

Focus on the Future!
Career Path

Week 6: Midwifery and Nursing



What does a Midwife or a Nurse do?

Midwives:

- give pregnant women advice on issues like healthy eating
- explain options like giving birth in hospital or at home
- run classes about pregnancy (antenatal) and parenting
- check the health of mother and baby during pregnancy
- check progress when labour starts
- monitor the baby during labour
- give pain relief or advising on ways to manage pain
- deliver the baby
- call a doctor or other medical professionals if you notice any problems

Nurses:

- take temperatures, blood pressures and pulse rates
- help doctors with physical examinations
- give drugs and injections
- clean and dress wounds
- set up drips and blood transfusions

- use medical equipment
- monitor patients' progress
- update patient records and handover information to colleagues at the end of a shift
- work with doctors and other healthcare professionals to decide what care to give
- give advice to patients and their relatives



What Qualifications do they have?

Midwife:

You can do a degree in midwifery, approved by the [Nursing & Midwifery Council](#). Full-time courses take 3 years.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English, maths and science
- 2 or 3 A levels, including a science, or a level 3 diploma in health and social care or applied science.

Nurse:

You can do a degree in adult nursing approved by the [Nursing & Midwifery Council](#). Some degree courses let you study another area of nursing alongside adult nursing.

You may be able to join the second year of a nursing degree if you already have a degree in:

- a health-related subject
- psychology
- life sciences
- social work

Full-time courses usually take 3 years.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English, maths and science
- 2 or 3 A levels, including a science, or a level 3 diploma in health and social care or applied science.



Apprenticeships:

You may be able to do a degree apprenticeship in nursing if you work in a healthcare setting like a hospital.

The apprenticeship takes around 4 years and is a mix of academic study and on-the-job training.

You must be supported by your employer to take this route.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) and A levels, or equivalent BTEC level 3, for a degree apprenticeship

Midwives:

You can do a midwife degree apprenticeship. You'll usually need:

- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) and A levels, or equivalent, for a degree apprenticeship

How much do they earn?

The average earnings for nurses are between £25,000 and £37,000 per year or more. It may be possible to earn more than this by specialising.

Midwives can earn between £24,000 - £44,000 per year.

Where to find out more

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/>

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/midwifery>

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/nursing-careers>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/nurse>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/midwife>

If you want to find out about similar job roles, check out these below:

Sonographer

Children's nurse

Health Visitor

Health Care Assistant

Maternity Support Worker

Speech Therapist