



BIRTHWISE

TEACHING THE ART & SCIENCE OF MIDWIFERY
SINCE 1994

BIRTHWISE MISSION STATEMENT

Birthwise believes that effective maternity care results from the integration of scientific evidence with time-honored birth traditions. We train our students to be skilled, knowledgeable and compassionate midwives who serve their communities with the knowledge and skill of modern healthcare professionals and the wisdom of ancient practitioners.

ONLINE APPLICATION DEADLINES

EARLY DECISION DEADLINE >> February 15

REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE >> April 15

PREREQUISITES

- > High School Diploma or equivalent
- > Doula Training workshop
- > CPR Certification

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

- > College level Biology and/or Anatomy and Physiology course
- > Experience in the field of women's healthcare or childbirth
- > Independent research on professional midwifery



MIDWIFERY PROGRAM

3-year certificate program that prepares students to practice full-scope midwifery as a Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) in the home and birth center setting. CPMs practice legally in most U.S. states but not all. Please research the status of CPMs in the state where you hope to practice.

MIDWIFERY ASSISTANT PROGRAM

This 12-16 month program prepares students to assist and extend the work of midwives in the home and birth center setting, work as doulas, teach childbirth preparation classes and provide lactation support.

DOULA TRAINING

We offer this weekend training several times per year to prepare students for work as professional doulas.

BIRTHWISE LOCATION

Birthwise is located in the small town of Bridgton, Maine. The campus is an hour west of Portland, Maine (the state's urban hub, a port city on Casco Bay) and half an hour east of the White Mountains in New Hampshire, a popular destination for hikers, climbers, skiers, and snowboarders.

The town is home to Shawnee Peak Ski Area, a ski resort ten minutes from campus. The greater Lakes Region – encompassing Bridgton, Naples, Casco, and Sebago – has numerous lakes and rivers and a vast network of public trails and beaches, including Sebago Lake State Park.

Downtown Bridgton is home to a thriving independent bookstore, a small collection of coffee shops, a movie theater, a drive-in theater, several restaurants, a Reny's department store, the Lakes Environmental Association, and the sprawling Pondicherry Park.



BIRTHWISE HAS COME A LONG WAY

1994

Birthwise is founded by Heidi Fillmore, a practicing home birth midwife. Birthwise is designed as a short didactic course to support apprenticing midwifery students in Maine. The original cohort of 14 meet in a rented office in downtown Bridgton, Maine.

1999

Birthwise successfully completes the accreditation process and becomes a MEAC accredited institution. MEAC's professional standards provide guidance to the continued development of the midwifery program at Birthwise.



2007

The Birth House is built and opens its doors. The Birth House is a student-led, service-learning birth center and home birth practice serving the Bridgton region.

2010

Birthwise begins offering scholarships giving access to students from underserved communities. This puts into practice our commitment to diversifying the midwifery profession and addressing maternity care disparities. Birthwise has awarded over \$150,000 in scholarships to date.

2017

Birthwise launches the Midwifery Assistant Program, a 12-16 month program that trains skilled assistants for sustainable midwifery practices..



Birthwise moves into the historic Samuel Andrews house (circa 1845) around the corner. The move represents a huge shift in the potential of the school. Periodic renovations expand the Birthwise facility alongside its expanding enrollment.

Birthwise students begin receiving Federal Student Financial Aid, making midwifery education accessible to more aspiring midwives.

2002

Birthwise begins accepting international students, primarily from Canada.



Birthwise introduces the Community Option, a low-residency option of the midwifery program, opening a Birthwise education to students who cannot relocate to Bridgton.

Birthwise publishes the first issue of our research-based midwifery journal, *Midwifery Matters*. This forum for sharing quality student, faculty, and other research with the larger midwifery community is distributed twice annually.



Birthwise celebrates 25 YEARS of providing education in the art and science of midwifery. Birthwise alumnae are serving in communities throughout the US and Canada as midwives or in related fields.



