

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



School of Nursing and Midwifery

Inherent Requirements

Midwifery

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Abbreviation	Term
RM	Registered Midwife
IR	Inherent Requirements
Ahpra	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
NMBA	Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
ANMAC	Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council
ICM	International Confederation of Midwives
NSQHS	National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards
NPC	National Police Check
WCC	Working with Children Check
IV	Intravenous
IM	Intramuscular
SC	Subcutaneous

INHERENT REQUIREMENTS

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) regulates the practice of midwifery in Australia, and one of its key roles is to protect the public. Registration as a registered midwife (RM), (including as a student), requires you to meet the NMBA's mandatory registration standards. RM's, (including students) are required to practice within the relevant NMBA approved [standards, codes, guidelines, and frameworks](#).

Nurses and midwives work in changing and unpredictable environments and as such are required to continue to develop professionally and maintain their capability for professional practice. Concerns can be raised about a [health professional](#) (including a student) if their behaviour is considered to be placing the public at risk, they are practicing their profession in an unsafe way or lacking the ability to make safe judgements about women and newborns in their care due to an impairment in their health.

Inherent requirements

Inherent requirements are the essential components of a program or subject that demonstrate the abilities, knowledge, and skills to achieve the core learning outcomes of the program or subject, while preserving the academic integrity of the university's learning, assessment, Midwifery Placement Experience (MPE), and accreditation processes. The inherent requirements are the abilities, knowledge, skills, and requirements needed to complete the program that must be met by all students.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery is committed to making reasonable adjustments to teaching and learning, assessment, midwifery clinical practice, and other activities to enable students to participate in their program. Reasonable adjustments must not fundamentally change the nature of the inherent requirement. Students are required to undertake activities which reflect the Australian health care context.

Safety of the public is the guiding principle for programs leading to eligibility for registration as a midwife in Australia. NMBA approved programs of study are required to have inherent requirements that students must meet before admission and whilst enrolled in the program. These are the inherent requirements of 4684 Bachelor of Midwifery. Please see the [Inherent Requirement Guidelines](#) and [Fitness to Practice Policy](#) for further information.

Students who have a disability or health condition may be able to have reasonable adjustments made to enable them to meet these requirements.

You are not required to disclose information about a disability or health condition that you are living with. If you think your disability, chronic health or mental health condition will impact on your studies, you are encouraged to discuss your concerns with a University Disability Advisor. If you need reasonable adjustments, you are required to register with the Disability Service.

If you think you might experience challenges related to a disability, health condition or for any other reason, you should discuss your concerns with the Director of Academic Program Midwifery.

Legal Requirements

Description

To practice as a student midwife in Australia you need to meet the requirements of the [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law](#) (National Law) and state and territory legislation.

Legal requirements are core for the 4684 Bachelor of Midwifery. Midwifery practice is mandated by specific legislation to enable the safe delivery of care; therefore, students must demonstrate knowledge and compliance with Australian Law, professional regulations, and scope of practice.

The following links provide a more detailed understanding of the legislation governing midwifery practice.

[Ahpra social media guidance](#)

[Code of conduct](#)

[Decision-making framework](#)

[Scope of practice and capabilities of nurses and midwives](#)

[English Language skills registration standard](#)

[Health Practitioner Regulation National Law](#)

[ICM code of Ethics for Midwives](#)

[Mandatory reporting guidelines](#)

[NSQHS](#)

[Registered Midwife Standards for Practice](#)

[Animals on campus policy](#)

[NSW Government Assistance Animals](#)

Justification

These are inherent requirements of all programs leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a Registered Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia because:

- Knowledge, understanding, and compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements are necessary pre-requisites to Midwifery Placement Experience (MPE) to reduce the risk of harm to self and others.
- Compliance with professional regulations and the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (National Law) ensures that students are both responsible and accountable for their practice.

As a student, you must demonstrate that you can:

- Comply with the requirement for student registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra).
- Meet the required English language proficiency standard.
- Meet and comply with relevant child protection and safety legislation. For example, a valid Working with Children Check (WCC) and current National Police Check (NPC).
- Meet and comply with all occupational assessment screening and vaccination requirements.

Adjustments

Adjustments must be consistent with legislative and regulatory requirements.

