

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BSc (Hons) Midwifery [shortened]
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	Approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 5: 60 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits Plus advanced standing of 120 credits at level 5 (adult nursing) or 120 credits at level 4 (adult nursing) and equivalent of 60 credits at level 5 (of recent study)
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	21 months full-time
Intended Award	BSc (Hons) Midwifery
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	Typical Offer: Current NMC registration as a nurse level 1 (adult) Diploma level Nursing (Adult) or evidence of recent study equivalent to 60 level 5 credits (a portfolio of evidence will be required) A minimum of 6 months full-time (or equivalent) post-registration experience within the last 2 years Subject to a selection day Any offer of a place will be subject to a satisfactory health check and enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check undertaken in accordance with regulations of the Nursing and Midwifery Council and faculty policies
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Midwifery [shortened] course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2017-18 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

This course provides an exciting opportunity to equip midwives for preparation for practice in the second decade of the 21st century where they will be working with increasing levels of clinical and technological complexity and more diverse populations.

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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](#)

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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This course will enable students to acquire appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes to affect safe and high quality maternity care for all women and their partners. It will also equip them to develop interpersonal and negotiation skills that can be utilised within a range of multidisciplinary settings to improve choice, access and continuity of care for childbearing women and their families. This is supported by recent research into women's experiences of maternity care which identified good communication, support, involving women in their care and being treated with respect, dignity and kindness, as factors which contributed to a positive experience (Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection, 2007).

Students will be encouraged throughout their course in the effective use of theory in practice and the use of practice to inform theory. The integration of academic study and practice-based learning will facilitate the concept of lifelong learning and reflection, to support best practice and the maintenance of professional standards. Students will be facilitated to apply and link the theoretical constructs to practice and develop the skills of critical analysis, appraisal, synthesis and evaluation to their learning and so be empowered to question midwifery practices with assertion and confidence.

The contribution of service colleagues – managers, supervisors of midwives and mentors is valued in the delivery of this programme. The experience of service users is incorporated into the curriculum to enhance cultural sensitivity to women's needs and views. These personnel, together with past and present students have actively participated in the development of this curriculum.

Course Aims

- To provide educational opportunities which allow students to acquire the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that are essential for the development of safe midwifery practice, professional competence and confidence
- To provide a broad and deep understanding of midwifery knowledge, the factors influencing the provision of women centred maternity care and to embrace birth as a normal process
- To encourage an understanding of the role of midwives in helping to reduce the impact of health inequalities on women and families and their vital role in the public health agenda
- To develop enquiring, confident, autonomous midwives able to question evidence and practice with confidence and through developing management and leadership qualities feel confident in their role as part of the multi-professional maternity care provision
- To facilitate the student to use analytical and enquiry based learning skills to evaluate the relationship between the individual childbearing experience, theoretical constructs and evidenced based knowledge
- To encourage independent learning and a commitment to lifelong learning, including taking responsibility for continuing professional development as a requirement for maintaining professional competence and confidence
- To fulfil the requirements of the EU Directives, NMC Standards for Pre-registration Midwifery Education and QAA academic and practitioner standards

Course Learning Outcomes

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The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Midwifery [shortened] 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.

Knowledge and understanding and cognitive skills

1. Critically analyse the evidence to support decisions made as a lead professional in midwifery care
2. Achieve competency in the range of skills appropriate to midwifery identified by the NMC (2009) and European Midwives Directives 2005/36/EU Annexe V Point 5.5.1
3. Critically analyse the use of technology and intervention in providing safe and ethical maternity services
4. Organise, manage and evaluate care of childbearing women and their families including prioritising care
5. Confidently apply knowledge base to undertake emergency procedures and refer to appropriate professional when required
6. Critically compare and assess the multiple ideological influences within contemporary midwifery practice

Subject specific skills

7. Critically reflect on the effectiveness of personal and professional judgement to achieve the best possible birth outcome for mother and baby
8. Critically appraise the public health role of the midwife
9. Utilise strategies, which will assist with the integration of choice and implementation of continuity of care for childbearing women
10. Appreciate a wide range of methodological approaches to achieving evidence based midwifery care and midwifery perspectives to promote childbearing as a normal process
11. Articulate the regulatory requirements for midwifery practice and code of professional conduct

Key/common skills

12. Demonstrate qualities, including effective communication, initiative and proactive approaches, self-reflexivity and problem solving skills in a variety of theoretical and practical settings
13. Critically analyse, interpret and apply the evidence underpinning practice and evaluate, challenge and create change in practice accordingly

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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14. Engage in effective collaboration with women and their families and other health and social care professionals
15. Formulate strategies to develop their own lifelong learning and continuing professional development and demonstrate confidence in transferable Graduate Headstart skills

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following Professional Standards and NMC Competency Frameworks:

Professional Standards:

- NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework

NMC Competency Frameworks:

- NMC Standards of Proficiency

Course Structure

The BSc (Hons) Midwifery [shortened] comprises modules at levels 5 and 6.

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

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 5			
	Promoting Normal Midwifery	40	M
	Midwifery Practice 1	20	M
Level 6			
	Complex Midwifery	20	M
	Dissertation- the use of evidence in Midwifery	40	M
	The Emerging Practitioner	20	M
	Midwifery Practice 2	40	M

Awards

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Midwifery are likely to have approximately, 120 contact hours for level 5 and 160 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars and practical activity. During theory weeks students are expected to spend a further 12 hours per week on independent study. Students will also be required to participate in 1800 hours of work placement at The Ipswich Hospital Trust or West Suffolk Hospital Trust. Placements will be arranged by the University/ in conjunction with the Trust. Students will normally be expected to undertake 3 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

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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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 overall will be approximately 51% coursework (including essays, a dissertation and portfolio), approximately 22% examinations (written exam, practical exam and oral exam) and 27% practice assessment.

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 NMC.

Course Costs

Students on this course are employed by the trust and paid at mid band 5 for the duration of their studies.

Travel costs to and from placement and the university, car parking and books will need to be funded by the student.

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](#).