

SCHOOL OF MIDWIFERY (ESF)

HISTORY

The School of Midwifery, affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, was established on November 3, 1922, with a study duration of 2 years. At the time, applicants were only required to hold a certificate of primary studies or pass an entrance exam should they not have one.

In 1929, the School of Midwifery expanded its program and became the “School of Midwifery and Nursing.” A document from that time states: “Midwives do not have the opportunity to practice their skills daily; they can contribute by providing care for patients at home as directed by the doctors, offering emergency aid, and administering necessary treatments. Therefore, it is in their interest to attend specialized courses and earn a nursing diploma.”

The midwifery profession thus became the precursor to the nursing profession in Lebanon. The School awarded both the midwifery and nursing diplomas until the founding, on January 3, 1943, of a School for visiting nurses.

Initially, in 1922, the School of Midwifery was housed in a small building next to a maternity ward near the Daughters of Charity Hospital in Lazarieh.

In 1939, it was relocated to the newly opened French Maternity Hospital on Damascus Road, across from the Faculty of Medicine. When the Maternity Hospital closed in 1979 due to the events in Lebanon, the School had to move to Achrafieh, to the Central House of the Daughters of Charity. It later returned to the Campus of Medical Sciences in 1991 after its restoration.

Between 1929 and 1967, the midwifery program was spread over two years. The required qualifications for admissions to the School evolved from a primary school certificate to the Brevet in 1943, and the first part of the Baccalaureate (Grade 11) in 1960. Starting 1967, applicants were only admitted if they already held a nursing diploma. By 1971, the basic requirement for admission had risen to the second part of the Baccalaureate (Grade 12). The program lasted 12 months, then increased to 14 months in 1984.

In 2004, a new curriculum was introduced based on the European Credit Transfer System, allowing students with a Lebanese Baccalaureate to apply. This marked the separation of midwifery training from the Bachelor in Nursing Science, extending the program to four years. Additionally, a master’s program and continuing education courses were introduced.

In 2014, a training manual based on professional competencies was developed, leading to a modification of the curriculum, teaching methods and assessment processes.

MISSION

Training skilled midwives by emphasizing the development of expertise in core competencies, while offering postgraduate and continuing education programs, thereby creating opportunities in independent perinatal activities and advancing research.

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Faculty member of another USJ institution

Nancy CHOUCAIR ALAM, Tatiana WAHANIAN PAPAIZIAN

DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Bachelor in Midwifery

Master in Maieutic Sciences

University Diploma in Human Lactation and Breastfeeding

University Diploma in Obstetrical and Gynecological Ultrasound

University Diploma in Obstetrical Mechanics and Techniques

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- Hospital midwife working in maternity wards, providing care in various departments: delivery room, nursery and postnatal care.
- Consultant midwife working in a private clinic for follow-up and delivery of normal, pathology-free pregnancies.
- Working midwife in NGOs in all areas of reproductive health.
- Midwife in primary care centers.
- Midwife instructor in the School of Midwifery.

TUITION FEES

The cost of the credit is 135\$.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF STUDY

First Title: Studying at the Saint Joseph University of Beirut

Article 2: Programs and Cycles

- a. A study program is a set of courses whose objective is to achieve the learning outcomes required for the granting of a specific qualification. At the end of a study program, students usually receive a diploma; some programs aim at granting certificates of participation.
- b. An institution may offer several study programs. Some are common to several institutions.
- c. Study programs are generally divided into two cycles: Bachelor (1st cycle), Master (2nd cycle).
- d. According to the ECTS¹, the minimum duration of a cycle is of 8 semesters for the Bachelor in Midwifery and 4 semesters for the Master's degree.
- e. Students may, if they wish and if it does not contradict the provisions of paragraph (d) of the present article, register in a maximum of 36 credits per semester. The Head of the institution must, however, pay close

1- European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System



attention to these cases to avoid overloading the students. An exemption from the Rector is also possible; for this, students must submit a detailed written request to the Rector. This request must first be validated by the Head of the institution who will then forward it to the Rector.

- f. Students may, if they wish, spread out their studies over a maximum period of time that does not exceed twice the minimum duration set by the institution in which they are registered, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (d) of the present article².

