**Childbirth Educator Program**

**Overview**
A Childbirth Educator facilitates classes or workshops that help mothers and their chosen partners prepare for the experience of labor and birth, and often include information on pregnancy, parenting, breastfeeding, and infancy.

The Birthingway Childbirth Educator program was designed with the biodynamic model of care at its core. You will learn the fundamentals of the biodynamic model of care, explore modern birth culture in America, and delve into your own preconceptions about birth. You will also create and practice a variety of teaching tools and techniques to use in your own childbirth education courses or in prenatal care with your clients, such as lullabies, meditation, guided imagery, vocalization, nurturing non-language, storytelling, body movement, art, and repetition.

**Childbirth Educator Program Objectives**

- To train students in childbirth education skills to integrate into their midwifery practice or as a separate skill set.
- To assist students in acquiring prenatal education skills for the childbearing mother and her support person(s).
- To train students with competence in basic research and information literacy skills.
- To provide students with childbirth education application for a variety of situations and adult learning styles.
- To prepare students to provide individualized care even within a classroom setting.
- To use diverse methodologies based on biodynamic educational principles that encourage integration of intellect, senses, intuition, and judgment in learning situations.
- To support students with reaching their educational and professional goals.
- To encourage an evolved awareness of professional ethics and relationships with peers, preceptors, clients and others as articulated in the *MANA Statement of Values and Ethics*.
- To encourage and support students to be change agents in their communities.

**Technical Standards for Childbirth Educators**

Because a Childbirth Educator certification from Birthingway signifies the holder is a childbirth educator prepared for entry into active practice, candidates for certification must have the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and judgment to function in a broad variety of situations and to render a wide spectrum of client education. Therefore, the following abilities and expectations must be met by all candidates for admission to Birthingway and maintained through the certification process. Students/applicants who have questions regarding these standards are encouraged to contact the Specialized Programs Coordinator.

- Candidates must have sufficient use of the sensory, vision, hearing, motor, and the somatic sensation necessary to perform basic teaching skills. A complete list of required skills can be found in our *Skills Assessment Checklist*. Contact the Specialized Programs Coordinator.
- Candidates must be able to communicate in English with accuracy, clarity, efficiency, and sensitivity, both verbally and in writing.
- Candidates must have the skills to analyze and synthesize information, and to help clients understand the information presented to them in the classroom setting.
- Candidates must be able to acknowledge evaluation and respond appropriately.
- Candidates must possess the interpersonal skills to develop rapport and positive relationships with clients and with other students.
- Candidates are expected to possess the perseverance, diligence, and consistency to complete the childbirth educator program. Candidates, therefore, must be able to tolerate and adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the questions and concerns of many clients.

**Guiding Principles and Philosophy**

Birthingway's Childbirth Education Program is rooted in the same basic Guiding Principles and Philosophy as
Childbirth Educator Certification
To complete Birthingway’s Childbirth Educator Program, you must do the following:

- Apply to the Childbirth Educator Program.
- Enroll in the Childbirth Educator Program.
- Attend and successfully complete the Childbirth Educator Workshop.
- Complete independent work.
- Complete the Childbirth Educator Practicum program.
- Submit all required forms and documentation.
- Provide payment for all required program costs.

Application to the Childbirth Educator program
There are no prerequisite requirements for this program.

If you are interested in certifying as a Childbirth Educator, you must:

1. apply to and be accepted to the program;
2. enroll;
3. complete the workshop; and
4. complete independent work before you can begin the practicum.

You may alternately apply to and enroll in the program after you take the workshop. Please contact the Specialized Programs Coordinator (SPC) for more details.

Childbirth Educator Workshop
This 40-hour workshop can be taken as a stand-alone workshop or a step toward certification. You must pick up a course pack before the workshop start date. Birthingway will send the coursepack to you for an additional fee. The workshop includes readings and assignments.

Independent Work
After you complete the workshop, you may begin independent work. Independent work includes designing a syllabus for your own class, reviewing a birth video and several books, and creating a community resources binder. You will need to turn in the independent work if you intend to certify. Each workshop has a different deadline for this work, which will be approximately four months after the end of the workshop.

Practicum Requirements (Student Teaching)
To qualify for the practicum, you must first submit the Childbirth Educator Program Application, with the application fee, and be accepted into the program. This application requests information that we will use to list you as a Student Childbirth Educator on Birthingway’s website. The website is one way that Birthingway helps you network with prospective clients during both the practicum period and once you have certified.

You must then submit the Childbirth Educator Program Enrollment Agreement with the enrollment fee to the SPC.

During the practicum, you are required to teach your syllabus at least one time. You are also required to complete weekly journals, addressing specific questions about your experience teaching the provisional series. Your clients must complete an evaluation at the end of each course in the series and you will need to submit all evaluations. The SPC evaluates your written materials from the practicum portion of the program and determines whether certification will be granted or whether some remediation should take place.

You will be required to pay the registration and technology fees each term while you are in the practicum.
Length of the Childbirth Educator Program
If pursuing a Childbirth Educator Certificate, you have ten months from completion of the workshop to complete the independent work, practicum, and certification. It typically takes about one year to complete the process from workshop through certification.

Certification
Upon successful completion of the practicum, you can request certification by submitting the Childbirth Educator Certification Request form with the certification fee to the Specialized Programs Coordinator (SPC).

An evaluation conference will be scheduled with the SPC before you receive your certification. This provides you with an opportunity to go over the practicum, review your client and self-evaluation forms, analyze the program, and discuss whether it met your academic and professional needs. Once the evaluation conference is complete, the certification request can be processed, and if all requirements have been met, a Childbirth Educator Certificate will be issued. Childbirth Educator certification is valid for two years.

Re-certification requires documentation of one series of classes taught during the two year period (self-evaluation journals and parent evaluation forms), 15 hours of documented continuing education (pertinent classes, workshops, lectures, etc.) and the re-certification fee. Re-certification forms are available from the College upon request.

Receiving College Credit for Childbirth Educator program
You may choose to take the Childbirth Educator Workshop for four quarter credit hours. If you choose this route, you will pay the current Birthingway credit cost and will be required to complete additional work. Please see the current registration form for cost.

If taking the workshop for credit, the independent work must be completed before the end of the term in which the course was taught. When you have completed the workshop, and the instructor has evaluated and discussed your independent work with you, particularly your syllabus, you may move on to the practicum if you plan to certify. If you choose to certify, you will have an additional six months in which to complete your practicum. You will still be required to pay the certification fee.

Childbirth Educator Program Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Fee</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment Fee</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-credit Workshop Fee^</td>
<td>$595.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fee</td>
<td>$55.00 per term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Fee</td>
<td>$35.00 per term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification Fee</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-certification Fee</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^Students are also required to purchase a course-pack. Please see registration materials for current course-pack fees.

Excerpt from 2014-15 Student Handbook and Catalog, pages 116-118