

SDSU Nurse-Midwifery Program Purpose/Mission

The purpose of the SDSU Nurse-Midwifery Master's program is to offer registered nurses an educational option in graduate nursing which will prepare them according to the conceptual definition put forth by the American College of Nurse-Midwives, as nurse-midwives who will utilize (holistic) physiological, pathophysiological, psychosocial and nursing and nurse-midwifery knowledge to care for women and their families throughout the women's lifespan including childbirth. The graduate will be skilled in the assessment of the childbearing woman, gynecological, primary, family planning and well-woman care, the newborn, and the family and will demonstrate advanced competency in nursing and nurse-midwifery management.

The purpose of the SDSU Nurse-Midwifery Education program is to ensure that each graduate has achieved the core competencies for basic midwifery, understands the scope of midwifery practice and comprehends and utilizes the Standards for the Practice of Midwifery, the Code of Ethics and the ACNM Statement of Philosophy in the provision of nurse-midwifery care.

SDSU Nurse-Midwifery Philosophy

The role of the nurse-midwife is based primarily on the concept of care of the woman (person) during the lifespan and childbearing cycle, within the family unit. The family can be defined as a unit of interacting persons whose central purpose is to create, maintain, and promote the social, mental, physical and emotional well-being of each of its members. The nurse-midwives goal is to provide to every woman the right to personalized health care including family health education. Along with high-quality physical care there must be recognition of psychological needs and the formulation and institution of measures to meet them via anticipatory guidance and family health education.

The nurse-midwifery role is defined by the American College of Nurse-Midwives and reflects the core competencies established by the ACNM including antepartum, intrapartum, postpartum, newborn and gynecological /well woman care, and occurs within a health care system. Within this health care system, the nurse-midwife will provide opportunities which will guide the family in having a quality birth experience, satisfaction in nurturing the newborn, self-mastery in family planning and well-woman care, and support to help the family unit form rewarding parenting relationships in their appropriate cultural setting.

The nurse-midwife is educated in two disciplines, that of nursing and midwifery. This education is based upon theoretical preparation in the sciences and clinical preparation for the judgment and skills necessary for the individualized care of essentially normal women and newborns.

The practitioner is accountable for the care delivered to the client and thus recognizes the need for interdependence with other primary care professionals if comprehensive care is to be provided. This interdependence involves physicians and other health care professionals whose skills are significantly contributive to the primary care of the family unit.

The major practice site for the Nurse-Midwife may be the private office, community clinic, or ambulatory care center, as well as the home, birth center and hospital. The role of the practitioner in these settings will vary, but may include independent management and care of such activities as complete assessment, provision of direct care, or consultation, collaboration, referral, or co-management with health professionals in these settings to insure continuity and coordination of care.

The nurse-midwife is also a professional who remains abreast of relevant knowledge and evidence-based practice and skills through education, review of the literature and systematic inquiry. As a leader within the profession, the nurse-midwife engages in and utilizes relevant research findings and theory as a basis for evidence-based practice and contributes to the knowledge of colleagues through peer review, publication, or verbal communication methods. Finally, the nurse-midwife engages in issues relevant to the profession, the community, the state, and the nation, which may affect or enhance the status of health care.

SDSU Nurse-Midwifery Program Outcomes/Objectives

The program objectives are derived from the philosophy and the purpose of the program. They describe the expected behaviors of the nurse-midwife graduate as an independent specialist who is prepared to function as a leader and clinician in both service and educational settings. The faculty has adopted the following outcomes/objectives:

The nurse-midwife will, at the completion of the program, be able to:

- Determine the primary care needs of women and their families.
- Make decisions with the family based on the family as the unit for care.
- Collaborate, consult and co-manage with physicians and other health professionals in providing nurse-midwifery care.
- Intervene by assisting the woman and her family to meet their health care needs.
- Evaluate the outcome of care with the woman and her family.
- Implement the role of the nurse-midwife in a variety of practice settings.
- Utilize relevant research findings and theory as a basis for evidence-based practice in providing nurse-midwifery care.
- Facilitate change in the delivery of health care.
- Demonstrate sensitivity to the effect of culture and ethnic background on health and childbirth issues.
- Submit his or her practice to the scrutiny of quality management/peer review

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