	Minimum Duration	Maximum Duration
Diploma in Midwifery	8 semesters	16 semesters
Master in Maieutic Sciences	4 semesters	8 semesters
University Diploma	2 semesters	4 semesters

g. The School of Midwifery offers two cycles, at the end of which student receive the following diplomas:

Name of the Diploma	Credits
Bachelor in Midwifery	240
Master in Maieutic Sciences	(of which 58 are by equivalence) 120

Article 3: Courses and Credits

- a. A course (UE) is a learning activity to which a number of credits is assigned.
- b. The credits represent, in numerical form, the amount of work that students are expected to carry out to achieve the learning outcomes of a course.
- c. A credit for a **theoretical course** at USJ is equivalent to 25 hours of in-person and/or personal work. A whole number of credits between 1 and 8 is assigned to every course. A greater number of credits may be assigned to internships and dissertations.

A clinical credit represents between 25 and 30 hours of work depending on the internship and the curriculum to which it is assigned.

- d. Credits are accumulated to obtain a diploma, after validation and capitalization, according to the procedures set by the institution.
- e. Credits may be transferred within the same cycle according to the procedures specified in Article 17 of the present document.
- f. Every cycle has a specific number of credits to be validated to obtain the degree: **240 credits for the first cycle** (Bachelor in Midwifery); 120 credits for the second cycle (**Master**).
- g. Every institution sets a minimum and a maximum number of hours of in-person work for the first cycle.
- h. To obtain the first diploma of a program, students must validate a certain number of required courses, electives required by the institution in which they are registered (**closed electives**), general education courses required by the University, known as “USJ General Education Program”, and **open elective** courses, according to the following distribution:

Course Type	Number of credits suggested by the institution	Number of credits students should validate
Required Courses	Between 168 and 210	197
Closed Electives (Institution)	At least 18	At least 12
USJ General Education Program ³	List suggested by the University	At least 12
Open Electives	List suggested by the University	At least 6

2- The Ministry of Education and Higher Education allows a maximum of 16 semesters for students registered in a part-time PhD program.

3- These elective courses fall under four categories: “Ethics”, “Disciplinary Openness”, “Civic Education”, and “Religious Studies.”



Article 6: Languages

a. Languages of instruction

French and Arabic are the two main languages of instruction. Some courses or study programs **may be** taught in English.

b. French proficiency requirements

Prior to any registration in the first cycle program, the candidate must have been placed in category “A” at the French Placement Test (TALF).

However, a candidate placed in category “B” on this test is allowed to provisionally register. As soon as they register and during the first year of their studies, they take compulsory remedial French language courses which replace a 3-credit open elective course. These courses are offered by the USJ Faculty of Languages and Translation in three successive sessions during the first and second semesters, and during the summer term.

An “A” level test is administered at the end of every session. Students who pass the test validate the three credits; their registration becomes final and they can pursue their studies. Students who do not pass the first session may register for the second session; if they fail the second session, they may register for the summer session. Students who do not pass the test after the three sessions will not be able to renew their registration.

Article 7: Calendar and Schedules

a. The academic year starts on September 1 and ends on August 31. It consists of two academic semesters of 14 weeks each. Every year, the University Board sets the calendar (vacations, holidays, final exams).

b. For the first cycle, a summer term is offered for clinical internships and for students who wish to retake courses they have failed (half the initial number of hours), or to take additional courses offered intensively (the same number of hours as the initial course) to allow them to progress in the program. In both cases, the workload per course must be respected.

c. A course must not exceed one semester, except for an internship, an end-of-study project or a dissertation which, according to the supervisors, cannot be completed in one semester. In such cases, it must be spread over two semesters as part of two courses, the first of which is a prerequisite, in accordance with the provisions of Article 4, for students to be able to register in the second course, which is offered in the following semester.

d. Classes run for one hour and fifteen minutes at the following times: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

e. Flexibility in the schedules mentioned in the previous paragraph may be granted for practical work and Master programs.

