

Yale School of Nursing

Midwifery & Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Programs

- Students applying to YSN can apply to do a WHNP specialty, a Midwifery specialty, or a combined program of the two specialties. Students who elect to do both specialties have added requirements and tuition costs.

Which specialty should I choose midwifery or women's health?

- Students enrolling in the Women's health nurse practitioners program provide outpatient women's health including gynecological care, family planning, prenatal, and postpartum care. Women's health students complete 90 clinical hours in general primary care. They do not complete intrapartum clinical.
- Midwifery will complete the same outpatient clinical as women's health nurse practitioners except they do not complete the 90 clinical hours in primary care. They are additionally prepared to provide intrapartum care and care of the normal newborn for 28 days.

Pros of dual tracks versus single track

- A clinical rotation devoted to comprehensive primary care
- Increased clinical hours in outpatient gynecologic care
- Greater job flexibility
- WHNP malpractice can be lower if only working in that role

Cons of dual tracks versus single track

- Cost (financial + added clinical demands while in programs)
- Less time for elective courses or concentrations
- WHNP not essential for those planning to work only in midwifery
- Additional licensing, certification costs

Midwifery versus WHNP

- Focus on care during complete perinatal period and woman's lifespan
- Greater job flexibility

WHNP versus midwifery

- Focus on primary and gender related health care from adolescence through menopause
- No training or clinical practice in intrapartum management
- Work hours more stable (usually no call or nights)

Policy & Procedures for Choosing Dual Midwifery/WHNP Track

Students have 3 track options while applying within the Midwifery/WHNP specialties:

1. Midwifery only
2. WHNP only
3. Combined Midwifery/WHNP

WHNP students cannot make changes to their specialty selection once admitted into the program. Students admitted to the GEPN program as Midwifery or Combined Midwifery/WHNP have until May 30th of their GEPN year to declare if they choose to do a single or dual specialty.

Students who choose a single track will pay the regular YSN tuition and fees and upon satisfactory completion of the program requirements will graduate in May of the second year of specialty study.

Students who choose the dual Midwifery/WHNP tracks have additional requirements. These include:

- a. Signed declaration of their choice of the dual track by May 30th of the GEPN year or upon admission for RN students.
- b. Students in the dual track will pay an additional \$15,000 tuition, split over four semesters, beginning in the fall of the first specialty year. If at the end of the first two semesters a student elects to drop one of the specialty tracks, s/he will not need to pay the second-year tuition. If the student drops a specialty track in the second year, the tuition will not be refunded.
- c. Students will need to be enrolled in an extra semester, usually but not always completed during the summer, in order to complete both tracks. A fee of \$100 will be assessed during the extra semester.
- d. Graduation in May of the second specialty year cannot be guaranteed. It will be influenced by availability of clinical sites, satisfactory student didactic and clinical performance, and student flexibility in clinical placements.