

Midwife

Look after people through pregnancy, birth and the year after, and provide their everyday reproductive health care too.

TYPICAL PAY

\$134,040

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$94k to \$188k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

6 to 8 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Hospitals, birth centers, clinics,
home births, university health sys...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Biology, chemistry and any health science course. Volunteer or work somewhere that puts you near patients.
- 2 Bachelor of Science in Nursing** 4 years
Four years, with clinical placements from year two. Nursing programs are competitive, so grades count.
- 3 Pass the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) and get licensed** A few months
This makes you a registered nurse, which is the entry ticket for the next step.
- 4 Work as a nurse** 1 to 2 years
Most graduate programs want real experience, and labor and delivery experience is the obvious choice.
- 5 Graduate midwifery program** 2 to 3 years
A master's or doctorate accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education. Classroom work plus hundreds of supervis...
- 6 Certify and get your state license** A few months
Pass the national examination from the American Midwifery Certification Board, then apply for advanced practice licensure in your state.

Pros and cons

- + Well paid, and demand is growing fast
- + You build long relationships with the people you care for
- + Real clinical independence in many states
- Six to eight years and substantial graduate debt to get there
- Nights, weekends and unpredictable call for your whole career
- Births go wrong sometimes and you carry those

Good to know

There are two national credentials, not one

The American Midwifery Certification Board grants both the Certified Nurse-Midwife and the Certified Midwife. The second route does not require a nursing license, but it still needs an accredited graduate mi...

Most of the job is not births

Nurse-midwives are primary care and reproductive health providers. They do contraception, screening, menopause care and general well visits for people across their whole lives, not only during pregnancy.

Optional boosts

Doctor of Nursing Practice. Neonatal resuscitation training. Lactation consultant credential. Ultrasound training.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Nurse Midwives
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Midwifery Certification Board
Frontier Nursing University: nurse-midwifery programs

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/midwife>



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