

Postgraduate Diploma of Midwifery



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Introduction

Charles Sturt University's Postgraduate Diploma of Midwifery is unique as it is designed to allow registered nurses to gain clinical practice working in a maternity unit for 12 months with the theoretical component studied concurrently by distance education. Upon successful completion of the two components (clinical practice and academic study), students are eligible to apply for registration as a midwife with the Nurses and Midwives Board of NSW (NMB NSW). Students studying interstate then apply for reciprocal registration in their state.

Studying by distance education allows registered nurses in smaller rural midwifery units to remain in their home environment while completing their qualification. The course is also popular with students working in city hospitals.

Registered nurses must negotiate a position in a maternity unit of their choice. This unit is required to be accredited by the University as a partnership hospital for the purposes of midwifery education.

Registered midwives applying to study CSU's Postgraduate Diploma of Midwifery will not be required to complete any practical component of the course or attend residential schools.

Entry requirements

Applicants are required to be registered nurses, currently registered with the Nurses and Midwives Board of NSW (NMB NSW) or interstate equivalent.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to first seek employment as a student midwife in a hospital with a maternity unit accredited by the University as a partnership hospital.

Course information

The Postgraduate Diploma of Midwifery, offered by distance education, is designed to combine study with 12 months' work in a clinical midwifery setting. Entry into the course is available in February or June.

The course includes:

- six subjects of study over 12 months (see subject descriptions on following pages).
- an opportunity for maternity units to select their own students and provide them with 0.8 or full-time employment as a student midwife
- the allocation of minimum clinical hours for each midwifery setting:
 - birthing: 16 weeks
 - special care nursery: 8 weeks
 - postnatal care: 10 weeks
 - antenatal care: 8 weeks
- two compulsory residential schools at Charles Sturt University's Wagga Wagga Campus.



Course structure

Session 1

- MID441 Midwifery Studies 1 (8 points)
- MID452 Issues in Midwifery (8 points)
- MID440 Midwifery Practice (8 points commenced)

Session 2

- MID442 Midwifery Studies 2 (8 points)
- MID524 Contemporary Midwifery Practice (8 points)
- MID440 Midwifery Practice (continued)

Summer session

- MID525 Midwifery in Context (8 points)
- MID440 Midwifery Practice (continued)

Subject descriptions

MID441 Midwifery Studies 1

This subject focuses on the care required for a woman experiencing a 'normal' pregnancy, labour and birth, postnatal and newborn period. The subject uses a woman-centered, evidence-based approach. The introduction to this subject includes a discussion of the history of midwifery. Clinical requirements experienced concurrently will enhance the student's application of learning.

MID440 Midwifery Practice

This three-session subject is the compulsory clinical component of the midwifery course. The student must be working in an accredited midwifery unit for a 12-month period while enrolled in this subject. Essential and desirable minimum midwifery experience as identified by the Nurses and Midwives Board of NSW must be achieved for the student to be eligible to apply for registration as a midwife. Achievement of these midwifery skills is recorded, assessed and reflected upon in this subject. The student is also required to critically examine issues that can affect the delivery of midwifery care.

MID442 Midwifery Studies 2

As its main focus, this subject studies the midwifery care of the childbearing woman who may experience complications during her pregnancy, labour/birth or the postnatal period. Students will also study the midwifery care of sick newborns as well as the care of the family who have experienced a stillbirth or newborn death.

MID452 Issues in Midwifery

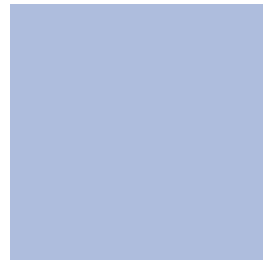
This subject aims to provide students with a philosophical, theoretical and practical overview of issues relating to midwifery practice. Students will be encouraged to explore the literature and reflect on their practise as a midwife to gain an understanding of the extended role of the midwife in relation to these practice issues.

MID524 Contemporary Midwifery Practice

This subject provides the student with the opportunity to explore emerging topics that impinge on midwifery practice. Topics such as evidence-based practice, health promotion and complementary therapies will be examined and students will be encouraged to apply this knowledge to their practice as a midwife.

MID525 Midwifery in Context

Students who study this subject will examine the contexts in which midwifery care is delivered. As midwives, they will gain an understanding of both a rural and metropolitan context and how these contexts can impact on midwifery care. Additionally, the students will explore midwifery from a feminist and primary healthcare perspective and critically appraise their practise accordingly.



Fees and charges

Course fees are subsidised through the Commonwealth Grants Scheme. A general fee is charged for each subject in the course. This fee covers tuition, resource material and statutory charges including government, student and library fees. The fee does not cover textbooks or accommodation at residential schools.

Scholarships

Information on scholarships is available from CSU's Scholarships website: **www.csu.edu.au/student/scholarships** or from the following sources:

- Australian College of Midwives Inc.
- NSW Department of Health
- NSW Midwives Association
- NSW Nurses Association
- Nurses and Midwives Board of NSW
- Royal College of Nursing Australia

About the Course Coordinator

Course Coordinator Dr Elaine Dietsch has extensive midwifery and nursing clinical experience in rural maternity units, community health centres and as a midwifery consultant with Birth International. Elaine has the privilege of working as a midwife, early childhood nurse and in women's and sexual health in Australia, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo each year.

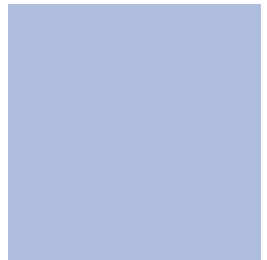
"As midwifery academics in CSU's School of Nursing and Midwifery, it is essential we maintain our 'hands-on' midwifery skills and commit to attending a minimum of 20 clinical days per year. My clinical midwifery involves working primarily with the women and young Congolese girls who have survived sexual assault and torture in this beautiful but war-ravaged country."

Dr Elaine Dietsch
Course Coordinator, Postgraduate Diploma of Midwifery

Student testimonial

"Engaging in postgraduate studies has been one of the best decisions I've ever made. Distance education gives me the opportunity to study from home and the online forums provide a great way to share ideas with other students. I encourage anyone interested in pursuing a career in midwifery to consider this one-year postgraduate degree. It's lots of work and long hours, but it's not hard when you're doing what you love."

Carlie Davis
Postgraduate Diploma of Midwifery



CONTACTS



For more information about courses available and how to apply, please contact info.csu:

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Email: inquiry@csu.edu.au

Web inquiry: www.csu.edu.au/study/inquiry

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This publication is intended as a general guide. Information in this publication is current as at August 2008. Prospective students should contact the University to confirm admission requirements and availability of courses. The University reserves the right to alter any course or admission requirement herein without prior notice.

The Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) Provider Numbers for Charles Sturt University are 00005F (NSW), 01947G (VIC) and 02960B (ACT).

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