Commission	Accredited program not required. All learning may take place through apprenticeship. MEAC, the CPM program accreditor, lost U.S. Department of Education recognition in 2026*	No national standard
National credentialing exam		
AMCB certification examination	NARM written examination	No national credential
Clinical preparation before certification		
Clinical component at least 6-8 years. 1,035 BSN clinical hours + 945 graduate clinical hours. CNMs report an average 8.3 years of RN practice before certification (~17,000 hours); clinical competencies across the lifespan and specific competencies in midwifery	Clinical component at least 2 years; minimum 25 births as primary under supervision	No national standard
EDUCATION – Baccalaureate Level		
SAMPLE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PATHWAY – 120 CREDITS	No formal didactic component required	No formal didactic component required
Medical Terminology (1 cr)	-	-
Introduction to Psychology (3 cr)	-	-
Introduction to Sociology (3 cr)	-	-
Ethics in Healthcare (3 cr)	-	-
Principles of Chemistry (4 cr)	-	-
English Composition I (3 cr)	-	-
Math for Healthcare Providers (3 cr)	-	-
Communications Elective (3 cr)	-	-
Human Growth and Development (3 cr)	-	-
Nutrition (3 cr)	-	-
Anatomy and Physiology I (4 cr)	-	-
Anatomy and Physiology II (4 cr)	-	-
Elements of Statistics (3 cr)	-	-
Microbiology (4 cr)	-	-
Pathophysiology (3 cr)	-	-
Business / Management Elective (3 cr)	-	-
Humanities Elective (3 cr)	-	-
Cultural Study Elective (3 cr)	-	-
Principles of Professional Nursing (3 cr)	-	-
Community Health Nursing (4 cr)	-	-
Pharmacology (2 cr)	-	-
Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (4 cr)	-	-
Health Assessment Across the Lifespan (4 cr)	-	-
Nursing Care I (7 cr)	-	-
Nursing Care II (8 cr)	-	-
Applied Pathophysiology and Pharmacology (2 cr)	-	-
Family and Pediatric Health Nursing (6 cr)	-	-
Nursing Care III (8 cr)	-	-
Research and Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing (2 cr)	-	-
Transition to Professional Nursing Practice (4 cr)	-	-
Nursing Leadership and Management (5 cr)	-	-
Nursing Capstone (4 cr)	-	-
EDUCATION – Graduate (Master's or Doctorate) Level		
SAMPLE GRADUATE NURSE-MIDWIFERY PATHWAY – 50 CREDITS	-	-
Advanced Pathophysiology (3 cr)	-	-
Advanced Clinical Pharmacology (3 cr)	-	-
Advanced Health Assessment (3 cr)	-	-
Clinical Inquiry for Evidence-Based Practice (3 cr)	-	-
Information Technology for Evidence-Based Practice (3 cr)	-	-
Healthcare Economics and Business Practices (3 cr)	-	-
Foundations of Midwifery Care (2 cr)	-	-
Gynecological, Sexual, and Reproductive Health (6 cr)	-	-
Ultrasound for Midwives (1 cr)	-	-
Antepartum and Postpartum Care (6 cr)	-	-
Primary Care Theory for Midwives and WHNPs (3 cr)	-	-
Intrapartum and Postpartum Care (6 cr)	-	-
Fetal Assessment and Neonatal Care (3 cr)	-	-
Advanced Clinical Midwifery Integration (4 cr)	-	-
Comprehensive Review (1 cr)	-	-
ACCREDITED CLINICAL EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALING MILESTONES		
Baccalaureate supervised clinical rotations – 1,035 hours	-	-
Registered nurse practice before certification – Must pass NCLEX national registered nurse board exam. CNMs report an average 8.3 years (~17,000 hours) of practice prior to certification.	-	-
Graduate nurse-midwifery clinical training – 945 precepted hours in a program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME) with recognition	-	-
National board certification – American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB)	North American Registry of Midwives (NARM)	-

Reading the dashes: A "-" means that pathway has no corresponding nationally prescribed college course or credential in that category. For CPMs, NARM requires verified skills and supervised clinical experience, and recognizes multiple educational routes. ***Federal recognition note:** In 2026, U.S. Department of Education staff recommended **denial of MEAC's petition for continued federal recognition**; MEAC withdrew the petition before the final decision was issued. NARM granted the MEAC pathway provisional recognition for CPM eligibility from Oct. 1, 2026 through Mar. 31, 2028. **Sources:** sample BSN plan of study, Bryan College of Health Sciences (Fall 2025); Rutgers Post-Baccalaureate MSN Nurse-Midwifery curriculum (Fall 2024, rev. Nov. 2025); American Midwifery Certification Board 2022 Task Analysis; North American Registry of Midwives, Candidate Information Booklet (Feb. 2026); U.S. Department of Education, 2026. This sheet compares educational pathways and is not a statement of legal scope of practice.