Things you should know about Clinical Practice Requirements in the Bachelor of Midwifery at the University of Newcastle

The Bachelor of Midwifery is being offered in partnership with the Hunter New England Local Health District. In line with the requirements of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) there are two forms of clinical practice in the Bachelor of Midwifery. One form is clinical placement in a hospital maternity unit, including some specialised services and the other form of practice is the relationship-based Continuity of Care Experiences (CCE), which involves following 20 women during their antenatal, labour and birth, and post natal experiences over the length of the program. During clinical placement, students will also be supervised to conduct a number of clinical skills as per the requirements of the nurses and midwives registering body.

Student Allocation to a Specific Health Service

The aim is that midwifery students will be accepted and feel a part of their nominated maternity unit. Students will spend all or most of their clinical time in one maternity unit. Clinical placements in 2015 for the Port Macquarie students will be at Port Macquarie, Kempsey and Taree hospitals. As with all health programs, clinical places are strictly limited and students are required to attend their designated clinical placement as a mandatory part of enrolment in the Bachelor of Midwifery program.

Please note a successful applicant’s place in our program is dependent on them accepting the clinical placement location they are allocated to. It is important to note, therefore, that by accepting a place in the program, a successful applicant is accepting the University’s clinical placement decision as final. It is expected that students will remain in the one location for the duration of the program.

How will Students be Taught and Supervised in Practice?

Each maternity service will have a nominated clinical educator to support the Bachelor of Midwifery students. The clinical midwifery coordinator and the local clinical educators will be health service staff with con-joint appointments at the University of Newcastle. Clinical midwives within the health service will be educated and supported to mentor and teach the midwifery students in the clinical setting.

How much clinical practice is involved in the Bachelor of Midwifery?

The total amount of clinical experience is 1170 hours over three years. Placements include the hospital maternity unit (646 hours); some specialised services in hospital & community settings (88 hrs) Continuity of Care Experience relationships (400 hours) and 36 hours of group-based clinical supervision.

Students will need some form of reliable transport to get to campus, their clinical placement site and CCE women. Transport will be at the student’s expense. If one of your CCE women goes into labour at 1 o’clock in the morning you will need to be able to get to her, so your intended transport mode needs to be readily available and reliable.

What do I need to do to be ready for Clinical Practice?

Students may be required to attend a maternity service at their allocated hospital or other health care facilities and services related to childbearing women in Semester 1 of Year 1.

This degree requires students to participate in clinical placements in NSW Health facilities. Students will be subject to policies and procedures laid down by the NSW Ministry of Health, including polices around criminal record checking. These requirements may include a WorkCover Approved First Aid Certificate, a National Police Certificate, NSW Health Code of Conduct Agreement as well as fulfilling
any required immunisations in order to obtain a NSW Health Certificate of Compliance. Students are expected to comply with these requirements prior to undertaking clinical placements.

Failure to attend to these requirements in time will mean that the student will not be able to negotiate access to their clinical site. Failure to complete clinical components will lead to a fail grade in the relevant clinical course. Further information regarding the most up-to-date requirements will be provided at the Orientation and Program Information & Enrollment Session (PIES).

**What’s involved with Continuity of Care Experiences?**
Midwife means ‘with woman’ and the Bachelor of Midwifery’s clinical component is structured so that students are able to be with women through their childbearing journey as much as possible.

Students will participate in 20 relationship-based, Continuity of Care Experiences with childbearing women. Students will meet women in hospital antenatal clinics and will follow them through subsequent antenatal visits. Students must be on call for up to 8 births per year. Each Continuity of Care Experience relationship is estimated to require about 20 hours of student time. Midwives will oversee and supervise midwifery students during their Continuity of Care Experiences. Further, each student will need to show proof of engaging in their CCE relationships at the end of each semester of enrolment.