Observational Skills /Sensory Capacity

Description

The observational skills required for the 4684 Bachelor of Midwifery are reliant upon the following sensory capacities:

- Seeing/ Vision
- Hearing/ Auditory
- Touch/Tactile

Vision

Description

The capacity to demonstrate visual acuity to provide safe and effective care.

Justification

These are inherent requirements of all programs leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a Registered Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia because:

- Visual acuity is necessary to demonstrate the required range of skills, tasks, and assessments to maintain consistent, accurate and safe care to self and others.
- Visual observations, examination and assessment are fundamental to safe and effective practice.

As a student, you must demonstrate that you can:

- Interpret and respond to visual cues from other students, lecturers, clinicians, patients and significant others during activities related to the program.
- Work in a safe manner in a variety of lighting conditions for example: subdued lighting in a ward and fluorescent lighting in an operating suite.
- Read documentation and medication orders presented in different media for example: electronic medical records or handwritten documents.
- Safely calculate drip rates when administering intravenous fluids.
- Accurately draw up and administer medication.
- Observe and detect changes in wounds.
- Accurately read measurements on multiple devices. For example, blood pressure, temperature and oxygen saturation.
- Identify, distinguish, and appropriately respond between emergency or midwife call systems.
- Detect physical changes in the woman or newborn. Example respirations, perfusion and recognising anatomical abnormalities.

Adjustments

Adjustments must address the need to perform the full range of tasks involved in midwifery clinical practice. Any strategies to address the effects of the vision impairment must be effective, consistent, and not compromise treatment or safety.

Hearing/Auditory

Description

The capacity to demonstrate auditory ability to provide safe and effective care.

Justification

These are inherent requirements of all programs leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a Registered Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia because:

- Auditory ability is necessary to monitor, assess and manage individuals' health needs consistently and accurately.
- Auditory assessments and observations are fundamental to safe and effective practice.

As a student, you must demonstrate that you can:

- Listen to instructions and feedback from multiple sources simultaneously, for example clinical staff, the woman, their partners or significant others, and multi-disciplinary staff.
- Differentiate sounds, background noise, alarms, and speech.
- Respond to emergency signals, for example the call bell system, intravenous pump alerts.
- Hear and accurately respond to verbal communication from other students and lecturers during on campus activities related to the program.
- Accurately undertake a blood pressure measurement, listen to heart (including fetal heart), lung and bowel sounds of the woman or newborn by auscultation using a stethoscope.
- Interpret and respond appropriately to telephone conversations.

Adjustments

Adjustments must address the need to perform the full range of tasks involved in midwifery clinical practice. Any strategies to address the effects of the hearing impairment must be effective, consistent, and not compromise treatment or safety.

Touch/Tactile

Description

The capacity to demonstrate tactile ability to perform competent and safe midwifery care.

Justification

These are inherent requirements of all programs leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a Registered Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia because:

- Tactile ability is necessary to monitor, assess and detect physical characteristics of the woman or newborn and act on any abnormalities detected to provide thorough midwifery care.
- Tactile assessments and observations are fundamental to safe and effective practice.

As a student, you must demonstrate that you can:

- Detect changes in circulation observations in the woman or newborn e.g., temperature and pulse via palpation.

- Conduct a physical assessment and detect any anatomical abnormalities e.g., a distended bladder, heat that may indicate infection.
- Conduct an abdominal palpation during pregnancy and labour and detect deviations from normal e.g., breech presentation.

Adjustments

Adjustments must maintain the capacity to make effective assessments of physical characteristics and detect abnormalities within safe time frames.

Communication Skills

Description

These are inherent requirements of all programs leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a Registered Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. Communication skills required for the 4684 Bachelor of Midwifery are:

- Verbal
- Nonverbal
- Written
- Language

Verbal

Description

The capacity to demonstrate respectful, effective and efficient verbal communication in English to ensure the provision of safe care:

- The ability to understand and respond to verbal communication accurately and appropriately to provide safe and timely care.
- Timely, accurate and effective communication is critical to individual safety, treatment, and management.

