

study to become a midwife

Study to Become a Midwife: Your Path to Supporting Women and Newborns

Study to become a midwife is an exciting and fulfilling journey for those passionate about women's health, childbirth, and newborn care. Midwifery is a unique profession that blends science, empathy, and hands-on skills to support families during one of life's most profound experiences. Whether you're drawn by the desire to empower women through pregnancy and birth or intrigued by the medical complexities involved, pursuing midwifery education offers a meaningful career path with lasting impact.

If you're considering this career, it's helpful to understand the educational pathways, practical training, and personal qualities needed to thrive as a midwife. This article will walk you through everything involved in the study to become a midwife, including the types of programs available, essential skills to develop, and what the career looks like day-to-day.

Understanding the Role of a Midwife

Before diving into how to study to become a midwife, it's important to grasp what midwives actually do. Midwives are healthcare professionals specializing in pregnancy, labor, birth, and postpartum care. They provide prenatal checkups, assist during labor and delivery, offer breastfeeding support, and help monitor the health of both mother and baby.

Unlike obstetricians, who are medical doctors, midwives focus on a holistic and natural approach to childbirth, emphasizing minimal intervention when possible. However, they are trained to recognize complications and work closely with doctors when medical treatment is necessary.

Why Choose Midwifery as a Career?

- Deeply rewarding work that supports mothers and families
- Variety in daily tasks, from clinical assessments to emotional support
- Opportunities to work in diverse settings like hospitals, birthing centers, or community clinics
- Growing demand for midwives worldwide due to increased focus on maternal health
- A profession that blends science, psychology, and patient advocacy

Educational Pathways to Study to Become a Midwife

The study to become a midwife varies depending on your country and prior education. Typically, there are three main routes:

1. Direct Entry Midwifery Programs

These programs are designed for students with little or no prior healthcare training. They often last three to four years and combine academic coursework with clinical placements. You'll study subjects like anatomy, physiology, obstetrics, neonatal care, and midwifery practice.

2. Nursing-to-Midwifery Conversion

For registered nurses interested in midwifery, many institutions offer accelerated midwifery courses or postgraduate diplomas. This path takes advantage of your nursing knowledge and focuses on the specific skills needed for midwifery care.

3. Graduate Entry or Master's Programs

Some universities offer graduate-level midwifery programs for individuals holding a degree in a related field. These intensive programs often take two years and prepare students for professional registration.

Key Subjects and Skills Covered During Midwifery Studies

Studying to become a midwife is both academically rigorous and practically oriented. Here's a glimpse into what you can expect during your training:

Core Subjects

- Human anatomy and physiology, with a focus on the reproductive system
- Prenatal and antenatal care principles
- Labor and delivery management techniques
- Newborn care and infant feeding education
- Maternal mental health and psychosocial support
- Pharmacology related to pregnancy and childbirth
- Health promotion and public health awareness

Essential Skills Development

- Clinical assessment and diagnostic reasoning
- Communication and counseling skills to support women and families
- Emergency response and complication management
- Collaborative teamwork with healthcare professionals

- Cultural competency and sensitivity to diverse backgrounds
- Documentation and legal aspects of midwifery practice

Practical Experience: Clinical Placements and Internships

One of the most critical components when you study to become a midwife is gaining hands-on experience. Midwifery programs typically require students to complete a set number of clinical hours under the supervision of experienced midwives.

During placements, students observe and assist with prenatal visits, labor, births, and postpartum care. This real-world exposure helps build confidence, hones clinical skills, and deepens understanding of the emotional dynamics families face. Many midwifery students find these experiences transformative, solidifying their commitment to the profession.

Tips for Making the Most of Clinical Placements

- Be proactive: Ask questions and seek varied experiences
- Reflect regularly: Keep a journal to process what you learn emotionally and clinically
- Build relationships: Networking with mentors and peers can guide your future career
- Stay organized: Clinical hours, evaluations, and case logs are essential for program completion

Registration, Licensing, and Continuing Professional Development

After completing your studies, you will need to gain professional registration or licensing to practice legally as a midwife. This process differs by country but often involves passing a national exam and fulfilling clinical competency requirements.

Once registered, midwives are expected to engage in continuing professional development (CPD) to stay updated on best practices, new research, and evolving healthcare guidelines. CPD can include workshops, conferences, additional certifications, or academic courses.