Article 8: Mandatory Attendance

a. Course and internship attendance is mandatory and monitored. However, for elective courses, absences during the first two weeks of the semester are not taken into account.

b. Students’ attendance and motivation have a direct impact on their assessment throughout the semester (ref. Article 25 of the present document) according to the procedures defined by the institution.

c. To take the final exam of a course, in both, the first and second sessions, students must have attended at least 70% of the in-person sessions. The list of students who will not be able to take the final exam is validated by the Head of the institution and by at least one member of the Institution Board on the eve of the exams.

d. For an absence of more than two consecutive weeks, students must request an authorization. Depending on the length and period of the student’s absence, the School Board may either authorize them to resume their semester or ask them to repeat it. In the latter case, the maximum duration of the program is extended by one semester.

An absence of more than two consecutive weeks without authorization is considered as a withdrawal of the student for the current semester; the concerned student cannot claim any right to re-register.

e. All absences from internships must be justified by a medical report or a written excuse deemed valid by the administration. Absences from internships must be reported on the same day to the heads of departments and the supervising instructor.

Given their importance, internships must be completed in full. Even justified absences from internships must be compensated as soon as possible and in the same clinical course, according to the schedule set by the Heads of the School.



Title Three - Validation of the Program Learning Outcomes

Article 25: Evaluation of the Learning Outcomes

- a. The credits for which students are registered are validated following the assessment of the course's learning outcomes⁴.
- b. The assessment consists of an ongoing assessment of the students' learning outcomes throughout the semester (written and oral exams, mid-term exams, presentations, projects, personal work, attendance, motivation, etc.) and an end-of-semester assessment (final exam, project, dissertation, etc.).
- c. Assessment methods are as follows:
Depending on the nature and learning outcomes of the course, students' assessment may be based on:
 - Work carried out as part of the CPW (group work, tutorials, practical work, presentations, reading notes, internship reports, clinical processes, internship reports, portfolios, etc.)
 - A midterm exam
 - End of internship evaluations
 - Clinical assessments, a final exam
 - The defense of a dissertation or the presentation of a professional project

The evaluated elements and their weighting in the final grade are indicated in writing in the course syllabus provided to the students at the beginning of each course. This information cannot be modified throughout the academic year.

Article 27: Exam Sessions

- a. Students are entitled to two final exam sessions per course and per semester for theoretical exams and one session for clinical exams. The procedures for the final exams, mid-term exams, projects and dissertations are determined above (Article 25), so that the corresponding course is completed at the end of the corresponding semester, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7.
- b. For the theoretical final exam, students have the choice of taking either or both sessions.
- c. Students may, if they wish, re-take the exam they took in the first session, if necessary, to improve their exam grade. In all cases, the grade of the second session replaces the grade of the first session.
- d. Any re-registration of a student who fails a course twice is subject to the prior agreement of the jury, following a meeting between the student and the Head of the institution. The same applies to any subsequent failure.

Article 28: Absences to Assessments

- a. Any student who is absent for an assessment, other than the final exam, must justify their absence by presenting a valid written excuse within three working days.
Similarly, any absence from a course or internship, on the eve of a midterm exam, must be justified by submitting a written explanation with a valid reason within three working days.
Students who justify their absence benefit from:
 - A postponed exam, if they fail to take to midterm exam or the clinical exam.
 - A new deadline, should they fail to take, within the allotted time, a controlled personal work, an end-of-study project, a professional project or a research dissertation. This deadline cannot, in any way, be extended beyond the current semester.
- b. Absence from both final exam sessions shall result in a grade of zero for that exam.

Article 31: Checking the Exam Paper and Verifying the Grade

- a. Students may request, in writing, to view their final exam paper within five working days of the posting of grades. The corrected midterm exam papers may be shown and discussed with the students.
- b. In the sole case of a clerical error of omission, addition, or deferral, the grade will be corrected upon the decision of the Head of the institution.



Title Six – Student Life

Article 46: Election of Class Representatives

- a. The election is held by year of study in every program. The representatives and their substitutes are elected at the beginning of every academic year. One representative and one substitute are elected for each year of study.
 - b. The election takes place under the supervision of an electoral board composed of three members: a representative of the institution, who chairs the board, and two students (the oldest and the youngest of the non-candidate students).
 - c. The procedures for the election are established by a special text adopted by the University Board.
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