



Introduction

- Developed under the unifying theme of leadership;
- Focused on developing the knowledge, skills and competencies to assess and improve healthcare processes and outcomes;
- Useful and relevant to midwifery practice;
- Flexible enough to support a variety of tracks/options for midwifery doctoral study;
- Applicable to all practice-focused doctorates for midwives, regardless of the credential awarded (excluding the PhD);
- International in perspective.

The ultimate goal of midwifery education and practice, both at the doctoral and master's levels, is improvement in the health and well-being of women throughout the lifespan and newborns. Midwives who earn a practice doctorate will be prepared to be leaders who identify problems, set agendas, and initiate changes that contribute to such improvement and to the advancement of the discipline of midwifery.

Competencies for the Practice Doctorate in Midwifery

After successfully completing a practice doctorate in midwifery, the graduate will be prepared to assume a leadership role in a variety of aspects of midwifery practice. To achieve that outcome, the graduate will be able to do the following:

1. Translate expert clinical knowledge and research relevant to midwifery into best practice models.
2. Develop, implement and evaluate projects to improve women's health care.
3. Interpret and apply research related to the national and international distribution and determinants of health and disease of women and newborns.
4. Evaluate women's health policy issues within a variety of jurisdictions (local to federal), and demonstrate the ability to develop remedies to promote health improvement for women and newborns.
5. Use effective communication and leadership skills to enhance team function and promote positive change in the health care of women and newborns.
6. Analyze theories relevant to the discipline of midwifery, and apply these theories to inform and evaluate the health care of women and newborns.
7. Evaluate and use information systems and other technologies to improve the quality and safety of health care for women and newborns.
8. Analyze and compare health care delivery and finance models to improve health outcomes for women and newborns.
9. Develop expertise and share knowledge in a selected area of midwifery practice or scholarship.

1. American College of Nurse Midwives. Definition of midwifery practice. Position statement. http://www.midwife.org/siteFiles/position/Def_of_Mid_Prac_CNM_CM_05.pdf. Accessed October 4, 2011.
2. American College of Nurse Midwives. Midwifery education and the doctor of nursing practice (DNP). Position statement. <http://www.midwife.org/ACNM/files/ACNMLibraryData/UPLOADFILENAME/000000000079/Midwifery%20Ed%20and%20DNP%207.09.pdf>. Accessed October 4, 2011.
3. International Confederation of Midwives. Essential competencies for basic midwifery practice 2010. http://www.unfpa.org/sowmy/resources/docs/standards/en/R430_ICM_2011_Essential_Competencies_2010_ENG.pdf. Published 2011. Accessed October 5, 2011.

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