Justification

These are inherent requirements of all programs leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a Registered Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia because:

- Communication with a woman may be restricted to verbal because of physical or cognitive limitations of the individual (e.g., injury, disease, or congenital conditions).
- The ability to provide clear instructions and information in the context of the situation.
- Providing safe midwifery care is reliant upon accurate and effective communication with multidisciplinary healthcare professionals.

As a student you must demonstrate that you can:

- Participate in classroom, clinical discussion and simulation (one to one and in groups).
- Respond appropriately to a care request in the clinical environment.
- Demonstrate ability to communicate with other health professionals e.g., clinical handover (one to one and in groups), seeking assistance with a deteriorating woman or newborn.

- Construct with accuracy, verbal handover reports related to care in the clinical environment.
- Present information appropriately and interactively in a group situation face to face or online.
- Use language that is appropriate to the context of the individual or group.
- Communicate in a respectful, clear, attentive, empathetic, honest, and nonjudgmental manner.
- Respond professionally to requests from women receiving care, significant others, supervisors, academics, and other health professionals in the clinical and simulated setting.

Adjustments

Adjustments must address effectiveness, timeliness, clarity, and accuracy issues to ensure safety.

Nonverbal

Description

The capacity to demonstrate effective non-verbal communication is fundamental to midwifery and needs to be respectful, clear, attentive, empathetic, honest, and non-judgmental.

Students must demonstrate:

- The capacity to recognise, interpret and respond appropriately to nonverbal cues.
- Consistent and appropriate awareness of nonverbal cues.
- Sensitivity to individual differences.

Justification

These are inherent requirements of all programs leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a Registered Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia because:

- The ability to observe and understand non-verbal cues assists with building rapport with people and gaining their trust and respect in academic, work, and professional relationships.
- Displaying consistent and appropriate facial expressions, eye contact, being mindful of space, time boundaries and body movements and gestures promotes trust in academic, work, and professional relationships.
- Communication may be restricted to non-verbal behaviours. Being sensitive to individual differences displays respect and empathy to others and develops trusting relationships.
- The ability to observe and understand non-verbal cues is essential for the safe and effective observation of symptoms and reactions to facilitate the assessment and treatment of the woman or newborn.

As a student, you must demonstrate that you can:

- Recognise and respond appropriately in all learning environments.
- Maintain consistent and appropriate facial expressions, eye contact, being mindful of space, time boundaries and body movements and gestures.
- Interpret distress, a change in mood, activity, or posture.

- Communicate in a respectful, clear, attentive, empathetic, honest, and nonjudgmental manner.
- Respond professionally to requests from the woman, their partners or significant others, supervisors, and other health professionals in the clinical and simulated setting.

Adjustments

Adjustments must enable the recognition, appropriate response, or initiation of effective non-verbal communication in a timely and appropriate manner.

Written

Description

The capacity to demonstrate:

- Effective written communication that is a fundamental responsibility with professional and legal ramifications.
- Construction of coherent written communication appropriate to the circumstances.

Justification

These are inherent requirements of all programs leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a Registered Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia because:

- Construction of multiple assessments to academic and clinical standards are required to convey knowledge and understanding of relevant subject matter, procedures, and professional practice.
- Accurate written communication, including record-keeping and notes, is vital to provide consistent and safe care.

As a student, you must demonstrate that you can:

- Construct assessment to academic and clinical standards with attention to grammar and punctuation.
- Express complex and detailed information and knowledge into a logical and easily understood written form for assessment requirements.
- Construct written text-based assessment tasks to reflect the required academic and clinical standards are necessary to convey knowledge and understanding of relevant subject matter for professional practice.
- Construct legible documentation in a manner that clearly communicates the intended message and meets professional expectations for safety of the woman or newborn.
- Professionally document in charts and records in the simulated environment and clinical environments meeting legal and professional requirements, while ensuring confidentiality.

Adjustments

Adjustments must meet necessary standards of clarity, accuracy, and accessibility to ensure effective recording and transmission of information in both academic and clinical settings.

Language

Description

The capacity to demonstrate:

- Competent literacy skills essential to provide safe and effective delivery of care.
- The ability to accurately acquire information and accurately convey appropriate effective messages.
- The ability to read and comprehend a range of literature and information.
- The capacity to understand and implement academic conventions and to construct written text in a scholarly manner.

