

## Students at Community Midwives of Hamilton

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Community Midwives of Hamilton is a teaching practice and so you may have a student involved in your care at some point in time. Clinical placements are an essential part of educating new midwives and we truly appreciate the important role clients have in assisting the learning of our students.

### The Midwifery Education Program

The Midwifery Education Program (MEP) is a 4-year Bachelor of Health Science program offered at McMaster, Ryerson, and Laurentian Universities. The first year and a half of the MEP involves in-class course work, and the final two and half years include clinical placements at midwifery practices as well as various community placements with other health care providers.

Midwifery students complete two major placements with midwifery practices (outlined below). During midwifery clinical placements, students typically follow one midwife or midwife pair throughout their placement. During their placement they are on call and participate in all aspects of clinical care.

### 1. Normal Childbearing

This is a 16-week placement that occurs in either the winter semester (January - April) or the summer semester (May - August). This placement is an introduction to how midwives practice and to all aspects of routine care during pregnancy, labour and delivery, and the postpartum period. At the start of this placement, students are beginning to learn many clinical skills and are closely supervised by their preceptor. Over the course of the placement, students develop their clinical competence and confidence and by the end of the placement students are expected to perform most routine clinical tasks independently.

#### Prenatal

- Start routine clinic appointments independently, answer common questions and lead informed-choice discussions on routine topics
- Perform clinical skills including blood draws, pelvic exams, fundal height measurements, palpation, and listening to the fetal heart rate
- Return phone calls and client pages

#### Labour and Delivery

- Assist with routine management during normal labour, including: vaginal exams, fetal heart rate assessment, blood draws, IV starts, delivering the baby, and perineal repair
- Assist with newborn assessments following delivery including performing the newborn exam, and administering newborn medications
- Return phone calls and client pages

#### Postpartum

- Attend and assist with routine assessments during postpartum visits both in hospital and at home
- Perform newborn heel prick for blood tests
- Return phone calls and client pages

## 2. Senior Students

The final year of the MEP includes three consecutive 12-week placements. These placements begin in May and end in March the following year. In addition to the skills developed during their Normal Childbearing placement, senior students have increased responsibility with managing client care and performing clinical tasks independently.

### Prenatal

- Plan and conduct the majority of prenatal visits independently
- Return phone calls and client pages

### Labour and Delivery

- Management of labour with minimal assistance
- Conduct deliveries
- Attend hospital births as the backup midwife beginning in the fall semester
- Attend both hospital and home births as the backup midwife beginning in the winter semester
- Return phone calls and client pages

### Postpartum

- Conduct a portion of postpartum home and clinic visits independently

### Important Notes

Students review all conversations that they have with clients with their preceptor. Questions, concerns, and discussions that you have with your student at clinic appointments or over the phone are always reviewed with a midwife.

Most clients find that having a student enhances their experience. Please let your midwife know if you have any questions or concerns about a student's involvement in your care.