

ACTVET

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كلية فاطمة للعلوم الصحية
FATIMA COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Bachelor of Science in Midwifery







Midwifery Programme



We are delighted at Fatima College of Health Sciences (FCHS) to introduce the first Direct Entry Midwifery Degree Programme in the UAE. This pioneering initiative underscores our steadfast commitment to growing the Midwifery workforce here in the UAE, aligning closely with the National Agenda's overarching objective of enhancing women's health across the nation. Choosing Midwifery as your profession is not just a career path, it is a profoundly rewarding journey. The opportunity to work with women and new-borns at this important milestone in their lives is a privilege beyond measure. Moreover, there are many proven benefits to midwifery care which reinforces its vital role in the healthcare landscape.

This marks an inspiring opportunity to participate in this groundbreaking program, as its graduates will be in high demand, poised and equipped to become future leaders.



Prof. Lisa Pratt
Director FCHS - Chief Academic Officer

About Midwifery Program

Why Choose this course?

FCHS, a member of the Abu Dhabi government, is implementing essential educational initiatives aligned with strategic plans. The vision of FCHS is to be the leading provider of health sciences education in the region.

In 2017 Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation set out in the first Early Motherhood and Childhood Policy published by the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood the need to scale up Midwifery in the UAE to achieve the first strategic goal (enhancing the right of children and mothers to get comprehensive healthcare in a sustainable health environment). Leveraging best practices in teaching and learning, and through modern curriculum and cutting-edge facilities, FCHS cultivates future scientific and professional leaders. Continuously expanding and evolving, the institute adapts to the evolving needs of the Emirate and the nation, ensuring its facilities and outcomes remain at the forefront of educational excellence.

Midwifery education is a vital step to meet this goal of quality safe care for all mothers and newborns in the UAE. Therefore, here at FCHS, an educational institution under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, establishing Midwifery was a priority.

FCHS is proud to have developed the Bachelor's of Science in Midwifery, 120 credit hours, four-year degree program which is the first Direct Entry Midwifery undergraduate degree in the UAE. The programme is fully accredited by the CAA and equips graduates with the knowledge and skills to become competent and compassionate licensed midwives. Midwifery graduates will be empowered to work in their full scope of practice providing care for women across the perinatal journey from preconception to prenatal, labour and birth, postpartum, newborn and infant feeding care, as well as care of the newborn.

The Bachelor of Science in Midwifery program is aligned with the International Confederation of Midwives' competencies and Baby Friendly initiatives (UNICEF 2022). The program also prepares students to practice as a midwife in accordance with the Qualifications Framework Emirates and HAAD Professional Qualification Requirements. The goals and outcomes are consistent and aligned with Level 7 Bachelor qualification awarded as defined in the QFE.

Each year of the course has two components, theoretical and clinical courses.

The BSM program comprises theoretical, lab courses and eight clinical placements in various health care settings. 120 credit hours are required to complete this degree, including First Year (GRD) credits which all students at Fatima College of Health Sciences must complete before their major.

On completion of this program you will be able to:

- Demonstrate autonomous practice within the full scope of midwifery practice and in community and hospital settings
- Apply problem solving and decision-making strategies as experts to support physiology and promote normal birth, reducing unnecessary interventions and providing emergency care.
- Combine/Examine/debate clinical knowledge and skills with interpersonal and cultural competence, human rights, informed consent, and decision making for women
- Formulate plans of care using evidence-based practice that respects and tailors to the needs of all childbearing women and infants.
- Recognise deviations outside the scope of midwifery practice and refer appropriately to the multidisciplinary team.
- Appraise mother-infant attachment and the impact on health and emotional well-being.

Why it is important

What is the significance of Midwife-led training by Midwives?

Over 50% of the midwifery training takes place in clinical practice. Therefore, FCHS midwifery students will experience interprofessional learning environments working alongside midwives, doctors, nurses, lactation consultants' physiotherapists, pharmacists, and laboratory specialists. In clinical placement areas, midwifery students work alongside midwife mentors, guided by academic midwives. With continuous assessment, as the program progresses, the student moves from observation of midwifery care, through to the point of feeling confident and competent to lead midwifery care at the point of graduation.

In the college setting, the main educators of the theoretical component of the program are midwives. The midwifery education team consists of four qualified midwives with over one hundred years of experience combined!

