

## Student Midwives' Involvement in Midwifery Care

St. Jacobs Midwives is an active teaching practice. We are committed to supporting the Midwifery Education Program (MEP) by providing learning opportunities in a clinical setting. This will ensure the growth of high-quality midwifery care to meet the needs of growing families in Ontario.

The MEP is a 4.5 year Health Sciences baccalaureate degree offered at McMaster and Toronto Metropolitan Universities. Students spend 3 semesters on campus doing academic work in the classroom studying subjects such as Pharmacology, Anatomy and Physiology, Research Methods, Health Promotion and Social and Cultural Dimensions of Health. The remaining 6 semesters are dedicated to placements in a clinical setting. Most of the placements are with a midwife, but students also spend time working with nurses, obstetricians and in other community settings.

The MEP is a “hands-on” learning program. It is not possible to become a midwife without practicing all the skills required to be a midwife in a real-life situation. Students will work alongside midwives where they will participate in providing care at the level that they are at in the program. ***No student midwife is ever responsible for your care at any point.*** Although it may appear the student is making decisions, your midwife is ultimately responsible for all the management of your care.

By the time a student midwife graduates from the MEP, they must be able to provide comprehensive prenatal care, delivery and post-partum care. Your participation in providing this valuable experience is so important to the growth of midwifery. Please consider including a student in your care if the opportunity is presented. Please speak to your midwife if you have any questions or concerns.