

Information Regarding Midwifery Students

Having a student involved in your pregnancy and birth experiences can be extremely rewarding. Not only do you benefit from your student's knowledge, enthusiasm and consideration, but you may also have the satisfaction of helping to further the growth of quality midwifery services in Ontario. Many women feel their care is enhanced by the extra-personal attention a student can provide.

Your student is _____ from **McMaster University** Level _____
Ryerson University
Laurentian University

She will be with us from _____ to _____.

Normal Childbearing

This is a student's first exposure to hands-on midwifery practice. Your student will initially observe and then begin to participate in antenatal and postnatal appointments, labours and births, in order to understand the midwife's role as well as basic clinical skills. Your student may take your blood pressure, draw blood, listen to the fetal heartbeat, provide comfort measures to you in labour and may assist your midwife with your birth as well as newborn assessments. They have completed a minimum of two years of university study. A normal childbearing student is always under the direct supervision of their preceptor.

As the placement progresses, your student learns to manage normal pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum circumstances. Your student will gradually take more responsibility for management decisions. With your permission, your student will conduct the delivery of your child under direct supervision of your midwife. When emergency situations arise, your student will assist your midwife in dealing with these. Your student will begin to take and answer your "pages", always in communications with your midwife. By the end of the placement, your student has the skills needed to act as the primary midwife for normal pregnancy, birth and postpartum care, and is beginning to learn the role of the second/back-up midwife by observation and selective participation.

Midwifery Care III

By now your student has completed 5 months of intensive clinical placements in midwifery practices, and has spent a month working with an obstetrician, a month working with nurses on a labour and delivery unit, and a month working in community health or an international midwifery practice. He or she is now experienced in the role of primary midwife for normal prenatal, childbirth and postpartum care for you and your baby. Your student may conduct some of your appointments in the clinic independently with their preceptor nearby, and may also attend one postpartum home visit alone. Your student is beginning to learn how to organize and plan your care as well as how consultations with other health care professionals are done when circumstances deviate from normal. He/she will also be participating more actively in the role of the second/back-up midwife. All student decisions and actions are overseen and reviewed by their preceptor.

Midwifery Care IV

Your student is now qualified to act as either your primary or second/back-up midwife, to conduct most of your prenatal and postnatal care, including when situations deviate from normal. He/she consults with their preceptor as needed. Your student may perform the role of the back-up midwife independently for hospital births and do one postpartum visit alone. Your student is responsible for managing your care and making plans of care with you, always in consultation with your midwife. Your student has now been trained to handle emergency situations and will do so as they arise, under the supervision of their preceptor.

Clerkship

This is the final four months of training for student midwives. Your student is expected to act as your primary or second/back-up midwife in all aspects of prenatal care, childbirth and postpartum care, including emergency situations. Your student will independently manage your care, with appropriate supervision and evaluation by their preceptor.