Career Opportunities After You Study to Become a Midwife

Graduating from a midwifery program opens doors to various roles beyond direct birth attendance. Midwives can specialize in areas such as:

- Community midwifery focusing on home births and family education

- High-risk pregnancy care working alongside obstetricians
- Midwifery education and research to train the next generation
- Leadership roles in healthcare policy and maternal health advocacy

Many midwives also work internationally, contributing to maternal health improvements in underserved regions.

Work Environments for Midwives

- Hospitals and maternity wards
- Birthing centers and clinics
- Public health organizations
- Private practice and home birth services
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) focusing on maternal health

Personal Qualities That Enhance Success When You Study to Become a Midwife

Beyond academic achievement, certain traits help midwives excel in their demanding yet rewarding careers. Compassion, patience, and resilience are vital when supporting women through labor's unpredictable nature. Strong communication skills help build trust and provide comfort. Critical thinking and quick decision-making are essential for managing emergencies.

If you enjoy building meaningful connections, working in a dynamic environment, and making a tangible difference in people's lives, midwifery could be a perfect fit.

Advice for Prospective Midwifery Students

- Seek out volunteer or shadowing opportunities to get a feel for the profession
- Connect with practicing midwives to learn about daily realities and challenges
- Stay curious and open to lifelong learning—medicine and maternity care are always evolving
- Balance your studies with self-care; midwifery training can be intense both physically and emotionally

Embarking on the study to become a midwife is not just about acquiring knowledge but also about embracing a lifestyle dedicated to supporting families during an extraordinary life event. With dedication, empathy, and the right education, you can join a profession that profoundly shapes the beginnings of life.

Frequently Asked Questions

What qualifications do I need to study to become a midwife?

To study to become a midwife, you typically need a high school diploma or equivalent with strong grades in biology and health sciences. Some programs may require prior healthcare experience or specific coursework.

How long does it take to become a qualified midwife?

Becoming a qualified midwife usually takes between 3 to 4 years if you pursue a bachelor's degree in midwifery or a related nursing degree with midwifery specialization.

What are the main subjects covered in midwifery studies?

Midwifery studies cover subjects such as human anatomy and physiology, pregnancy and childbirth, neonatal care, pharmacology, women's health, and professional practice and ethics.

Can I study midwifery online?

Some theoretical components of midwifery can be studied online, but practical clinical placements require in-person attendance at healthcare facilities, making fully online midwifery programs rare.

What skills are important for a midwife?

Important skills for a midwife include strong communication, empathy, attention to detail, problem-solving, physical stamina, and the ability to work well under pressure.

Is midwifery a well-paying career?

Midwifery salaries vary by location and experience, but it is generally considered a stable and well-respected healthcare profession with competitive pay and opportunities for advancement.

Do I need to be registered to practice as a midwife?

Yes, in most countries, you must be registered with a professional regulatory body, such as the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) in the UK, to legally practice as a midwife.

What career opportunities are available after studying midwifery?

Career opportunities after studying midwifery include working in hospitals, birthing centers, community health settings, research, education, and even advancing into specialized or leadership roles.

Additional Resources

Study to Become a Midwife: Navigating the Path to a Vital Healthcare Profession

Study to become a midwife represents a significant and rewarding commitment for those drawn to maternal and newborn care. As the healthcare landscape evolves, the role of midwives continues to gain recognition for its unique blend of clinical expertise, emotional support, and advocacy in childbirth and women's health. This article provides an analytical overview of what it entails to pursue midwifery education, examining the academic requirements, practical training, career prospects, and the challenges inherent in this profession.

Understanding the Midwifery Profession

Midwives specialize in supporting women through pregnancy, labor, delivery, and postpartum care. Their scope extends beyond childbirth to include family planning, reproductive health education, and newborn care. Globally, midwives are recognized as critical to improving maternal and infant health outcomes, particularly in underserved communities. The World Health Organization highlights midwifery as essential to reducing maternal mortality rates, making the study to become a midwife a vital pathway for healthcare advancement.

Academic Pathways to Midwifery

The study to become a midwife typically involves rigorous academic and clinical training. Prospective students can enter midwifery programs through various routes, depending on their prior education and the country's regulatory framework.