1998

2004

2008

2014

2019



THE BIRTHWISE MIDWIFERY PROGRAM

*Is designed to be completed in three years
for the full-time student.*

*There are two arrangements
of our program to choose from
the Campus Option and the Community Option
both of which are nearly identical in curriculum
and award -the same certificate.*



CAMPUS OPTION

Semester one begins the
LAST WEEK OF AUGUST

Classes meet
2-3 DAYS PER WEEK
from 9am-4pm

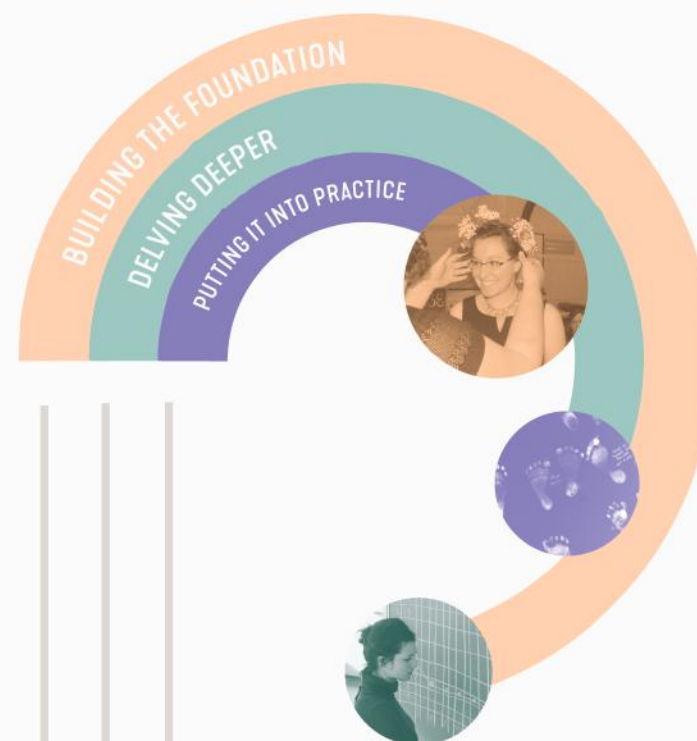
Students either MOVE TO
THE BRIDGTON AREA
at the start of the program or
COMMUTE each week to classes
from a location nearby.

HOMEWORK FOR IS COMPLETED
between classes that are
held each week.

All ACADEMIC COURSES ARE
COMPLETED after 3.5 of the
6 total semesters.

Students are placed in LOCAL
CLINIC SITES for rotations in their
2nd and 3rd semesters. THE BIRTH
HOUSE on the Birthwise campus
is one of these sites.

Required clinical experiences
(PRECEPTORSHIP) are achieved
primarily after coursework
is complete.



BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

OVERVIEW OF THE HUMAN BODY • NORMAL PRENATAL
PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT • RESEARCH METHODS
NORMAL LABOR AND BIRTH • MIDWIFERY & SOCIAL JUSTICE
POST PARTUM • NORMAL NEWBORN • NUTRITION

DELVING DEEPER

PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFERY • MENTAL HEALTH
PRENATAL COMPLICATIONS • LABWORK
COMPLICATIONS OF LABOR & BIRTH • PHARMACOLOGY
NEWBORN COMPLICATIONS • BOTANICALS
INDEPENDANT RESEARCH PROJECT

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

SKILLS PRACTICE
CLINICAL ROTATIONS
PRECEPTORSHIP

COMMUNITY OPTION

Semester one begins in JULY

Intensive 2-week academic sessions
occur 2-3 TIMES PER SEMESTER at our
campus in Bridgton. Classes are held
from 8:30am-5:00pm M-F during
those sessions.

Students TRAVEL TO BRIDGTON for the
2-week sessions and RENT HOUSING
in the area for those weeks.

ALL ACADEMIC COURSES ARE
COMPLETED after 4.5 of the 6 total
semesters.

Students are expected to identify a
preceptor (MENTOR MIDWIFE) in their
home community and begin working with
them in the 2nd semester.

HOMEWORK FOR COURSES IS COMPLETED
primarily at home between the sessions
in Bridgton. This requires a lot of
planning, discipline and self-motivation
by the student.

TESTING sometimes occurs in the
student's home community with an
approved proctor.

GRADUATE SUCCESS RATES {2015-17}



NARM EXAM PASS RATE - 100%

WORKING AS MIDWIVES OR IN RELATED FIELD - 95%*

We have graduates practicing all over the U.S. and Canada in home birth and birth center practices. The number of CPMs is increasing annually as is the number of births occurring outside the conventional hospital setting in the US.

CONTACT INFORMATION

BIRTHWISE MIDWIFERY SCHOOL

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GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT DISCLOSURES: BIRTHWISEMIDWIFERY.EDU/DISCLOSURES/

*MEAC PLACEMENT RATES FOR THE MOST RECENT YEAR