

## **Advanced Practice Nursing Master's Degree Option: Nurse-Midwifery (49 credits)**

Designed to prepare scholarly, clinically specialized nurses who will function at an advanced level of practice as nurse-midwives. Graduates will be prepared for independent management of newborns and women during the antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum periods, and for primary care throughout the life span. Nurse-midwifery practice occurs within the context of an interdependent collaborative health care system.

The Marquette University Nurse-Midwifery Program has been in place since 1993 and has been re-accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education, (ACME), formerly the ACNM Division of Accreditation. [For accreditation information, contact ACME at 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1550, Silver Spring MD, 20910-6374, (240) 485-1800.]

Upon successful completion of the program, demonstrating all the professional core competencies, the graduate will be academically eligible to take the national certification examination of the American Midwifery Certification Board [849 International Drive, Suite 205, Linthicum, MD. 21090, (866) 366-9632].

Review the application requirements closely. There are unique requirements for those who have BSN degrees and are entering the MSN Program and for those who do not hold a nursing degree but have completed bachelor's degrees in other fields (*MSN Program for Non-Nursing Graduates*, also called *Direct Entry*). Both are detailed on the College of Nursing website under Academic Programs [<http://www.marquette.edu/nursing/Academic/Graduate.shtml#MasterOfScienceNursingMSN>]

The online application form to be used is available through the Graduate School website [<https://marquette-grad.gotoextinguisher.com/application/login/>]. These applications are due by February 15, for priority review for Fall admission. Applications for financial aid from the College of Nursing are also due by that date.

For a more specific information about the Nurse-Midwifery Program, please see frequently asked questions [[FAQ included below](#)]. You may also contact Karen Nest [[karen.nest@mu.edu](mailto:karen.nest@mu.edu)], Graduate Program Assistant, for specific questions about the application process, admission requirements, or to request an information packet. For general information about the nurse-midwifery profession and education, contact the American College of Nurse-Midwives [[www.midwife.org](http://www.midwife.org)]. After reviewing these resources, if you have questions remaining, you may contact Dr. Lisa Hanson, Associate Professor and Program Clinical Director [[lisa.hanson@mu.edu](mailto:lisa.hanson@mu.edu)].

## Curriculum

The Master of Science in Nursing degree in the Nurse-Midwifery Program option requires 49 credit hours of course work, which may be completed on a full- or part-time basis.

### Courses – 12 credits

- Nurs 6000 Theoretical Foundations of Nursing
- Nurs 6007 Ethics in Health Care
- Nurs 6009 Creating Nursing Care Systems
- Nurs 6010 Nursing Research Design & Methodology

### Foundation Courses – 12 credits

- Nurs 6030 Pathophysiological Concepts for Advanced Nursing Practice<sup>+</sup>
- Nurs 6032 Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice Nurse<sup>+</sup>
- Nurs 6035 Advanced Health Assessment<sup>+</sup>
- Nurs 6037 Management of Episodic Health Problems<sup>+</sup>

### Specialty Courses – 25 credits

- Nurs 6740 Advanced Concepts in Women's Health Care Management across the Life Span<sup>\*+</sup>
- Nurs 6742 Advanced Concepts in Antepartum Management<sup>\*+</sup>
- Nurs 6744 Advanced Concepts in Postpartum and Newborn Management<sup>\*+</sup>
- Nurs 6752 Nurse-Midwifery Care During Labor and Birth<sup>\*+</sup>
- Nurs 6753 Advanced Practicum in Nurse-Midwifery<sup>\*+</sup>
- Nurs 6746 Professional Issues in APN/DNP Practice<sup>+</sup>

\*Includes practicum

+Post Master's courses, if no previous course equivalent

## Nurse-Midwifery Program Frequently Asked Questions

### ***I think I want to be a nurse-midwife. How can I be sure that's the right field for me?***

We suggest you start by exploring the American College of Nurse-Midwives' web site, [www.midwife.org](http://www.midwife.org). If there are certified nurse-midwives in your area, we recommend you contact them and seek an opportunity to observe them in practice. Nurse-midwives have the satisfaction of caring for women throughout the lifespan and are considered specialists in women's health. Midwifery often requires long, irregular hours of work, but it can be a very fulfilling career. Becoming a nurse-midwife requires academic ability in both the sciences and 'people-oriented' subjects. It takes determination to complete the rigorous program of study.

If you wish to meet the nurse-midwifery faculty to discuss the profession further, they generally hold an open house in early December. If you wish to be invited, you will need to send an e-mail to Dr. Lisa Hanson [[lisa.hanson@mu.edu](mailto:lisa.hanson@mu.edu)]. Remember to include all your contact information.

***I live far from Milwaukee. How much of the coursework is on-line?***

The Nurse-Midwifery Program is partially on-line. The program includes 8 core and foundational MSN courses and 6 nurse-midwifery specialty courses. Currently, many of the MSN core and foundational courses are scheduled on the Marquette campus once a week, usually on Mondays, Tuesdays, and/or Wednesdays. The Midwifery courses are scheduled on campus 4-6 times a semester, depending on the course. There are also many clinical hours that occur in the practicum courses. The remaining nurse-midwifery specialty coursework is completed on-line on a weekly basis, with required non-textbook readings accessible through the Raynor Library website. On-line learning software allows you to remain at home, access course materials, and interact with your classmates and professors via web-based classroom discussions in a format that is easy to use and rewarding to experience.

