



The aim of this course is for students to apply beginning level midwifery knowledge and skills in a practice environment and to achieve the course objectives in alignment with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) Midwife Standards for Practice. Midwifery Foundation Practicum ELA1 provides the first opportunity for first year midwifery students to engage in placement and has an antenatal and postnatal care focus. Students will be provided an intrapartum placement early in the second year but may observe or engage in care of the woman in labour if the opportunity arises.

Courses undertaken to support their clinical learning include: Evidence Based Midwifery, Primary Midwifery Practice and Human Body 1.

Students may initially engage in placement through observation but should be **encouraged** to actively participate in care as soon as appropriate under the direct supervision of a midwife or doctor. Direct supervision is when the supervisor/clinician takes direct and principal responsibility for the midwifery care provided and must be physically present to observe the student when they are providing care. When students are undertaking any intimate examinations or care, they should **always** be under the direct supervision of a health professional.

The following is a **guide only** to the theory and skills practiced on-campus for this course at beginner level.

Theory and Skills

Infection control: Hand hygiene, aseptic technique, use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

Manual handling: Principles, Posture and Mobility, Risk and Hazards

Antenatal interview and health history: Completing hand held record at the first visit including antenatal risk questionnaires (EPDS & ANRQ), smoking questionnaire, calculating estimated date of birth (EDB)

Professional communication: Effective communication with the woman, woman centred care, informed consent, active decision making, written documentation and clinical handover/ ISBAR, cultural competency

Clinical skills: Assessment of temperature, pulse, respiration, blood pressure, pulse oximetry, urinalysis, principles of phlebotomy: venepuncture, IDC insertion and management

Abdominal examination: Visual, fundal, lateral and pelvic assessment, Auscultation of fetal heart – Doppler/pinnards

Provision of health education to pregnant women: Antenatal care, nutrition, screening tests, contraception, education for breastfeeding

Care of the women in labour: Phone assessment, early labour assessment, assessing contractions, vaginal examination, education of pain relief in labour, positions for labour and birth, partograph, fluid balance chart

Care of the woman giving birth: Mechanisms of birth, facilitating normal vaginal birth, perineal management during 2nd stage, active and physiological management of 3rd stage

Care of the woman postpartum: care of the perineum; breastfeeding; skin-to-skin, education on infant care

Care of the neonate postpartum: Reception and care of the newborn; initial assessment of the newborn, Apgar score, neonatal screening, daily newborn assessments

Medication calculation/administration: Oral medication, IM neonatal injections (Hep B and Vitamin K); IM and subcut maternal injections (please refer to the UniSA Medication Policy and any relevant venue policies)

COCE: Commence, observe and engage in the care for 2 women for their Continuity of Care Experience (CoCE)

Students are required to have these 4 Clinical Assessment Tools (CATs) assessed by their supervising midwives:

- **CAT 3:** Abdominal examination
- **CAT 17:** Facilitating breastfeeding for the mother and baby
- **CAT 20:** Blood screening of the newborn baby
- **CAT 21:** Full examination of the newborn

It is expected that students will attain a minimum rating of **Assisted (A)** level (please see 'Quick Guides: Clinical Assessment Tool for the Midwifery Student').

CAT 1: Initial pregnancy assessment, has already been assessed and passed in the pre-clinical workshop

Students are required to collect daily feedback from their supervising midwives. Each student has a Clinical Facilitator allocated by the University; please provide feedback as requested or contact as needed if the student requires.

Thank you for participating in educating the next generation of midwives