Undergraduate Programs

Many universities offer Bachelor of Science in Midwifery degrees, which generally span three to four years. These programs combine theoretical coursework in anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, and psychology with hands-on clinical practice. Students learn essential skills in prenatal assessment, labor management, and neonatal resuscitation. For instance, in the UK, the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) accredits these programs to ensure standardized competency.

Graduate Entry and Direct-Entry Programs

Individuals with prior healthcare qualifications, such as nursing, may opt for accelerated or postgraduate midwifery courses. These programs focus intensively on midwifery-specific knowledge and clinical hours, typically lasting 1 to 2 years. Direct-entry routes are also available in some regions, allowing students without a healthcare background to enter midwifery studies directly.

Essential Curriculum Components

The curriculum in midwifery education integrates multiple disciplines:

- **Biomedical Sciences:** Understanding maternal and fetal physiology, pathophysiology, and pharmacology.
- **Clinical Skills:** Labor and delivery techniques, newborn assessments, and emergency interventions.
- **Psychosocial Care:** Counseling, cultural competence, and patient advocacy.
- **Research and Evidence-Based Practice:** Critical analysis of current studies to inform clinical decisions.

Clinical Training and Practical Experience

A defining feature of midwifery education is its emphasis on clinical placements. Students spend extensive hours in hospitals, birthing centers, and community settings under the supervision of experienced midwives. This hands-on experience is indispensable for mastering real-world challenges such as managing complications, providing emotional support, and collaborating with multidisciplinary teams.

Clinical training also exposes students to diverse birthing philosophies—from medicalized hospital births to midwife-led home births—broadening their professional adaptability. Regulatory bodies often mandate a minimum number of supervised births before certification, reflecting the profession's commitment to safety and competence.

Certification and Licensing Requirements

Upon completing their studies, graduates must obtain licensure to practice legally. Licensing requirements vary by country but generally include:

1. Successful completion of a recognized midwifery program.
2. Passing a national or regional licensing examination.
3. Meeting clinical experience thresholds.
4. Demonstrating ongoing professional development.

For example, in the United States, the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) administers certification exams for Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs), who must also hold nursing credentials. Other countries may have distinct titles and certification pathways, such as Registered Midwives (RMs) in Canada or Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) in certain U.S. states.

Career Prospects and Professional Opportunities

The study to become a midwife opens doors to a variety of professional environments. Midwives work in hospitals, private clinics, community health centers, and home birth settings. Increasingly, midwives engage in public health initiatives, education, and policy advocacy to improve maternal health services globally.

Employment Outlook

Demand for qualified midwives is rising due to factors such as:

- Growing awareness of natural birthing options.
- Efforts to reduce cesarean rates.
- Expanding maternal health programs in low-resource areas.
- Increased focus on personalized prenatal care.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of nurse-midwives is projected to grow faster than the average for all occupations over the next decade, reflecting the profession's expanding role.

Salary and Work Environment

Midwifery salaries vary widely by location, experience, and setting. In developed countries, midwives earn competitive wages with opportunities for overtime and specialization. However, the role can be physically and emotionally demanding, often requiring shift work and on-call hours.

Challenges and Considerations in Midwifery Education

While the study to become a midwife offers profound professional rewards, it is not without challenges. Prospective midwives must navigate:

- **Intensive Curriculum:** Balancing scientific theory with practical skills.
- **Emotional Resilience:** Managing high-stress situations and patient grief.
- **Regulatory Variability:** Adapting to differing national standards and scopes of practice.

- **Workload Demands:** Handling unpredictable schedules and potential burnout.

Moreover, midwifery students must cultivate strong communication and cultural competency skills to effectively support diverse populations.

Emerging Trends in Midwifery Education

The landscape of midwifery education is evolving with technological and pedagogical innovations. Simulation-based training increasingly supplements clinical placements, allowing students to practice emergency scenarios safely. Online and hybrid programs expand access to education, especially for those in rural or underserved regions.

Interdisciplinary education models are also gaining traction, promoting collaboration between midwives, obstetricians, pediatricians, and mental health professionals. This holistic approach aims to enhance patient outcomes and professional satisfaction.

Furthermore, global health initiatives encourage midwifery students to engage in international placements or research projects, fostering a broader understanding of maternal health challenges worldwide.

