

In the Name of God

Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Health and Medical Education
Deputy Minister of Education
Course Title: Midwifery
Degree: Ph.D.

Total Course Credits:

Core Courses: 15
Elective Courses: 4
Apprenticeships: 15
Thesis: 16
Total: 50

Program Description:

The Ph.D. program in Midwifery is a health science discipline through which graduates provide midwifery services for normal pregnancy and childbirth, as well as identifying, referring, and following up non-physiological conditions during pregnancy and labor. In addition, graduates deliver services aimed at maintaining and improving maternal, fetal, and neonatal health indicators within the scope of midwifery practice. They will also be capable of educating students at various academic levels, providing professional counseling, and contributing their knowledge and skills to the community.

Introduction:

Pregnancy and childbirth are natural life events experienced by women. In order to promote physiological childbirth, enhance maternal health surveillance, and improve midwifery education, the Ph.D. in Midwifery has been developed to support these national goals.

Course duration:4 years

Admission Requirements:

- Applying for this position.

- Holding a Master's degree in Midwifery.

The Aims of the Course:

The main aims of the program are:

1. To train highly competent midwifery specialists capable of providing advanced, evidence-based care during normal pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum periods.
2. To develop experts who can identify risks, provide timely referral, and participate in multidisciplinary maternal–neonatal care.
3. To prepare graduates for academic careers in teaching, curriculum development, and educational leadership in midwifery.
4. To strengthen research skills and promote the production of scientific evidence in reproductive health and midwifery.
5. To enhance professional ethics, communication, and counseling competencies in maternal and neonatal care.

Expected Competencies at the End of the Program:

General Competencies¹:

- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Teaching skills
- Counseling skills
- Supportive and caring competencies
- Research skills and scientific writing
- Critical and creative thinking
- Problem-solving abilities
- Referral and follow-up skills
- Computer skills and literature searching
- Evidence-based managerial skills

Specific Competencies and Skills:

- Rational prescription of authorized medications according to national protocols
- Risk identification and management
- Requesting, performing, and interpreting routine prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum tests

1. General competencies expected of the graduates such as communication skills, critical thinking & problem-solving skills, professionalism

- Requesting and interpreting tests for membrane rupture and NST
- Requesting ultrasound examinations and biophysical profiles
- Providing newborn care in accordance with national protocols
- Providing maternal care based on national guidelines
- Practicing teamwork and interprofessional collaboration

Required Practical Skills

Skill	Minimum Observed	Minimum Performed
Physiological childbirth	5	5
Non-pharmacological pain relief techniques	10	10
Episiotomy and repair	5	5
Neonatal resuscitation	—	—
Adult (maternal) resuscitation	—	—
Initial newborn registration	5	10
Breast crawl	5	10
Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC)	5	10
Breastfeeding counseling	5	10
Breastfeeding	5	10
Newborn monitoring	5	10
Management of third-stage bleeding according to national guidelines	10	10
Management of postpartum hemorrhage	10	10
NST	20	20
Pap smear	5	10
Newborn admission procedures	5	10
Transcutaneous bilirubin measurement	5	5
Maternal and neonatal pulse oximetry	5	10
Pelvic floor muscle training during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum	5	10

Educational Strategies¹, Teaching & Learning Methods² (aligned with the expected competencies):

The curriculum is based on:

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1. Educational Strategies such as Problem-Based Education, Discipline-Based Education, Hospital- Based Education, Community-Based Education, Electives, Student-Centered Education, etc.
 2. Teaching & Learning Methods such as Interactive Lecture (questions and answers, group discussions, etc.), Small Group Discussion, Role Play, Guided Discovery Learning, Team-Based Learning (TBL), Problem-Based Learning (PBL), Case-Based Learning, Peer Education, etc.

- Community orientation
- Evidence-based practice
- Task-oriented learning
- Emphasis on prevention and promotion of physiological childbirth
- Integration of teacher-centered and student-centered approaches
- Problem-based and creative learning
- Prioritization of emergency management and rapid decision-making
- Interprofessional communication and teamwork
- Training in real clinical environments
- Self-directed learning and research orientation
- Encouraging innovation and professional creativity

Teaching Methods

- Departmental, interdepartmental, hospital, interdisciplinary, and interuniversity conferences and seminars
- Small-group discussions, workshops, journal clubs, scientific reading, case presentations
- Morning reports, clinical rounds, bedside teaching, labor room training, skill-lab activities
- Computer-based learning, distance learning, and simulation
- Participation in teaching lower-level trainees
- Self-study and independent learning

Student Assessment Types and Methods (aligned with the expected competencies):

For Theoretical Courses

- Written examinations
- Assignments, projects, and classroom presentations
- Oral examinations (at instructor's discretion)
- Computer-based interactive assessments

For Clinical Training

- Direct observation of clinical encounters
- OSCE, OSFE, OSLE, DOPS
- Portfolio assessment including logbook evaluation
- Evaluation of research activities, presentations, achievements, and professional behavior

Formative Assessment¹:

Formative assessment includes continuous feedback during coursework, clinical rotations, seminars, case discussions, and performance evaluations. These assessments aim to improve learning, guide student progress, and identify strengths and weaknesses throughout the program.

