

You are invited to become a **FertilityCare™** Practitioner



Mercy **FertilityCare™** Practitioner Education Program

As one of the nation's preeminent providers of **FertilityCare™ Services**, Mercy hospital has a long-standing tradition of providing quality and comprehensive services in this area. The program educators have played an integral role in taking **FertilityCare™** across the country and around the world. The Mercy **FertilityCare™** Practitioner Education Program is committed to the principles and values that have made Mercy a leading provider of health services in St. Louis and beyond.

The **CREIGHTON MODEL** is a medically standardized modification of the Billings Ovulation Method which links family planning with women's reproductive and gynecologic health. It is the only program in this field that meets the education demands of a newly-emerging allied health profession and provides a case management approach to teaching.

The **CREIGHTON MODEL FertilityCare™ System** and the new women's health science of NaProTechnology were developed through the research and education efforts of Thomas W. Hilgers, MD, director of the Saint Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction and clinical professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Creighton University Medical Center.



Your life is our life's work.

Program Overview

The Mercy **FertilityCare™** Practitioner Education Program is a 13-month program that will prepare students to:

- Teach women and couples to navigate their fertility
- Provide comprehensive, professional, and individualized family planning services
- Help couples understand their sexuality and fertility
- Assist couples experiencing infertility in a way that is natural and cooperative
- Work in an allied health profession dedicated to ongoing research and development

Sign Up for Our Next Course:

Education Phase I **Education Phase II**
October 17-24, 2026 April 26-May 1, 2027

Program Location

Mercy Conference and Retreat Center
2039 North Geyer Rd. | St. Louis, MO 63131

Application Deadline

Applications are due **August 31, 2026**

- \$25 application fee (\$50 after August 31, 2026)
- No applications accepted after **September 15, 2026**

Course Structure

The course is presented in two education phases and two supervised practica. Students also complete an on-site visit with their supervisor and take a final certificate examination.

Education Phase I (EPI)

October 17-24, 2026 | *St. Louis, MO*

EPI is an eight-day immersion course focused on basic teaching skills of the Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System (CrMS). Topics include anatomy, physiology, contraception and natural methods, chart reading and correcting, use of standardized tools, system instructions and techniques of follow up.

Supervised Practicum I (SPI)

October-April, 2027 | *Practitioner's Home Location*

During SPI, students teach a minimum of six clients in their home location. Students work under the direction of a long-distance supervisor to develop basic teaching skills in the CrMS.

Education Phase II (EPII)

April 26-May 1, 2027 | *St. Louis, MO*

EPII is a six-day immersion course focused on advanced teaching skills of the CrMS. Topics include infertility, NaProTechnology, unusual bleeding, continuous mucus, pregnancies, advanced behavioral issues and a client case review.

Supervised Practicum II (SPII)

May 2027-November 2027

Practitioner's Home Location

During SPII, students teach a minimum of 12 additional clients (18 total) in their home location. Students work under the direction of a long-distance supervisor to refine basic skills and develop advanced teaching skills in the CrMS.

On-Site Visit (OSV)

During SPII | *Practitioner's Home Location*

During the On-Site Visit (OSV), the supervisor travels to the student's home location for two days to evaluate the student's teaching skills and conduct a client case review.

Final Certificate Examination

November, 2027 | *Practitioner's Home Location*

In order to become an independent FertilityCare™ Practitioner, students take a final certificate examination upon completion of all program requirements.

Application Qualifications

The Mercy FertilityCare™ Practitioner Education Program welcomes applications from individuals with a strong motivation and commitment to exceptional FertilityCare™ services. Class size is limited and early submission of an application will allow adequate study time of the advance books and materials.

Prospective Practitioners must meet one of the following criteria:

1. **Registered nurse with current license**
2. **Individual with a BA or BS degree**
3. **Associate degree/diploma**, such as: Licensed Practical Nurse; Human Services Practitioner or the equivalent of two years of college study

Further eligibility criterion requires that the applicant does not prescribe or refer for contraceptives, does not perform or refer for sterilization or abortion, practices (uses) a natural method of fertility regulation or, if single and celibate, monitors their natural fertility and is a philosophical acceptor of natural methods.

Accreditation and Affiliation

The Mercy FertilityCare™ Practitioner Education Program is accredited by the American Academy of FertilityCare™ Professionals (AAFCP). Accredited education programs provide students with the necessary education for certification from the AAFCP.

Course Fees

All tuition costs are due upon entry into the program. A non-refundable tuition deposit is required to secure your enrollment in the class.

- **\$25 Application Fee (\$50 after August 31, 2026)**
- **\$3,100 Tuition**
- **\$550 Books and Materials**
- **\$840 Facility and Meals (\$60/day for 14 days)**

Additional Costs

- **On-site visit during SPII**
(travel and hotel for supervisor)
- **Client supplies** (approximately \$500 and reimbursable through client fees)
- **Overnight accommodations**
Please contact the Site Host for local lodging options.

To Apply or for Questions:

Elizabeth Kauffeld, RN, BSN, CFCE | *Program Director* | 314.991.0327 | elizabeth.kauffeld@mercy.net