The journey to study to become a midwife is both challenging and transformative. It demands a blend of scientific rigor, compassionate care, and cultural sensitivity. As healthcare systems worldwide recognize the indispensable role of midwives, those entering this field are positioned to make a profound impact on the lives of women, families, and communities.

Study To Become A Midwife

study to become a midwife: *Becoming a Midwife* Rosemary Mander, Valerie Fleming, 2014-05-09 What is the reality of being a midwife in the twenty-first century? What is it like to help and support women throughout pregnancy and childbirth and into motherhood? What roles can midwives play in society? This new edition of the popular text, *Becoming a Midwife*, explores what it is to be a midwife, looking at the factors that make midwifery such a special profession, as well as some of the challenges. The fully updated chapters cover a variety of settings and several different stages in a woman's pregnancy, including stories from midwives working in hospitals and in the community, as managers, supervisors and educators, and as men, women, mothers and birth activists. All chapters are narrated by contributors who introduce their own theme, recount a vignette that throws light on their understandings of midwifery and reasons for becoming (or not becoming) a midwife and any subsequent career moves. Backed up by commentaries and drawing together these insights, the editors show what it means to be a midwife today. Suitable for those contemplating a career in midwifery and providing an opportunity for reflection for more experienced midwives, this thought-provoking book is an invaluable contribution to midwifery.

study to become a midwife: *Myles Professional Studies for Midwifery Education and Practice* Jayne E. Marshall, 2019-04-15 *Myles Professional Studies for Midwifery Education and Practice* Concepts and Challenges explores the non-clinical areas of the midwifery curriculum (e.g. law,

ethics, leadership, employer-led supervision and professional development) in a helpful, user-friendly format brought to readers by a team of experts under the guidance of Jayne Marshall, editor of Myles Textbook for Midwives. The volume will be suitable for all student midwives, whether undertaking pre-registration education programmes or post-graduate studies, as well as practising midwives preparing for revalidation and/or undertaking CPD. Whilst prepared predominantly by contributors from the UK, Myles Professional Studies for Midwifery Education and Practice Concepts and Challenges will be suitable for an international readership. - Specialist contributors ensure accuracy and currency of key information - Underlying theory supported by a rich array of helpful learning features such as 'real-life' case studies and reflective activities - Includes the latest initiatives such as employer-led supervision and the principles of coaching - Includes a section on the ICM and EU standards of education and international regulation covering the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, Denmark and Norway - Explores the global context of the midwife's scope of practice with specific examples from the UK, Canada and the USA - Includes discussion of CPD and overseas careers opportunities - Annotated reading lists and significant websites provide additional sources of information

study to become a midwife: Studying for Your Midwifery Degree Siobhan Scanlan, Hilary Walker, 2013-11-18 This essential handbook helps midwifery students to make the most from their time studying. It clearly explains the core learning skills you will need right from the start of the course, such as academic writing, placement learning and understanding theoretical concepts. It also introduces more advanced skills, such as reflection, research, evidence-based practice, writing a dissertation and complex decision making. It shows why these important skills are essential for you both to succeed at university and when you are a registered midwife. Key features - An accessible student-friendly guide specifically written for midwifery students - Three midwifery students are followed throughout the book to show real issues that you may face during your studies - Activities throughout help you test and develop your own learning skills - Each chapter is linked to relevant NMC and QAA standards, so that you can see what you are expected to know in order to pass your programme. Series Editor The Transforming Midwifery Practice series editor is Judith Jackson, Canterbury College.

study to become a midwife: Study Skills for Nursing and Midwifery Students Philip Scullion, David Guest, 2007-08-16 ...this is the only book I have come across that gives consideration to student midwives. There are many study skills books available for nursing students, and although this book is aimed at both, it does take into account the differences between the two professions. ...this is a useful book which delves deeper than its cover would suggest. MIDIRS Midwifery Digest This book is an essential course companion for nursing and midwifery students at degree and diploma level, as well as those returning to study. It covers key skills and knowledge needed, such as: Study strategies Reflective practice Critical thinking Evidence-based research Exam techniques Literature searching How to succeed in assessments Lively and accessible, the book includes bullet points and exercises that will enhance reader efficiency in learning. The book also has an accompanying website, www.openup.co.uk/nursingsuccess, that is written specifically for this market, and includes tips on: Writing CVs and covering letters Finding a good job Interview skills Continuing professional development (CPD) for nurses and midwives Career progression Study Skills for Nursing and Midwifery Students has been carefully structured to be used throughout a nursing career: It is key reading for new students in midwifery and all fields of nursing, as well as qualified staff who aim to enhance their professional development.

