

Lactation Consultation Program Goals

- Graduates have basic competency in providing Biodynamic care.
- Graduates are able to use compassionate communication and empathy, and identify feelings and needs.
- Graduates are prepared to be internationally certified by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE).
- Graduates have the opportunity to earn an Associate's Degree.
- To prepare competent entry-level lactation consultants in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains.

Technical Standards for Student Lactation Consultants

A lactation consultation diploma from Birthingway signifies that the holder is prepared to meet the clinical competencies set forth by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE). 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. **Therefore, the following abilities and expectations must be met and maintained, with or without reasonable accommodation, from matriculation through graduation by all lactation students.** Failure to maintain Technical Standards may result in dismissal from the program. Students or applicants who have questions regarding these standards are encouraged to contact the Lactation Program Coordinator.

- You must have sufficient use of the sensory, visual, hearing, and motor systems, and the somatic sensation necessary to manipulate the required equipment, instruments, or tools, and to perform a physical examination.
- You must have the capacity to be able to perform clinical care activities, such as palpation of the breast and newborn palate assessment. A complete list of required skills can be found in our Lactation Program *Clinical Competencies Checklist*.
- You must be able to follow universal precautions against contamination and cross contamination.
- You must be able to work in a safe manner.
- 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 to maintain effective, mature and sensitive relationships with clients, other care providers, colleagues, staff, and faculty.
- You must demonstrate the emotional stability, perseverance, diligence, and consistency necessary to complete the College curriculum and to function in the lactation consultation profession. 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 Lactation Consultation Program

A writing course prerequisite is required for admission into the Lactation Consultation Program. This prerequisite may be in progress at the time of application. However, the prerequisite must be completed and documentation submitted to Birthingway by December 31st. 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. If you are transferring credits using other systems (units, clock hours, etc.), please contact the Lactation Program Coordinator (LPC) for assistance. We do not currently offer a college-level expository writing course at Birthingway.
2. Submit a letter from a college professor to the LPC 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:
 - o College Composition
 - o College Composition Modular

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:
 - o English Language and Composition
 - o English Literature and Composition

You must submit your official scores from AP Services.

Application to the Lactation Consultation Program

Admission to the Lactation Consultation Program is by application. The written application and a non-refundable application fee are due at the College or postmarked no later than the application deadline of **November 1st**. 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 admission process is in compliance with our institutional non-discrimination policy. See [NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY](#).

The completed application includes:

- The completed *Application for Admission to the Lactation Consultation Program* form.
- Response to application essay questions.
- Two letters of recommendation (from people not related to the applicant) sent directly to the College from the references. Fax or e-mail is acceptable provided a mailed copy follows with an original signature.
- Copy of your high school transcript; GED; or other equivalency certificate. High school diplomas are not acceptable.
- Official transcript documenting completion of writing course that meets our requirements.
- Official college transcripts from every college attended.
- Application fee (non-refundable).
- Any outstanding Birthingway account balance must be paid in full.

Applications are screened for completeness. Applicants will be contacted when all information has been received or if more information is needed.

Interview

A personal interview is required as part of the application process. The purpose of the 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. Once we have received your completed application, the Lactation Program Coordinator will contact you to schedule your interview.

Application Evaluation

Applications are evaluated using the following criteria:

- Completeness and clarity of the application.
- Responses to the essay questions on the application, including correct spelling, grammar, and conventions.
- Time available to study, to be available for clinical training, etc.
- Previous life experience which would contribute to the sensitivity and insight a good lactation consultant needs, and which demonstrate initiative, independence, perseverance, and leadership.
- Previous experience as a birth educator, health care provider, and/or breastfeeding peer counselor.
- Previous study in lactation education, including attendance at conferences, workshops, meetings, and reading breastfeeding-related books and journals.
- Feedback from instructors regarding any courses and/or workshops taken at Birthingway before or during the application process.
- Demonstration of ability to successfully complete college-level work.

The selection decision is made in early January. Currently, a small committee consisting of Birthingway staff and current students evaluates each application. Applicants will be notified by letter once a decision is reached.

Enrollment

Birthingway is a small school with limited space. Class size is generally limited to eighteen. Your decision to accept admission to the program is a statement to the Birthingway community of your intent to complete the program and graduate. To emphasize the importance of this decision, Birthingway uses an *Enrollment Agreement*. The *Enrollment Agreement*, along with the one-time enrollment fee, must be returned to Birthingway by the enrollment deadline or it will be assumed that you have declined our offer of admission. Your space will be offered to an applicant on the waiting list.

Registration announcements will be emailed to your birthingway.edu email address, which you will receive shortly after we have received your completed enrollment paperwork and payment. Registration materials are available on our website. New students must register by the registration deadline of spring term. If you have not registered by the registration deadline, Birthingway will assume you are not going to register and will invite the next person on the waiting list to fill your position.

Orientation and Matriculation

The Lactation Consultation student orientation occurs during the first week of spring term. **All Lactation Consultation students are required to attend.** New students will be provided with a copy of the *Student Handbook and Catalog* and will be oriented to the facilities, policies, and procedures of the College. Continuing students will be informed of any changes in policies and procedures, and be given the opportunity to provide feedback on the program.

You must attend the new student orientation during the first week of spring term to be considered matriculated. If unable to attend the orientation due to an emergency, you **MUST** contact the College and inform the Lactation Program Coordinator that you will not be attending. If you enroll and register but fail to attend orientation, you will be withdrawn from the program. Tuition and fees will be refunded per policy. Your place will be offered to the next applicant on the admissions waiting list. See [*REFUND POLICY*](#).