

## Information retrieval as part of final examination for midwifery students at Arcada

Sonja Hortling, information specialist

Pirjo Väyrynen, lecturer in midwifery

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Midwifery students study for 4.5 years at Arcada, University of Applied Sciences. The aim of the studies is to meet the requirements of a professional career as future midwives. Working life requires expert professional knowledge as well as proficiency in following professional developments.

A midwife should be able to find, analyse and process high quality research in her or his field.

The most crucial factor when planning the final examination is to find assignments which fulfil the demands of both the teacher as well as the information specialist.

The teacher calls for assignments proving professional competence. The questions should be of current interest and applicable to occupational care realities. The acquired material must consist of high quality research articles.

The information specialist requires the student to demonstrate her or his ability to perform comprehensive information retrieval in various relevant data bases and to be able to make use of their special characteristics. The student should also be capable of finding full text articles for processing in the examination.

During the whole period of education the student has been performing information retrieval integrated into courses of study.

Before the examination the examinee will attend a lecture on information retrieval where a model search will be performed under the guidance of the information specialist. The student will receive a model search in writing and instructions on how to proceed with answering the examination questions. This material, the examinee can bring along to the examination.

The examination will take place in a computer class on general examination days for the duration of three hours. The processed material and the search profiles and an account of how the information retrieval was executed will be sent to the instructor by way of e-mail.

Both the processed material as well as the information retrieval procedures will be evaluated.

Altogether 11 midwifery students took part in this kind of a final examination after finishing their remaining studies. As individual rates of study were applied the final examination was performed on three occasions.

The student had the opportunity to submit her or his feedback on the examination. All the student considered the final examination interesting and meaningful but demanding. All students used the full three hours for the examination, but felt time was too short to supply a more penetrating analysis of the assignment.

The results of the examination disclosed the professional knowledge of the student by revealing the capacity of the student to reflect on the answers and concrete care situations. The examination raised the willingness to execute information retrieval and to integrate current research with daily work.