study to become a midwife: Midwifery - E-Book Sally Pairman, Jan Pincombe, Carol Thorogood, Sally K. Tracy, 2014-10-01 Perfect for: - • Bachelor of Midwifery students - • Postgraduate Midwifery students - • Combined Nursing degree students - • Combined Nursing degree students Midwifery: Preparation for Practice 3e is the definitive midwifery text for Australian and New Zealand midwifery students. The third edition continues to reinforce the established principles of midwifery philosophy and practice—that of working in partnership with women and midwifery autonomy in practice and from this perspective, presents the midwife as a primary

healthcare practitioner. It carefully examines the very different maternity care systems in Australia and New Zealand, exploring both autonomous and collaborative practice and importantly documents the recent reforms in Australian midwifery practice. Midwifery: Preparation for Practice 3e places women and their babies safely at the centre of midwifery practice and will guide, inform and inspire midwifery students, recent graduates and experienced midwives alike. - • Key contributors from Australia and New Zealand - • Critical Thinking Exercises and Research Activities - • Midwifery Practice Scenarios - • Reflective Thinking Exercises and Case Studies - • Instructor and Student resources on Evolve, including Test Bank questions, answers to Review Questions and PowerPoint presentations. - • New chapter on Models of Health - • Increased content on cultural considerations, human rights, sustainability, mental health, obesity in pregnancy, communication in complex situations, intervention, complications in pregnancy and birth and assisted reproduction - • Midwifery Practice Scenarios throughout.

study to become a midwife: Navigating the Maze of Research: Enhancing Nursing and Midwifery Practice Debra Jackson, Elizabeth Halcomb, Helen Walthall, 2023-04-12 Navigating the Maze of Research demystifies the world of research with all the essentials you need to know - how to find relevant research papers, how to conduct your own research, and how to use research findings in your work. Produced by a high profile editorial team including Australia's leading nursing researcher, this valuable text is engaging and easy to read. It breaks down research processes into easily digestible sections, each brought to life with student experiences and quotes. This sixth edition has been fully updated to include the most current advances in research methodologies and literature, and clearly lays out how these benefit nursing and midwifery practice. Key Features - Easy to read and follow - ideal for students - Research terminology and processes clearly explained - Comprehensive coverage of research and research essentials, and how these can benefit clinical practice - Hot topics include navigating ethics, research with Indigenous peoples, diversity and inclusion in research, and knowledge translation - Student experiences and quotes bring the text to life - Opportunities for practice and revision - a great study aid - Updated Evolve resources for students and instructors, including ebook - Elsevier Adaptive Quizzing for Navigating the Maze of Research included in all print purchases. Corresponding chapter-by-chapter to the core text, the EAQ prepares students for tutorials, lectures and exams, with access to hundreds of exam-style questions Student and Instructor Resources: - Additional Student Challenges - Self-assessment quiz - Glossary - Resource kits Instructor Resources: - PPT slides - Test Bank - Teaching Tips - Developing evidence-based solutions - Diversity and inclusion in research - Research pathways for nurses

study to become a midwife: Principles and Practice of Research in Midwifery Elizabeth R. Cluett, Rosalind Bluff, 2006-05-03 The eBook version of this title gives you access to the complete book content electronically*. Evolve eBooks allows you to quickly search the entire book, make notes, add highlights, and study more efficiently. Buying other Evolve eBooks titles makes your learning experience even better: all of the eBooks will work together on your electronic bookshelf, so that you can search across your entire library of Midwifery eBooks. *Please note that this version is the eBook only and does not include the printed textbook. Alternatively, you can buy the Text and Evolve eBooks Package (which gives you the printed book plus the eBook). Please scroll down to our Related Titles section to find this title. Building on the strengths of the first edition, this new edition of Principles and Practice of Research in Midwifery clearly and concisely examines evidence based practice and research from a midwifery standpoint. This book provides an excellent introduction to the subject and looks at various methods and principles from practical and theoretical perspectives. Equal weight is given to the quantitative and qualitative approaches. New chapters on evidence based research and interviewing in qualitative research ensure that this edition is fully relevant to current research and practice. Written by authors with clinical and research experience, this book is intended for midwives and student midwives participating in Diploma, Advanced Diploma and first level degree programmes. It aims to increase research awareness and develop the skills of critical appraisal of research evidence that are essential to evidence based practice. Used in conjunction with other texts, Principles and Practice of Research in Midwifery will give confidence to those