It is important to recognise that only midwives understand the scope of midwifery practice. This means only midwives understand the boundaries of their responsibilities and understand when midwifery care can be provided and when care is outside the boundary of the midwife and should be provided by another specialist such as a doctor. As a result, being taught by this expert team will benefit you.



Who are Midwives?

Only midwives can practice Midwifery. Only midwives have the knowledge, skills and attitude that meet the global standards for Midwifery Education (International Confederation of Midwives 2017). Student midwives studying at FCHS will qualify with the professional title 'Midwife.'

The special thing about midwifery is that Midwives can be the lead health professional when caring for women in pregnancy, labor, birth, and the postnatal period when there are no health complications. A Midwife is trained to assess women and their babies, provide health promotion and education, and recognize when there are complications connected to the mother and/or baby.

Midwife also has the knowledge and skills to refer and work with doctors and other appropriate health professionals when complications are recognized. In addition, midwives have the knowledge and skills to carry out the necessary emergency care when needed. Another special trait is that midwives are autonomous. This means midwives can assess women and their babies and take responsibility to make decisions with the woman without asking permission from other health professionals when the midwife is the lead health professional.

Lastly, midwives help women, and their families realize their capabilities and help the transition to parenthood

What does a Midwife Do?

- Counseling and Education of Women, Family and Community
- Provision of Antenatal Education
- Preparation for Parenthood
- Some Areas of Gynecology/Family Planning
- Support During Labour
- Performs Emergency Measures as Necessary and Involve Relevant Team Members
- Facilitate a Safe Birth
- Escalate Concerns to Relevant Multi-Disciplinary Team Members
- Care of the Newborn
- Evidence-Based Breastfeeding Information
- Infant Feeding Advice and Support
- May practice in Hospitals, Outpatient clinics, Primary Care Health Units, Domiciliary Conditions or Any Other Service



Midwifery Simulation and Skills Hub

Fatima College of Health Science has a dedicated Midwifery simulation and skills hub to support student midwives in their knowledge of clinical skills and knowledge required to be a competent midwife. Student midwives will engage in simulation and skills-based education during the lab courses taught in the midwifery lab at FCHS. The labs are led by a team of experienced midwives throughout the midwifery curriculum to prepare students for clinical placement in a safe and engaging environment.

Simulation and skills-based training is a bridge between classroom learning and clinical experience and range from universal to complex care, for example our students will learn skills such as abdominal palpation, supporting a woman in upright birthing positions and care of the newborn in their first year to managing emergency a postpartum haemorrhage (severe bleeding following birth) or maternal and neonatal resuscitation in the third year.

At FCHS we understand the importance of simulation and skills-based learning as it enables students to make mistakes and to learn from them without the risk to women or newborn safety. Learning is adapted to support a range of learning needs from novice in the early stages of midwifery training to nearing midwifery licensure in the fourth year. The midwifery education team provides expert feedback to student's performance in the simulation and skills lab so students can improve and enhance their skills, knowledge and competence in becoming a highly skilled, kind and compassionate midwife.

Midwifery Study Plan

This program is designed to help students develop the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors essential for becoming competent midwives. Over the course of four years, students will progress through a comprehensive curriculum covering:

- Normal Midwifery Care: Including pregnancy, labor, birth, postnatal care, and care of the newborn.
- Complex Care: Managing care for women and newborns with complex needs.
- Practice Consolidation: Building leadership, management, research, and social care skills.

The program emphasizes evidence-based practice to ensure graduates are well-equipped to deliver high-quality, woman-centered care in diverse healthcare settings.



YEAR ONE

- UAE Studies **General Education (GE)**
- Health and Well-being **General Education (GE)**
- Understanding the Normal Physiology in Pregnancy Labour and Birth Part 1 and Part 2 **Theory**
- English Studies **General Education (GE)**
- Health Promotion **Theory**
- Clinical Health Assessment in Midwifery **Theory and Lab**
- Midwifery Personal and Professional Development **Theory**
- Introduction to Research / Evidence-Based Practice **Theory**
- BLS/ First Aid **Certification**

YEAR TWO

- Fundamentals of Midwifery **Theory and Lab**
- Care of the Newborn and Infant Feeding **Theory and Lab**
- Fundamentals of Midwifery **Clinical**
- Midwifery Led Care **Clinical**
- Technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare **General Education (GE)**
- Women's Health **Theory and Clinical**

