



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Course Exemption Policy

Background

Midwifery students have a wide range of academic and life-experience backgrounds. Most have completed prior degrees, in whole or in part; many in related fields or covering related topic areas. Students have often completed courses that reflect similar learning objectives to those reflected in required Midwifery courses. In some, albeit relatively rare cases, an exemption from a required Midwifery Program course may be granted.

Registered Nurses who are admitted through the Advanced Admissions process undergo an individualized assessment of their course requirements upon admission to the Program, and do not need to request exemptions from individual courses separate from this. The Program has completed a side-by-side analysis of standard Canadian Registered Nursing competencies and curriculum to this support this process.

Note: The details and process for exemption from Midwifery research courses are unique and are therefore described separately, below.

Qualification

To qualify for an exemption from any required Midwifery theory and clinical courses,

- The student must have completed, in the past 5 years*, one or more courses that addressed the same or closely similar learning objectives and outcomes, as what is covered in the applicable Midwifery course, and at a similar or higher level of learning.
- The completed course(s) must have included similar assessment tools as in the applicable Midwifery courses.

Work experience in a related field or topic area will *not* be considered for course exemption purposes.

*Students who have an advanced degree in a related field may be exempted from a course even beyond the 5-year mark, especially if they have worked or published in the area since their terminal degree.

Process for Requesting a Course Exemption

The process for applying for an exemption from, a required Midwifery course is as follows:

- 1) The UBC deadline to drop courses is the end of the second week of classes. Students requesting exemption from Midwifery courses must submit to the Student Services Office, one month before this date:
 - a. transcripts showing a passing grade for each relevant course, and
 - b. all relevant syllabi from courses that they have completed. Research papers or exercises that were completed as part of their coursework, will not be considered in lieu of syllabi.
- 2) Students with completed graduate degrees (Masters or Doctoral) in a related topic area may submit manuscripts, reports, or verification letters from supervisors for consideration. Unpublished research papers or exercises that were completed as part of their coursework will not be considered.
- 3) Midwifery Student Services will verify syllabi against student transcripts from prior studies to assure that the student received a passing grade in the course(s) and that the course(s) were completed within the last five (5) years.
- 4) Midwifery Student Services will share the student's request, the course syllabus/syllabi, and any additional documents to the Midwifery faculty who acts as Course Lead for the requested course. The faculty member will determine whether an exemption is appropriate. They may consult the Undergraduate Program Lead as needed.
- 5) The student will be notified in writing when a decision is reached.

Exemption from Midwifery Research Courses

The Midwifery Program recognizes that some students come to Midwifery with past research experience or coursework. However, understanding research methods and *how to apply research and evidence in clinical practice* is an essential skill for health professionals. The independent conduct of research does not uniformly ensure that clinicians can apply research to their clinical practice.

There are three research courses in the Midwifery Program. MIDW 115 and MIDW 210 are required courses. MIDW 115 provides an introduction to research methods and the interpretation of statistical tests. MIDW 210 focuses on the application of research evidence in clinical practice and how to use research to guide midwifery practice and informed choice. MIDW 310 is an elective Directed Studies course involving engagement with active clinical research projects. Enrolment in 310 requires special permission from the course instructor, which is granted based on prior research experience.

Registered Nurses who are admitted through the Advanced Admissions process do not need to separately request exemptions from individual research courses. Research and basic statistical methods are included in education for Canadian registered nursing competencies, and the course requirements for these students will be reviewed individually, upon admission to the program.

Qualification

To qualify for an exemption from MIDW 115 and/or MIDW 210:

- The student must have completed, in the past 5 years, one or more courses that focus on acquiring knowledge and competencies in *research methods* (quantitative and qualitative).

- The course(s) must have included: an assessment of the quality of study design, analytic techniques, interpretation *including quantitative statistical testing*, and knowledge translation.
- Courses that use *the writing of research manuscripts to teach content* do not suffice.
- For a MIDW 210 exemption, demonstrated competencies in research methods applicable to health research is preferred.

Process

The process for applying for an exemption from a research course is the same as outlined above, with the following exceptions:

- 1) Students requesting exemption from Midwifery research courses MIDW 115 and MIDW 210, submit all relevant syllabi from courses that they have completed, with a passing grade, to the Student Services Office, *before October 1st* of their first term of Midwifery studies. Students should NOT send research papers or exercises that were completed as part of their coursework.
- 2) Students with completed research-based graduate degrees (Masters or Doctoral) and/or recent work experience in full-time research positions that required knowledge and competencies in quantitative and qualitative methods may submit manuscripts, reports, or verification letters from supervisors for consideration. Unpublished research papers or exercises that were completed as part of their coursework will not be considered.

Note on MIDW 310 enrollment

MIDW 310 is a Directed Studies course in which students are guided through the production of an original piece of scholarship that builds on knowledge and skills acquired from coursework, research, and in consultation with faculty mentors. *This course is only available to students who were granted an exemption from MIDW 115 in first year, who therefore have prior research knowledge and experience.*

Students interested in taking this course should submit an expression of interest (by email) to the Student Services Manager by April 1st of second year. The request will be approved in writing by the course lead, prior to the student registering in the course.