undertaking research projects by helping to bridge the 'reality gap' between research and theory and its application to midwifery practice. Key features:·Introduces research methods in midwifery·Discusses the application of research to practice and looks at the route from practice to research·Presents both quantitative and qualitative research methods·Provides a framework for the appraisal of midwifery research evidence·New chapters on evidence based research and interviewing in qualitative research·Maternity care related examples used throughout. - New chapter on interviewing as a means of data collection, including information on using focus groups - New chapter on evidence-based practice including issues around supervision for evidence-based projects - Inclusion of new material in relation to such topics as undertaking case studies

study to become a midwife: Trends in Midwifery Research Randell E. Balin, 2005

Midwifery is used to describe a number of different types of health practitioners, other than doctors, who provide prenatal care to expecting mothers, attend the birth of the infant and provide postnatal care to the mother and infant. Nurse-midwives also provide gynaecological care to women of all ages. Practitioners of midwifery are known as midwives, a term used in reference to both women and men (the term means with the woman). Most are independent practitioners who work with obstetricians when the need arises. They usually deal with normal births only but are trained to recognise and deal with deviation from the norm. If something abnormal is discovered during prenatal care, the client is sent to an obstetrician. Other midwives will deal with abnormal births, including breech birth. There are two main divisions of modern midwifery in the United States, nurse-midwives and direct-entry midwives. In the United Kingdom midwives are practitioners in their own right, and take responsibility for the antenatal, intrapartum and immediate postnatal care of women. In many parts of the world, midwives deliver far more children than doctors. This new book brings together the latest research on this ever-changing field.

study to become a midwife: Midwifery Sally Pairman, Sally K. Tracy, Hannah Dahlen, Lesley Dixon, 2018-10-01 - Now available in two volumes for ease of use: - Book 1 focuses on the context of midwifery practice - Book 2 focuses on midwifery practice - New and significantly updated chapters include: - man rights in childbirth - Midwifery as primary healthcare - Birth place and birth space - Social and environmental determinants of women's health - Contraception - Variations in normal - Endorsed by the Australian College of Midwives (ACM) and the New Zealand College of Midwives (NZCOM) - NEW to the Evolve resources: a suite of 18 videos featuring interviews with midwifery lecturers and students who share inspirational insights, advice, challenges and opportunities for learning - Now includes an eBook with all print purchases

study to become a midwife: Midwifery & Childbirth J. Pence, Childbirth is both a profound experience and a contested subject. The experience of women has complex medical, historical, cultural, and public policy dimensions. In this book, Judith Rooks achieves the rare feat of bringing these dimensions together in a way that can be appreciated by health care planners, midwives, physicians, and women considering pregnancy. The author vividly describes the history of struggle among health care providers over the meaning and handling of the birth process. The medical model and the midwifery model continue to collide today, the former focusing on pathology and monitoring the patient for it, the latter focusing on birth as a normal, healthy process. The education and professional training of those who care for women during pregnancy, childbirth, and the important postpartum period reflects these divisions. Obstetrics, family physicians, midwives, nurses, and others play roles in providing the necessary care. In focusing on midwives, Rooks deals fairly and sensitively between certified nurse-midwives and direct-entry midwives, most of whom lack formal educational preparation in midwifery. This book describes clearly and with documented scientific evidence the specific benefits of the midwifery approach to the care of pregnant women and their families. In clear language accessible to the lay reader, Rooks summarizes the research on the unintended effects of obstetrical interventions, such as episiotomies, epidurals, C-sections, and continuous electronic fetal heart monitoring, and the effectiveness and important benefits of an approach that focuses on the positive potential of childbearing, as contrasted with a narrow focus of potential for pathology. While she acknowledges the importance of access to medical care, extensive