YEAR THREE

- Understanding Pathophysiology in women with Complex needs **Clinical Theory and Lab**
- Care of the newborn with complex needs **Clinical Theory and Lab**
- Obstetric Emergency **Lab**
- Sociology Applied to Midwifery **Theory and Clinical**

YEAR FOUR

- Research and Innovation for Midwives **Theory**
- Consolidated Practice 1 **Clinical**
- Innovation, Sustainability and Entrepreneurship **General Education (GE)**
- Interpersonal Skills **General Education (GE)**
- Leadership and Management for Midwives **Theory and Clinical**
- Becoming a Competent Midwife **Theory**
- Consolidated Practice 2 **Clinical**
- Consolidated Practice 3 **Clinical**
- Consolidated Practice 4 **Clinical**

Clinical Practice Courses

These courses require students to work under supervision in clinical settings for approximately 35 hours per week for several weeks per year. The first placement takes place in second year. By fourth year, students will have completed clinical placements ranging in duration from four to twelve weeks in our clinical partner sites, Corniche Hospital, Danat al Emarat, SSMC and others. These courses will help students to grow their confidence and competence to become a licensed midwife.

A document called the AMORA (Adapted Mandatory Ongoing Record of Achievement) is used to help guide students to meet their learning objectives in the clinical setting. A clinical mentor will work with students daily and sign off the various competencies.

This document needs to be completed and submitted as evidence to complete the programme.

Assessment

Several types of assessment are used, such as Multiple-Choice Questionnaire (MCQ), Presentation, Poster Presentation, Written Reflection, Essays, Written Exams, Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) for assessment of clinical skills. In clinical, a licensed midwife will conduct the assessment.



Career progression via our Partners

FCHS has forged strong partnerships with local healthcare providers, and we are proud to have clinical placement agreements with three leading healthcare facilities within the Women and Child Health sector, Corniche Hospital, Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City (SSMC) and Danat Al Emarat Hospital, with plans to expand our partnerships over the coming months.

FCHS is dedicated to helping achieve National directives and strategies. Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwomen of the UAE General Women's Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwomen of the Family Development Foundation, also known as "Mother of Nation", who led the National Strategy for Early Childhood and Motherhood 2017-2021 which prioritised the improvement of Women's Health in the UAE. Following on from this, in 2024, the Policy for Improving Women's Health was launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai. This policy urges the need to bolster healthcare services for women, aiming for high-quality, evidence-based healthcare.

We believe Emirati midwives will play an integral role in accomplishing this and that is why we are passionate about growing the number of degree educated midwives from within the local community.

Jemma Tarr, Senior Director of Clinical Operations at Danat Al Emarat Hospital welcomes the FCHS midwifery students and recognises the significant role our midwifery students play in the future of midwifery care in the UAE:

"At Danat, we take immense pride in contributing to the journey of aspiring Emirati midwives. Together, Danat and FCHS collaborate to underscore the crucial role midwives play in supporting women throughout the stages of pregnancy. Midwives have long been recognized by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as the most suitable and effective professionals to provide care during normal pregnancy and childbirth. Recently, the first cohort of Emirati midwives completed their clinical placements at Danat. Witnessing the dedication, competence, and skill demonstrated by these future midwives fills me with great excitement for the prospects of midwifery services in the UAE."

Midwives are educated and trained to be highly skilled practitioners who provide care across the whole pregnancy journey to include, pre-conception, antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal. Their role expands into advanced and specialist practice, for example but not limited to, clinical resources midwives, diabetes specialist midwives, perinatal mental health specialist midwives, midwife sonographers, bereavement specialist midwives, research midwives, academic midwives.

Midwives also take on leadership and management roles across many settings. This offers a great platform for career growth catering for those who prefer clinical practice but want to develop their skill set, to those who have a desire to be a leader or manager in clinical services or academic institutes.

We believe the future for our Emirati midwives is bright, with the launch of the Emirati Women Chapter under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak (Mother of the Nation) investing into the female Emirati workforce, to the expansion of the existing Corniche hospital to a state of the art medical centre for women and children. There couldn't be a better time to invest in your future and become a midwife by joining our Bachelor of Science in Midwifery degree program.



Midwifery Programme

Reach out to the Midwifery Education Team at

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Internal students can contact:
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For more information visit

www.fchs.ac.ae