

## **Nurse-Midwifery Education Facts**

East Carolina University (ECU) College of Nursing has been named a Center of Excellence for 2011-2015 by the National League for Nursing and has been ranked by the *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the top 5 out of 96 master's or doctorate of nursing practice programs in the country. The only Nurse-Midwifery Education program in North Carolina is housed within the ECU College of Nursing. Following is a list of facts about Nurse-Midwifery Education in the United States as well as specific information about Nurse-Midwifery education at East Carolina University.

### **Nurse-Midwifery Education in the United States**

- All education programs require a Master's degree
- Programs are accredited through the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education
- Graduates must pass a rigorous national certification exam to become certified
- CNMs must maintain certification through a certificate maintenance program
  - 3 modules and 2.0 CEUs (20 hrs) every 5 years
  - Each module contains references and learning objectives from 18-20 articles with an open book multiple choice test.
  - Must maintain RN license per state requirements

### **Nurse-Midwifery Education Program at East Carolina University**

- All students are licensed registered nurses with experience in the field of nursing prior to being admitted into the Nurse-Midwifery education program.
- The Nurse-Midwifery education program has a rigorous didactic and clinical curriculum which covers primary care, pre-conception, gynecologic and peri/post-menopausal care, in addition to antepartum, intrapartum, postpartum and newborn care.
- Physiology, Physical assessment and Pharmacology (referred to as the 3 P's) are required by all midwifery education programs. ECU requires an additional Reproductive Physiology course.
- The students have a specific course on patient safety and quality assurance of patient safety. In addition, these topics are threaded throughout the curriculum.
- The students are taught to practice within a health care system that provides for consultation, collaboration or referral as indicated by the health status of the woman or newborn.
- The program is completed in 4-11 semesters depending on whether the student is a post masters certificate or MSN student and whether they attend full time or part time. The majority complete the program in 8 semesters which takes 3 years.

#### Continued Facts on ECU's Nurse-Midwifery Education Program .....

- Students are required to work with expert preceptors who are primarily CNMs, but include Nurse practitioners, PAs, and physicians.
- ECU has a 100% pass rate on the national midwifery board exam demonstrating excellence in the preparation for the Nurse-Midwifery role.
- The students are being educated alongside medical students and residents as there is common clinical content. This occurs through a one million dollar grant titled *Enhancing the Care of Women Throughout the Lifespan Using Virtual Technology and Interprofessional Education* which focuses on interprofessional collaboration and patient care.
- The major components of the midwifery grant are as follows:
  - Expansion of an existing web-based Virtual Community Clinic Learning Environment (VCCLE) to include interprofessional learning in the culturally and linguistically appropriate primary care of women throughout the lifespan.
  - An online interdisciplinary course in Issues in Women's Health that will incorporate the VCCLE technology
  - Expansion of an ongoing and successful interdisciplinary Mini Business Institute (MBI) that provides essential skills to build and sustain a successful health care practice in public and private health care agencies
- The ECU Nurse-Midwifery education program has graduated 160 students to date, many of whom provide care for women in rural or underserved communities of NC.

#### **Nurse-Midwives.....With women for a lifetime**

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