research shows the advantages of the midwifery approach. Much that passes for routine obstetric care in the United States has been found to be unnecessary, ineffective, or even harmful when applied to women with normal pregnancies. The arguments over the control of childbirth are set in the context of recent changes in health care, including the current transition to managed care; the impact of the women's movement and movements for natural childbirth, home birth, and breastfeeding; and women's fear of and concern about the pain associated with labor. Rooks also explains the influence of the reports and recommendations of prestigious scientific and health-policy commissions and of federal initiatives and programs on the care provided to pregnant women in this country. She contrasts U.S. practices with those of comparable industrialized countries like the European states, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.

study to become a midwife: Mayes' Midwifery E-Book Sue Macdonald, 2011-04-05 Mayes' Midwifery, an established key textbook for students and qualified midwives, contains essential knowledge for professional practice. For this 14th edition, each section and chapter has been fully updated and enhanced by leading authors to ensure the text complies with contemporary practice and current guidelines. Added benefits are the availability of a variety of additional online resources for each chapter, including case studies, video and website links, and a bank of multiple-choice questions to test knowledge. With a strong emphasis on normal birth, the book covers the spectrum of midwifery-related topics applied to practice, providing a foundation of knowledge, and encouraging independent thought through the use of reflective exercises in each chapter and online. The book provides midwives with material that meets individual ways of learning and supports current modes of midwifery education. Mayes' Midwifery is the text for initial preparation and for ongoing midwifery practice. New chapters on essential contemporary issues: Vulnerable women Perspectives on the future of midwifery, in a global context Evidence-based information to guide best practice Learning outcomes and Key Points in all chapters Reflective activities Now with an integrated website offering additional resources and material including: Multiple-choice questions for self-testing Case studies Reflective activities to consolidate your professional development Useful additional reading, resources and weblinks Expanded topics Downloadable materials including illustrations

study to become a midwife: Midwifery: Best Practice Volume 5 Sara Wickham, 2009-01-29 This is Volume 5 in the Midwifery: Best Practice series. Each of the volumes in this Series is built around the familiar core of four main topic areas relevant to midwifery: pregnancy, labour / birth, postnatal and stories / reflection - and also includes a number of 'focus on.' sections. These are different in each volume and reflect a wide range of key and topical issues within midwifery. Each volume builds upon the others to provide a comprehensive library of articles that shows the development of thought in key midwifery areas. Volume 5 offers a range of wholly new topic areas within the 'focus on.' sections covering: 'the birthing environment', 'women, midwives and risk', 'holistic health' and 'working/international stories'. A practical reference source containing a wide range of articles, research and original material in an easily accessible format Volume 5 offers a more interactive learning experience by inviting midwives to create their own questions before reading the articles, and then returning to these afterwards for reflective thought Diverse opinions on selected topics provide a comprehensive resource for debate and discussion Unique approach includes ideas on how to turn reading into professional development activities Includes 60 articles from The Practising Midwife (2004-5); 4 research articles from Midwifery (2004-5); 3 articles from The Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health (2003-5); and 5 original articles commissioned for this book. . 60 articles from The Practising Midwife (2004-05). . 4 research articles from Midwifery (2004-05). . 3 articles from The Journal of Midwifery and Women's Health 2003-05 . 5 original articles commissioned for this book.

study to become a midwife: Midwifery and the Medicalization of Childbirth Edwin R. Van Teijlingen, 2004 This book provides an introduction to the sociological study of midwifery. The readings have been selected to highlight the interplay between midwifery and medicine, reflecting the medicalization of childbirth. It highlights the major themes in both a historical and a current

context, as well as western and non-western societies. Two major themes underlie the organization of this book: that the conception of midwifery must be broadened to encompass a sociological perspective; and that the ongoing trend toward the medicalization of midwifery is crucial to an understanding of the historical, current, and future status of midwifery. By medicalization of childbirth and midwifery the author mean the increasing tendency for women to prefer a hospital delivery to a home delivery, the increasing trend toward the use of technology and clinical intervention in childbirth, and the determination of medical practitioners to confine the role played by midwives in pregnancy and childbirth, if any, to a purely subordinate one.

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