Justification

These are inherent requirements of all programs leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a Registered Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia because:

- The ability to acquire information and to accurately convey messages is fundamental to ensure safe and effective assessment, treatment, and delivery of care.
- The ability to read, decode, interpret, and comprehend multiple sources of information is fundamental for the safe and effective delivery of care.

As a student, you must demonstrate that you can:

- Provide evidence demonstrating English Language proficiency prior to enrolment.
- Read information in a variety of formats, for example handwritten notes, printed text, graphs and diagrams.
- Paraphrase, summarise and reference in accordance with appropriate academic conventions.
- Produce accurate, concise, and clear documentation about the woman and newborn which meets legal requirements

Adjustments

Adjustments to address literacy issues must attend to the capacity to effectively acquire, comprehend, apply, and communicate accurate information.

Motor Skills

Description

The core motor skill for the 4684 Bachelor of Midwifery is the capacity to demonstrate manual dexterity which is reliant on developed gross and fine motor skills.

Midwifery involves physical demands and requires gross motor function including supporting women during labour for example, leaning over a birthing pool, assisting women post caesarean section to mobilise manual handling, transferring women, moving equipment, and manoeuvring around equipment in confined spaces. Actions include squatting, twisting, bending, kneeling, pushing, and pulling.

Midwifery requires fine motor skills and dexterity including manipulating instruments, using hand eye coordination to complete tasks as necessary. Actions include grasping, pressing, pushing, turning, and squeezing to provide safe and effective care.

Justification

These are inherent requirements of all programs leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a Registered Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia because performing these tasks consistently and safely is required to reduce the risk of harm to self and others in providing safe care to the woman and newborn in a variety of settings.

As a student you must demonstrate that you can:

- Maintain balance while safely mobilising and transferring individuals.
- Perform procedures such as aseptic wound dressing, suctioning an airway, connecting monitoring equipment.
- Stand for the majority of time during a simulated or clinical experience.
- Pull, push, squat, kneel, twist, bend, lift and carry.
- Move with ease around the woman's bed sides and newborn cots, bathrooms, and equipment items, while performing delivery of care activities and responding to emergency situations.
- Safely retrieve, utilise and replenish stock and equipment.
- Manipulate intricate surgical instruments and equipment as required for example, when supporting a woman to birth and while dressing a wound.
- Manipulate syringes and needles during preparation and administration of medications (oral, SC, IM, IV) addressing safety to self and others.
- Prime an intravenous infusion line and accurately inserting and setting the prescribed rates on an infusion device.

Adjustments

Adjustments should facilitate functional effectiveness to enable safety to self and others and a capacity to provide appropriate care.

Behavioural and Social Skills

Description

The core behavioural and social skills required for the 4684 Bachelor of Midwifery are the capacity to function effectively and sensitively in a demanding and diverse academic and clinical environment.

Core behavioural and social skills required in midwifery include:

- Ethical behaviour.
- Effectiveness in uncertain and stressful situations.
- Sufficient self-awareness to manage fluctuations in health and emotional status.
- The ability to function effectively in teams.

Behavioural and social skills are a core requirement of the program because midwives are accountable and responsible for ensuring professional standards of behaviour in all contexts and meeting legal and regulatory standards to enable safe delivery of healthcare. Behavioural standards are evidenced by compliance with the policies of both academic and Midwifery Placement Experience and of the professional accrediting body for the midwifery program.

- [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [WSU Placement Policy](#)

- [WSU Placement Procedures](#)
- [Registered Midwife Standards for Practice](#)
- [ICM Code of Ethics for Midwives](#)
- [Inherent Requirements Compliance Procedures](#)
- [Fitness for Practice Policy](#)
- [WSU placement policy](#)
- [WSU Social media policy](#)
- [Social media Ahpra guidelines](#)

Justification

These are inherent requirements of all programs leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a Registered Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia because midwifery students work in changing and unpredictable environments. Midwives and midwifery students are accountable and responsible for ensuring professional standards of behaviour and social skills in professional practice and on placement. These are requirements of the professional accrediting body.

