



Clinical Experience (Birth Requirements and Continuity of Care)

Students begin attending births in MIDW 200. Their level of involvement progresses from observation, to assisted or guided hands-on to solo hands-on during the placement and as circumstances allow. By the time the student reaches their clerkship the management of clinic, call and birth is completely in the hands of the student under the direct supervision of the preceptor. Clinical experience enables application of theory to practice, provides the venue for skill development, and enables formative and summative evaluation of those skills.

Midwifery is a competency-based program, and therefore does not set a specific number of required clinical experiences for progression through the program, or for graduation. The program evaluates learners' acquisition of competencies through Objective, Structured, Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), and clinical placement evaluations. Some students will master certain areas of skill and knowledge with less exposure, and others will need more experiences. The numbers listed in the following table are a guide only. If numbers are lower in one course, they should be planned to be higher in the next term. **Students are responsible for keeping track of their experiences, and should notify their Course Tutor if their numbers in any area are significantly less than outlined in this guide.**

The BC College of Nurses and Midwives has established a minimum number of quantifiable experiences, as listed above, which are required for registration. Students must meet these numbers in order to practice in most jurisdictions in Canada.

Guide to planned birth numbers during the program

MIDW Course	# weeks in placement	Births Attended	Births Primary	Continuity of Care	Primary @ Home	Primary @ Hospital
200	6	6	2	encouraged		
240	10	10	6	6		
320	10	10	9	6		
322	8	8	8	4		
350/370/380	6-12	variable	variable	n/a		
420	11	11	8-10	8		
440	13	15	10-12	12		
Goal Totals	64-70	60+	43-47	30	5+	5+
Minimum required for registration*		60	40	30	5	5

*Total numbers can include up to 20% transfers of care. For homebirth, 1 of the min 5 may be counted if a transfer from home occurred prior to the birth.

For more information regarding birth number tracking expectations and definitions, refer to the policy [Defining and Counting Clinical Experiences](#).

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