Technical Standards for Midwifery Integration

A midwifery diploma from Birthingway signifies that the holder is a midwife prepared for entry into active practice. Candidates for graduation must have the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and judgment to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of client care. The following abilities and expectations must be met and maintained from matriculation through graduation by all midwifery students. Failure to maintain Technical Standards may result in dismissal from the program. Students or applicants who have questions regarding these standards should contact the Midwifery Program Coordinator.

- You must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences.
- You must be able to learn to conduct basic office lab procedures.
- You must have sufficient use of the sensory, visual, hearing, and motor systems, and the somatic sensation necessary to perform a physical examination.
- You must be able to perform clinical care activities such as palpation, auscultation, percussion, the administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, and the movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch, hearing and vision. A complete list of required skills can be found in our Skills Assessment Checklist. Please contact our Midwifery Program Coordinator for a copy.
- You must be able to learn to respond with precise, quick, and appropriate action in emergency situations.
- You must be able to communicate in English with accuracy, clarity, efficiency, and sensitivity both verbally and in writing.
- You must have the skills to analyze and synthesize information, solve problems, and reach diagnostic and therapeutic judgments.
- You must be able to acknowledge evaluation and respond appropriately.
- You must possess the interpersonal skills to develop rapport and positive relationships with clients, midwives, other care providers, and colleagues.
- You must have the perseverance, diligence, and consistency to complete the midwifery school curriculum. Therefore, you must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads; to function effectively under stress; to adapt to changing environments; to display flexibility and to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems and needs of many clients.

Prerequisites to the Midwifery Program

Four prerequisites are required for admission into the Midwifery Program for certificate and degree-seeking students. Prerequisite courses are listed below in quarter and semester credit hours. If you are transferring credits using other systems (units, clock hours, etc.), please contact the Midwifery Program Coordinator for assistance. Prerequisites may be in progress at the time of application. However, all prerequisites must be completed with documentation submitted to Birthingway by December 31st. Birthingway is not able to offer financial aid for Midwifery Program prerequisites.

Human Anatomy and Physiology Course

- Must be a minimum of four quarter credits or three semester credits.
- Must cover all of the body systems.
- Must have been taken at an accredited post-secondary institution, with a final grade of at least 3.0 (B).

If more than one section is taken in order to cover the entire human body, the grade earned in each section must be a B/3.0 or better (NOT the average of all sections). Birthingway offers Anatomy and Physiology for Birth and Lactation Professionals, which meets this requirement.

- Courses from some vocational-technical schools (such as Massage Therapy, Chinese Medicine, Chiropractic, and Naturopathy) may meet this prerequisite. An official transcript must be provided.
Labor Doula Workshop

- Birthingway's workshop, *The Labor Doula: Assisting Women with Birth*, meets our requirements. In addition, other approved labor doula programs include ALACE (toLabor), DONA, ICEA, Birthworks, and Birth Arts Doula Program. For approval status of additional programs, please contact the Midwifery Program Coordinator.

- Distance courses or workshops are not accepted.

- Labor Doula Certification is not a requirement.

**NEW PREREQUISITE:** Medical Terminology

- In addition to Birthingway’s Medical Terminology course, any for-credit college level Medical Terminology course from an accredited post-secondary institution can be used for this prerequisite.

- We will not accept non-credit Medical Terminology courses, such as some of those designed for medical transcription certificates.

**Writing Course** You may fulfill this prerequisite in one of four ways:

1. Complete a minimum of a four quarter or three semester credit, college-level expository writing course. This course must have been taken at an accredited post-secondary institution, with a final grade of at least 3.0 (B). Creative writing will not be accepted as a prerequisite. We do not currently offer a college-level expository writing course at Birthingway.

2. Submit a letter from a college professor to the Midwifery Program Coordinator stating that a completed course had a heavy writing component and that the applicant's writing ability in the course demonstrated at least a grade of B. This fulfills the prerequisite only and will not count toward general education requirements.

3. Receive a minimum score of 60 in one of the following College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests:
   - English Composition
   - English Composition with Essay
   - Freshman College composition
   
   We do not conduct testing at Birthingway. You must submit your official scores from the College Board.

4. Receive a minimum score of 4 in one of the following Advanced Placement Programs (AP) tests:
   - English Language and Composition
   - English Literature and Composition
   
   You must submit your official scores from AP Services.