Summative Assessment²:

Summative assessment includes final course exams, comprehensive clinical evaluations, end-of-rotation assessments, thesis defense, and national competency evaluations required for graduation.

The overall structure of the course:

Compensatory Courses (1° Credits)

Code	Course Title	Course Credits			Credit Hours			Prerequisite
		Total	Theoretical	Practical	Total	Theoretical	Practical	
1	Medical Information Systems	1	0.5	0.5	26	9	17	-
2	Philosophy, History and Art of Midwifery	2	2	-	34	34	-	-

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1. During the course, the residents are evaluated by monitoring their activities and how all the activities are carried out, reviewing the residents' reports, including the number of absences and leave days, medical and ethical errors, assessing by workplace-based assessment methods such as Mini-CEX, Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS), etc.
 2. Residents should take part in the final exam at the end of the course. Summative assessment is conducted using multiple methods like clinical reasoning tests including key feature exam, script concordance test, performance-based assessments can include a variety of objective structured tests such as OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination), workplace-based assessments by the means such as Portfolio, Logbook, Global Rating Form (GRF), Multi Source Feedback (MSF), etc.

3	Applied Theories in Reproductive Health and Midwifery	2	2	-	34	34	-	-
4	Epidemiology in Midwifery, Obstetrics, Pediatrics and Neonatology	2	2	-	34	34	-	-
5	Advanced Biostatistics	2	2	-	34	34	-	-
6	Applied Specific English	2	2	-	34	34	-	-
7	Evidence-Based Midwifery	2	2	-	34	34	-	-
8	Advanced Anatomy in Midwifery and Obstetrics	1	1	-	17	17	-	-

9	Advanced Physiology in Midwifery and Obstetrics	1	1	-	17	17	-	08
Total		10	14,0	0,0	273	264	9	-

Core Courses (1^o Credits)

Code	Course Title	Course Credits			Credit Hours			Prerequisite
		Total	Theoretical	Practical	Total	Theoretical	Practical	
10	Preconception and Pregnancy Counseling	0,0	0,0	-	9	9	-	17
11	Infection Prevention and Control	1	0,0	0,0	30	9	26	-
12	Prenatal Care*	1	-	1	102	-	102	10,17
13	Intrapartum Care and Neonatal Birth Care**	1	-	1	102	-	102	12,17
14	Postpartum Care***	1	-	1	102	-	102	13

١٥	Maternal Health Based on National Policies	1	1	-	17	17	-	-
١٦	Neonatology	1	1	-	17	17	-	14
١٧	Clinical Governance Principles and Risk Management in Midwifery	1	1	-	17	17	-	-
١٨	Pelvic Floor Health in Women	2	1	1	68	17	51	-
١٩	Midwifery Legal and Judicial Regulations	0.5	0.5	-	26	9	17	-
٢٠	Professional Ethics	1	1	-	17	17	-	-
٢١	Professional Communication and Teamwork	1	1	-	17	17	-	17

۲۲	Modern Birth Methods	0.5	0.5	-	9	9	-	13
۲۳	Advanced Clinical Research Methods	2	1	1	51	24	17	05
Total		15	9	6	589	162	427	-

Notes

- *Practical course in the form of an apprenticeship (102 hours = 13 morning clinic shifts supervised by obstetrics and midwifery faculty).
- **Practical course in rotating shifts: 4 night shifts, 2 evening shifts, 3 morning shifts.
- ***Same structure as above: total 102 hours with rotating shifts.
- Each night shift = 16 hours; morning shift = 8 hours; evening shift = 8 hours.

Elective Courses (5 Credits)

Code	Course Title	Course Credits			Credit Hours			Prerequisite
		Total	Theoretical	Practical	Total	Theoretical	Practical	
۲۴	Midwifery Policy-Making	۲	۲	-	۳۴	۳۴	-	-
۲۵	Communication Skills	2	2	-	34	34	-	-
۲۶	Maternal Health Counseling with Emphasis on Mode of Delivery	۲	۲	-	34	34	-	-

۲۷	Women and Family Psychology	۲	۲	-	34	34	-	-
۲۸	Maternal and Neonatal Health	۲	۲	-	34	34	-	-
۲۹	Complementary and Traditional Medicine in Midwifery	۲	۲	-	34	34	-	-
Total		12	12	-	204	204	-	-

Note:

Students must complete 4 credits from the above elective courses based on their thesis topic, approved by their supervisor and the University Postgraduate Studies Council.