

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Midwifery
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Nursing and Midwifery Council
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Midwifery
Named Exit Awards	BSc Healthcare Studies DipHE Healthcare Studies CertHE Healthcare Studies
Entry Requirements ⁴	<p>Standard entry for the BSc (Hons) Midwifery are: 112 UCAS tariff points: BBC (A-Level), DDM (BTEC), Access to HE Diploma 45 credits at Merit Level or above.</p> <p>Applicants also need three GCSE grades (4-9/ C-A* or equivalent) to include Mathematics, English and Science. For applicants whose first language is not English, but who have been living in the UK for less than two years (or have not lived in the UK at all), we accept IELTS 7.0 with a minimum score of 6.5 in each component.</p> <p>Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is not permitted for pre-registration midwifery programmes.</p> <p>All students also need: Enhanced DBS Clearance Occupational Health Check Two satisfactory references</p>
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	BSc (Hons) Midwifery

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

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This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Midwifery course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2026-27 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

This course prepares students to become safe, reflective and autonomous midwives, equipped with the knowledge, skills and professional values required to provide high-quality, evidence-based care for women, birthing people, babies and families across diverse and increasingly complex maternity and community settings. On successful completion, graduates are eligible to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as a midwife.

The programme is fully aligned with the *NMC Standards of Proficiency for Midwives* and the *Standards for Pre-registration Midwifery Programmes* (NMC, 2023) and is informed by the strategic direction set out in the *NHS Fit for the Future: 10-Year Health Plan for England* (NHS England, 2025). In particular, the curriculum reflects three core priorities underpinning the future of maternity and healthcare delivery: prevention and public health, digital transformation, and a shift from hospital-centred to integrated, community-based and interdisciplinary care.

Public health and prevention form a longitudinal spine of the curriculum rather than a discrete area of study. Students are supported to understand midwifery as a key public health profession, with responsibility for reducing health inequalities and promoting wellbeing across the reproductive life course. Public health principles, prevention, population health, and the social determinants of health are embedded across all levels of the programme, enabling students to develop the knowledge and skills required to support women and families from pre-pregnancy through pregnancy, birth, the postnatal period and early infancy, and to recognise the long-term impact of maternity care on individual, family and population outcomes. This approach reflects contemporary evidence and policy emphasising the central role of maternity services in prevention and early intervention (WHO, 2019; NHS England, 2025).

The course also reflects the **analogue-to-digital transformation** of maternity services and higher education. Students develop digital and technological literacy progressively throughout the programme, using systems that mirror contemporary practice environments. Digital platforms are integral to learning, teaching, assessment and practice supervision, including the use of the electronic Midwifery Ongoing Record of Achievement (eMORA), virtual learning environments, simulation technologies, and digitally supported assessment and feedback processes. Simulation-based learning is used extensively to support clinical decision-making, emergency preparedness, communication and leadership, enabling students to rehearse complex scenarios safely while developing confidence and professional judgement. This prepares graduates to work effectively within digitally enabled maternity services and to adapt to ongoing technological change.

The curriculum is designed to support the shift from **hospital-centred to community-focused and interdisciplinary care**, reflecting current service models and workforce priorities. Interdisciplinary learning is embedded from the outset, beginning with values-based recruitment processes undertaken alongside other health professions, and continuing through shared learning activities, simulation, mandatory training and practice learning. Students learn with and from professionals across nursing, medicine, allied health and wider health and social

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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care, developing an understanding of professional roles, boundaries and collaborative working. Practice learning is structured to expose students to a wide range of settings through hub-and-spoke models, specialist placements and community-based care, enabling them to appreciate care pathways that extend beyond the acute hospital environment. Opportunities for elective and alternative placements further support students to understand leadership, service organisation and care delivery across different maternity contexts.

The programme is delivered through an equal balance of theory (50%) and practice learning (50%), in line with NMC requirements, and is structured using a block and blend model and a spiral curriculum approach. Core concepts such as public health, physiology, leadership, ethics, research and evidence-based practice are revisited with increasing depth and complexity across the programme, supporting the development of clinical reasoning, professional judgement and autonomy.

The design and ongoing development of the course are informed by close collaboration between the University of Suffolk, students, practice partners and service users. This partnership approach ensures the curriculum remains responsive to changes in maternity services, workforce needs and service user priorities, while maintaining academic rigour, inclusivity and regulatory compliance.

Graduates of the programme will be prepared to practise as accountable midwives who can promote public health and prevention, work confidently within digitally enabled services, collaborate effectively across professional and organisational boundaries, and contribute to the improvement and transformation of maternity care locally and nationally. The course also provides a strong foundation for future career development in clinical practice, leadership, education, research, management and policy roles within maternity and women's health.