**Application to the Midwifery Program**

Admission to the Midwifery Program is by application. The application and non-refundable application fee are due at the College or postmarked no later than the application deadline of **October 15**. The College recommends that applicants keep a copy of their application. Late applications will only be considered for admission if space is available after all other applicants have been considered.

Birthingway’s Midwifery Program admissions process includes three-steps:

1. Written Application 2. Interview 3. Meet and Greet

**1. Written Application**

The complete written application includes:

- The completed *Application for Admission to Midwifery Program* form, including your signature indicating that you meet the *Technical Standards for Midwifery Integration*. See *TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR*
MIDWIFERY INTEGRATION.

• Answers to the essay questions.
• Official high school transcript sent directly from the high school; or GED; or other equivalency certificate. High school diplomas are not acceptable.
• Official college transcripts from every college attended.
• Official transcript documenting completion of a Human Anatomy and Physiology course that meets our requirements.*
• Official transcript documenting completion of writing course that meets our requirements.*
• Documentation of successful completion of an approved Labor Doula workshop or course.*
• Two letters of recommendation (from people not related to you) sent directly to the College from the references. Fax or e-mail is acceptable provided a mailed copy follows with an original signature.
• Application fee.
• Any outstanding Birthingway account balance must be paid in full.

*Students enrolled in courses to meet admission prerequisites at the time of application must provide documentation of the final grades no later than December 31st unless the course or workshop is completed at Birthingway, in which case documentation will be provided by the College.

Applications are screened for completeness. The applicant will be notified when all information has been received or if more information is needed.

2. Interview

The purpose of the personal interview is to familiarize you with the program and to learn more about you in order to assess if a good match exists between you and Birthingway. Interviews with the Admissions Committee are held in late October and November for applicants living near the College. For applicants living at a distance from the College, interviews are generally held during the third week of November in conjunction with the Meet and Greet reception. See MEET AND GREET.

3. Meet and Greet

A Meet and Greet reception is held on the Friday before Thanksgiving in November each year. All applicants are strongly encouraged to attend; current students are expected to attend. Area midwives, faculty, and former students are also welcome. Input from the college community is a vital part of application evaluation. Not attending the Meet and Greet may put you at a disadvantage.

All applicants are expected to attend the Financial Aid orientation offered during Meet and Greet. If unable to attend Meet and Greet, the applicant must meet with the Financial Aid Officer during the admissions process to learn about their aid options and program costs. Please call to set up an individual appointment. This orientation is for information only; your financial situation is not evaluated as a criteria for admissions into the program.

Admissions Committee

The Admissions Committee is comprised of Midwifery Program student volunteers, staff, and faculty members.

Admissions Buddy

All applicants will be paired with a buddy during the Admissions process. Buddies are current Midwifery Program students who are available to answer any questions or address any concerns that the applicant may have. Applicants and their buddy will spend time getting to know one another at the Meet and Greet, and often meet at least on one other occasion during the admissions process.
Application Evaluation

In evaluating applications, the following factors will be considered:

- Completeness and clarity of the application.
- Responses to the essay questions on the application, including correct spelling, grammar, and conventions.
- Responses to interview questions.
- Meet and Greet small group input.
- Completion of all prerequisites.
- Evidence of compliance with Technical Standards for Midwifery Integration.
- Time available to study, to be available for clinicals, etc.
- Previous life experience which would contribute to the sensitivity and insight that a midwife needs, and experience which demonstrates initiative, independence, perseverance, and leadership.
- Previous experience as a birth educator, health care provider, lactation consultant, doula, or birth assistant, including experience being on-call.
- Previous study in midwifery, including attendance at midwifery conferences, study groups, workshops, meetings, and apprenticeships.
- Reading of midwifery-related books and journals.
- Academic training and coursework in areas related to midwifery, such as early childhood development, genetics, nutrition, child development, and/or psychology.
- Demonstration of a commitment to midwifery as an autonomous profession through a history of membership and involvement in midwifery organizations and causes.
- Feedback from instructors regarding any workshops or courses taken at Birthingway before or during the application process.

A high priority is given to applicants currently residing in communities that need or desire midwifery services. People of color and those fluent in languages other than English are encouraged to apply.

Birthingway's admission process is in compliance with our institutional non-discrimination policy. See NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY.

Class Selection

The selection decision is made in early January. Once the Admissions Committee has reached a decision, notification letters are sent immediately.