

Outcome 1
 Class 3 - The Female Reproductive System
 Notes

Structures of the Female Reproductive System

- **Ovaries** – produce sex hormones and eggs (pl: ova, sing: ovum)
 - Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer death in women
- **Fallopian Tube (oviduct)** – passage way that the egg takes to the uterus
 - Fertilization occurs in the fallopian tube
 - If egg is not fertilized, it will deteriorate and die within 48hrs
 - 10-12cm long
- **Uterus (womb)** – hollow, inverted pear shaped organ
 - Takes 3-5 days for fertilized egg to reach the uterus
 - Is the site where the embryo and fetus will develop
 - Composed of two major tissues:
 - Myometrium – provides support for developing embryo
 - Endometrium – provides nourishment for the developing embryo
 - If pregnancy does not occur, the endometrium is shed.
 - This is called menstruation
 - Hysterectomy - removal of the uterus
- **Vagina** – connects uterus with the outer environment
 - Sexual intercourse occurs within the vagina
 - Also serves as the birth canal
 - Is very acidic, which prevents growth of microbes
- **Cervix** – separates vagina from uterus
 - Is a thick muscular band
 - Dilates during the birth process to allow the baby into the vagina
 - Pap test involves collecting cells of the cervix and analyzing them for abnormalities

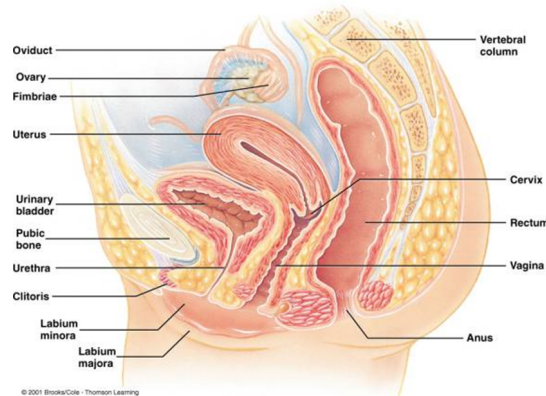
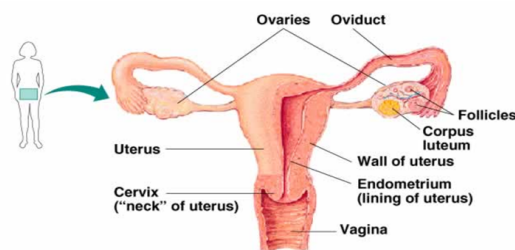


Table 5 The Female Reproductive System

Structure	Function
ovaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produce the hormones estrogen and progesterone • site of ovum (egg cell) development and ovulation
Fallopian tubes (oviducts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carry the ovum from the ovary to the uterus • usually the site of fertilization
fimbriae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sweep the ovum into the Fallopian tube following ovulation
uterus (womb)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pear-shaped organ in which the embryo and fetus develop • involved in menstruation
cervix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • separates the vagina from the uterus • holds the fetus in place during pregnancy • dilates during birth to allow the fetus to leave the uterus
vagina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extends from the cervix to the external environment • provides a passageway for sperm and menstrual flow • functions as the birth canal



©Addison Wesley Longman, Inc.