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, with or without reasonable accommodation, 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 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 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, 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 follow universal precautions against contamination and cross contamination.
- You must be able to work in a safe manner and 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 to maintain effective, mature and sensitive relationships with clients, midwives, other care providers, colleagues, staff, and faculty.
- You must demonstrate the emotional stability, perseverance, diligence, and consistency necessary to complete the midwifery school curriculum and to function in the midwifery 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 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/three semester credits or equivalent as determined by Birthingway.
- 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 and an equivalency must be determined by Birthingway.
• Note: Where this course is taken and how it is structured (with a lab or no lab) may impact your options for advanced studies after Birthingway. Please contact the Midwifery Program Coordinator for more information.

Labor Doula Workshop
• Birthingway's workshop, *The Labor Doula: Assisting Women with Birth*, meets our requirements. In addition, other approved labor doula programs include 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.

Medical Terminology
• Must be a minimum of one quarter credit or equivalent as determined by Birthingway.
• Must have been taken at an accredited post-secondary institution, with a final grade of at least 3.0 (B).
• On a case-by-case basis, we will evaluate professional experience as an equivalency.

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:
   • College Composition
   • 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:
   • 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 15th**. 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.

For reapplicants who have been previously admitted to the Midwifery Program, see **PROGRAM REAPPLICATION**.

Birthingway's admission process is in compliance with our institutional non-discrimination policy. See **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**.
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.*
- Official transcript documenting completion of a Medical Terminology 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 and will be notified if more information is needed. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Midwifery Program Coordinator to be sure their application is complete.

2. Interview
The purpose of the personal interview is 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.

3. Meet and Greet
A Meet and Greet reception is held during the day on the third Friday in November each year. All applicants and 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 will 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.
- Demonstration of knowledge of perinatal care providers.
- 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.

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.

Enrollment
Birthingway has extremely limited space in the Midwifery Program. Core 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.

You will be asked to designate which credential you are seeking (Certificate in Midwifery or Bachelor of Science in Midwifery) on the Enrollment Agreement. We strongly encourage you to contact the Midwifery Program Coordinator to discuss your educational goals, and to meet with the Financial Aid Office to discuss how the credential you seek may impact your financial aid package (if applicable). Please note that you are welcome to change the credential you are seeking at any time during the program, but you will be expected to complete additional paperwork in order to do so.

Registration announcements will be emailed to your birthingway.edu email address, which you will receive shortly after we’ve received your completed enrollment paperwork and payment. Registration materials are available on our website. New students must register for all first year spring core courses, at a minimum, by the spring term registration deadline. 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.