As a student, you must demonstrate that you can:

- Respect and provide culturally safe and appropriate care
- Be receptive and respectful to different viewpoints, to constructive feedback and to direction from academics and clinical staff.
- Interact positively and effectively in groups with other students while attending activities related to the program.
- Participate in all on-line and face-to-face discussion forums and tutorials with peers and academics, simulated learning environments and when undertaking MPE.
- Critically reflect on practice and respond appropriately to constructive feedback.
- Maintain professional boundaries communicating professionally and respectfully with or about people receiving care, significant others, colleagues, academics, and employers. Use respectful language and tone and not present information that is false, misleading, or deceptive.
- Function effectively in a frequently demanding role.
- Work constructively in a diverse and changing academic and clinical environment.
- Work individually and as part of a team in unpredictable environments.
- Manage events that include human distress objectively and professionally.
- Monitor and manage own emotions and behaviour effectively when providing care.
- Comply with policies, guidelines and codes of conduct which facilitate professional interactions in all on-line and face-to-face discussion forums and tutorials with peers and academics, simulated learning environments and when undertaking MPE.
- Demonstrate understanding that inappropriate use of social media can result in harm to people receiving care and the profession, particularly given the changing nature of privacy and the capacity for material to be posted by others.

Adjustments

Reasonable adjustment must support stable, effective, and professional behaviour in both academic and clinical settings. Adjustments must not compromise the policies, codes, and standards of behaviour.

Cognitive Capacity

Description

The core cognitive skill for the 4684 Bachelor of Midwifery is reliant upon the following cognitive capacity:

- Numeracy

Justification

These are inherent requirements of all programs leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a Registered Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia because information literacy skills are the basis for evidence-based practice. Safe and effective care is based on comprehensive knowledge that must be recalled, understood, and applied appropriately. Students must be able to accurately acquire information and convey appropriate, effective messages. Students must be able to identify problems, create and implement management plans, and evaluate outcomes within defined timeframes.

As a student, you must demonstrate that you can:

- Interpret and act on assessment data to formulate a safe plan of care in the clinical and simulated environments.
- Recall formulae for medication calculations and apply to safe medication administration.
- Apply theoretical knowledge to practice

Adjustments

Adjustments must ensure that a clear demonstration of knowledge and intellectual skills are not compromised or impeded.

Numeracy

Description

The capacity to demonstrate:

- Competent and accurate numeracy skills that are essential for safe and effective care.
- The ability to interpret and correctly apply data, measurements, and numerical criteria.

Justification

These are inherent requirements of all programs leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a Registered Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia because competent application of numeracy skills is essential in midwifery to facilitate the safe and effective delivery of care. Perform safe, accurate drug calculations and demonstrate the requisite knowledge and skills for safe and competent practice in the clinical and simulated environment.

As a student, you must demonstrate that you can:

- Accurately prepare, calculate, and administer medications in the simulated and clinical environment.
- Complete professional tasks within the allocated time frame.
- Accurately record and calculate volumes on a fluid balance chart.
- Complete professional tasks in the simulated and clinical environment accurately within the allocated time frame.

Adjustments

Adjustments must demonstrate a capacity to interpret and apply concepts and processes appropriately in a timely, accurate and effective manner.

Sustained Performance

Description

The core sustainable performance skill for the 4684 Bachelor of Midwifery is the capacity to demonstrate maintenance of physical, mental, and emotional performance over extended periods of time.

Justification

These are inherent requirements of all programs leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a Registered Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia because midwives must be able to perform activities with a level of concentration that ensures a capacity to focus on the activity until it is completed appropriately. Midwives are required to care for women and newborns with acute and complex needs, respond to unpredictable workload demands and to be flexible around taking rest periods and breaks due to the unpredictable nature of the work.

As a student, you must demonstrate that you can:

- Provide care for women and newborns with complex needs and who may exhibit unpredictable responses during an assigned period of duty.
- Perform multiple or repetitive tasks during an assigned period of duty with a level of concentration that ensures a capacity to focus on the care of the woman and newborn until it is completed appropriately.
- Maintain sustained performance across multiple shifts, including day, evening, nights and may include weekends and public holidays.

Adjustments

Reasonable adjustments must support the completion of full shifts per day of MPE and ensure the sustainability or maintenance of consistent and safe performance within the environment of a clinical setting.