Course Aims

In providing this course, the University and course team aim to:

1. Enable students to critically analyse and embody the professional, legal, and ethical responsibilities of the midwife, demonstrating accountability and collaborative leadership in all care settings (Mapped to NMC Domain 1 & 5).
2. Develop the capability to deliver and evaluate holistic, safe, and equitable midwifery care across the childbearing continuum, integrating diverse models of care, health promotion, and responsive public health practice (Mapped to NMC Domain 2 & 3).
3. Foster a deep, critical understanding of human anatomy and physiology in pregnancy, birth, and postnatal care, equipping students to optimise physiology, where appropriate, and to respond to evolving clinical pictures (Mapped to NMC Domain 3 & 4).
4. Support students in becoming reflective and enquiring midwives who apply evidence, engage with research, and contribute to continuous quality improvement and innovation in midwifery care (Mapped to NMC Domain 5).
5. Encourage a commitment to lifelong learning and professional development, including mentorship, education, leadership, and sustainability within maternity care systems (Mapped to NMC Domain 5 & 6).
6. Ensure students can safely and competently apply a broad range of midwifery skills, making nuanced clinical decisions grounded in evidence to meet the needs of women and newborns (Mapped to NMC Domain 6).

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Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Midwifery course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

Level	Programme Learning Outcomes	Domain
6	1. Critically analyse the evidence to support decisions made as a lead professional in midwifery care, applying legal and ethical principles of midwifery practice and demonstrating accountability across the childbearing continuum	1
6	2. Provide safe, autonomous and personalised midwifery care through the promotion of continuity of care and carer to meet the holistic needs of women, birthing people and their families	1 & 2
6	3. Build effective, trusting and inclusive relationships to support informed decision making with women, birthing people, families and colleagues	2 & 3
6	4. Synthesize knowledge of physiology, pathology, genomics and epigenetics to optimise outcomes for women, birthing people and newborns.	3
6	5. Recognise and assess additional care needs to plan and deliver care whilst promoting physiological processes to optimise outcomes.	4
6	6. To create and champion inclusive and equitable care that considers the diverse range of lived experiences	4
6	7. Value effective communication, leadership, teamwork, and advocacy to support collaborative working within interprofessional teams across diverse settings	5
6	8. Influence and enhance the quality, safety, and sustainability of maternity care at individual, local, and global levels	5
6	9. Apply critical thinking and research-informed practice to advance midwifery as a scholarly and politically active profession	5
6	10. Apply and continually refine practical skills through reflective practice, self-development and a commitment to lifelong learning to meet the changing needs of women, birthing people, newborns and families across diverse settings	6
6	11. Apply a life course approach to midwifery care, demonstrating an understanding of determinants of health and barriers to care, drawing on public health principles to promote outcomes and tackle inequity.	2 & 3

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards - Nursing and Midwifery Council:

Part 1: NMC Standards for Nursing and Midwifery Education (2018a)

Part 2: NMC Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment (2018b)

Part 3: NMC (2023) Standards for Pre-registration Midwifery Programmes

NMC (2019) Standards of Proficiency for Midwives

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Midwifery comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 4			
	Professional Midwifery Foundations	30	M
	Anatomy and Physiology in Childbearing	30	M
	Foundations of Public Health in Midwifery	30	M
	Practice 1: Participating in Clinical Midwifery	30	M
Level 5			
	Evidence-Based Midwifery Practice	30	M
	Additional Care in Childbearing	30	M
	Advanced Public Health in Midwifery	30	M
	Practice 2: Contributing to Midwifery Care	30	M
Level 6			
	Midwifery Scholarship and Professional Practice	30	M
	Applied Physiology for Complex Midwifery Care	30	M
	Leadership in Midwifery Care	30	M
	Practice 3: The Proficient Midwife	30	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Midwifery. If you leave the course early, you may be eligible for the exit award BSc Healthcare Studies on successful completion of at least 300 credits at level 4 or above, with at least 180 credits at level 5 or above, and at least 60 credits at level 6. Students who complete 240 academic credits, including all mandatory modules levels 4 and 5, may be eligible for a DipHE Healthcare Studies. Students who complete 120 academic credits including all mandatory modules at level 4 may be eligible for a CertHE Healthcare Studies.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich campus. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons)

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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Midwifery are likely to have approximately 360 tutor structured learning hours for level 4, 288 tutor structured learning hours for level 5 and 216 tutor structured learning hours for level 6. Tutor structured learning will be a mix of lecture, seminar, practical activity and students will also be required to participate in 2,362.5 hours of work placement across a range of local hospital and community placements. Placements will be arranged by the University and students will be allocated to a main trust for the duration of the course, although they will have an additional placement experience in another unit. This is as per standard 3.6 (NMC, 2023), which calls for students to experience leadership and teamworking within a different maternity provider. Students will normally be expected to undertake 10 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course will be a combination of written, verbal and simulated assessments.

Special Features

On successful completion of the BSc (Hons) Midwifery students are eligible for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. You must register your qualification with the NMC within five years to practise as a midwife. Failure to do so will mean you need to undertake further education and training to practise in the UK.

This course is delivered in partnership with four local NHS Trusts (5 Hospitals) across the East of England region.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute and are registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Midwifery will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,535 per year
Full-time EU/International	£18,380 per year

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students will be required to pay for their DBS check and a small ID check and processing fee; additional fees may be incurred upon a student returning from a period of intercalation. The cost of DBS checks can be found on the [DBS page of the University of Suffolk website](#). Students are likely to incur other costs for learning materials such as printing, books and stationery. Students may be eligible to claim for travel and car parking costs whilst on placement; however, these are paid retrospectively.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).