

Mission, Vision, Philosophy, and Outcomes of the CU Midwifery Education Program

The University of Colorado Midwifery Education Program prepares the next generation of midwives to lead and transform the delivery of healthcare for the people of Colorado and the world, through excellence in clinical practice, education, and research.

It is our goal to lead the nation in midwifery education, through clinical and teaching excellence, scholarship, leadership, and interprofessional endeavors. The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) Vision, Mission, and Core Values are integrated within the following values and were used to guide the breadth and content. Please visit the ACNM page for full list of Vision, Mission, and Core Values: <https://www.midwife.org/our-mission-vision-core-values>

We accomplish this objective in the following ways:

Education: We offer hybrid online coursework, accessible to Colorado and the West. Our clinical faculty practice sites provide quality clinical education, and our program provides students with clinical placements in metro Denver and throughout Colorado.

Clinical Practice: CU midwifery faculty practices are foundational to midwifery education in the College. Our midwifery faculty practices serve the people of our community through the provision of quality care, and they serve the students of CU through quality clinical education.

Research: We strive to contribute to increasing knowledge around the safety, quality, and cost-effectiveness of midwifery care.

The Midwifery Education Program at the University of Colorado seeks to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes - the head, hands, and heart- of a safe, beginning practitioner, shaped by the following values:

Diversity: increasing diversity brings a richness to the profession and the community, which improves the value of care. We will pursue programs and strategies that promote a diverse student body.

Caring: the motivation for midwifery practice and education is to provide care to women, childbearing individuals, and families during childbirth and across the lifespan. We value compassionate and selfless delivery of quality care that puts the patient at the center.

Respect: careful listening and consideration for the perspectives, opinions, and motivations of others, including fellow students, faculty, the patients we care for, and other members of the healthcare team.

Inclusiveness: we believe that midwifery education and midwifery care does not discriminate, but rather sets a standard for including everyone, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, gender and gender identity, country of origin, sexual orientation, or religious belief.

Cultural responsiveness: as midwives, we partner with patients and families from diverse cultural backgrounds. Therefore, we seek to educate practitioners who understand the importance of cultural beliefs and practices and hence align the provision of care with the beliefs of the patients to whom we provide care.

Creativity and Innovation: As a small profession that has the potential to significantly affect the provision of healthcare delivery, we seek to find creative and innovative methods that grow the size of the profession through education. While we seek to educate midwives, it is also important to understand job markets and practice development. Therefore, creative and innovative approaches to midwifery education that can increase scale and marketability of the profession in the greater healthcare system are valued.

Intellectual Rigor: we desire to prepare learners who evaluate and apply research to practice, continually seeking to improve the practice of midwifery and evaluate the effectiveness of current practice by providing breadth and depth of knowledge, resources, and learning activities.

Inquisitiveness: We value learning that empowers the learner to seek out information, respectfully critique the information being presented, and present new research questions.

Leadership: As a profession seeking to establish midwifery-led care as the standard of practice in the United States, we desire to develop midwifery leaders. Midwifery leaders seek to uphold the standards of the profession, participate in increasing the number of practicing midwives in Colorado through clinical education, and promote the presence of midwifery in their organizations and communities.

Accountability: As a profession with a large scope of practice and significant public trust, we seek to develop students and beginning midwives who are accountable to the standards of the profession, their leaders, their peers, and the community.

Citizenship and Community: We recognize that our program and profession exist within a larger community of Colorado and the world. We seek to be responsible stewards of our time, talent, resources, and utilize each to improve the greater community in which we learn and practice.

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