***Where do students do their clinical training?***

Nurse-midwifery students generally do clinical work at various nurse-midwifery practices in Wisconsin and northern Illinois. While some student nurse-midwives (SNMs) do part of their clinical training in the Milwaukee area or near their homes, all students should plan on traveling to gain clinical experiences during the course of the program. Participating in clinical in a variety of settings enables our students to gain exposure to rich learning experiences. Our wide geographic network of clinical settings and our online coursework offerings make distance learning possible for students. We schedule clinical practica with consideration of SNMs' competencies, class requirements, the unique characteristics of each nurse-midwifery service, and preceptor faculty time availability.

***What academic background do I need for the Nurse-Midwifery Program?***

Everyone entering the nurse-midwifery program must be a nurse. However, there are unique requirements for those entering the MSN program with BSN degrees and those who have completed bachelor's degrees in other fields but need to become nurses (*MSN Program for Non-Nursing Graduates*, also called *Direct Entry*). They are explained on the College of Nursing website under Academic Programs

[\[http://www.marquette.edu/nursing/Academic/Graduate.shtml#MasterOfScienceNursingMSN\]](http://www.marquette.edu/nursing/Academic/Graduate.shtml#MasterOfScienceNursingMSN)

***I have earned a Master's degree in Nursing already. Can I do a post-master's program in Midwifery?***

Yes. The actual number of classes you take will depend on what courses were included in your Master's program. Your program plan will be individualized. We invite you to discuss this informally with the Nurse-Midwifery Program Director [[leona.vandevusse@mu.edu](mailto:leona.vandevusse@mu.edu)] by contacting her to set an appointment to which you will need to bring your transcript(s).

***Do I need work experience as a registered nurse to qualify for the Nurse-Midwifery Program?***

It is strongly recommended, but not required, that you have at least one year of related nursing experience. When we admit program candidates who do not have this experience, we strongly encourage them to seek employment as RNs in labor and delivery settings as soon as possible. This allows them to gain essential experience while they are students in our program. If students do not obtain employment in Labor and Delivery, they will be required to take a clinically oriented independent study for up to 3 credits that provides basic intrapartum knowledge and skill development. This course is offered as needed between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> clinical years of the program.

***Do I need to be a licensed RN before applying to the Nurse-Midwifery Program?***

If you are in your last year of nursing school, or have recently graduated, you may apply now. A Wisconsin nursing license is required before a student can begin clinical experiences in the Nurse-Midwifery Program. It is possible to be admitted to the program contingent on passing the NCLEX-RN licensing examination, for which you will need to provide documentation.

### ***How long is the Nurse-Midwifery Program?***

The NMP contains 49 credits. The full time program can be completed over an intensive two-year period. A three-year plan, with some part-time study, is considered optimal. You may spread the earlier courses over 2 or even 3 years. In the final program year, you would need to attend full time to complete your studies due to significant clinical time.

### ***How should I decide whether to attend full time or part time?***

It is important for you to consider all aspects of your life, including work and family when making this decision. You also need to consider how you will finance your degree program. Financial aid is available to eligible students. Full-time students may be eligible for more financial aid opportunities than part-time students. Marquette defines full time attendance as a minimum of 7 graduate credits per semester. Class size can also be a limiting factor in the number of admissions each year. If one clinical class is full, we will work with you to see if you can be admitted into the clinical sequence beginning the next year. There is no way to predict future class sizes; the discussion only occurs with those prospective students who have completed their applications and are being interviewed for possible admission.

### ***Tell me more about Class Schedules***

Students need to plan to come to the Marquette campus several days per week and also be available for significant clinical time that increases progressively throughout the final two years of the program. We attempt to cluster days that SNMs need to be on campus when possible.

### ***I will have a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree by the end of summer, but I won't have taken one of the three prerequisite courses, Physical Assessment, Nursing Research, and Statistics, including Inferential, by that time. Could I apply anyway, and take my last prerequisite class during my first semester at Marquette?***

If you are enrolled in the Nurse-Midwifery Program as a part-time student, you could take this final prerequisite class during your first semester in the program. Please state on your application that this is what you would like to do. You will have to be admitted on a contingent basis until you have completed the course and submitted the official transcript. Students enrolled in the Nurse-Midwifery Program full time normally carry 12 graduate credits of coursework. There simply is no time for them to take an additional 3-credit prerequisite course.

### ***I am an international student. Do I need to demonstrate my proficiency in English?***

Yes. Beyond Wisconsin licensure, there are other requirements. For more information, please refer to Marquette University's Graduate School web site on the topic:

[[http://www.marquette.edu/grad/future\\_intl.shtml](http://www.marquette.edu/grad/future_intl.shtml)]

### ***I won't have time to apply for the Midwifery Program starting this fall. Could I apply to Marquette as a non-degree student, take Master's of Science in Nursing core courses now, and apply for the Midwifery Program for the following year?***

It may not be to your advantage to take many courses before being admitted. Taking courses as a non-degree student does not guarantee admission. You need to go through the whole admission process to become eligible for the specialty classes and clinical work. The University also discourages earning many credits non-degree.