

PARAMEDIC

The paramedic is a health professional whose primary focus is to respond to, assess, and triage emergent, urgent, and non-urgent requests for medical care, apply basic and advanced knowledge and skills necessary to determine patient physiologic, psychological, and psychosocial needs, administer medications, interpret and use diagnostic findings to implement treatment, provide complex patient care, and facilitate referrals and/or access to a higher level of care when the needs of the patient exceed the capability level of the paramedic. A paramedic often serves as a patient care team member in a hospital or other health care setting to the full extent of the paramedic's education, certification, licensure, and credentialing. Paramedics may work in community settings where they take on additional responsibilities monitoring and evaluating the needs of at-risk patients, as well as intervening to mitigate conditions that could lead to poor outcomes. Paramedics help educate patients and the public in the prevention and/or management of medical, health, psychological, and safety issues.

- Function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, community, health, or public safety system with advanced clinical protocols and medical oversight.
- Perform interventions with the basic and advanced equipment typically found on an ambulance, including diagnostic equipment approved by an agency medical director.
- May provide specialized interfacility care during transport.
- Are an important link in the continuum of health care.

Other Attributes:

Paramedics commonly facilitate medical decisions at emergency scenes and during transport. Paramedics work in a variety of specialty care settings including ground and air ambulances, and in occupational, hospital, and community settings. Academic preparation enables paramedics to use a wide range of pharmacology, airway, and monitoring devices as well as use critical thinking skills to make complex judgments such as the need for transport from a field site, alternate destination decisions, the level of personnel appropriate for transporting a patient, and similar judgments. Due to the complexity of the paramedic scope of practice and the required integration of knowledge and skills, many training programs are moving towards advanced training at the Associate degree or higher level.

PM M10 Paramedic Studies 18.5 Units

In-Class Hours: 236.25-236.50 lecture, 262.50 laboratory

Focuses on the core professional responsibilities of a paramedic including the assessment and triage of emergent, urgent, and non-urgent pre-hospital medical care. Applies basic and advanced knowledge and skills necessary to determine patient physiologic, psychological, and psycho-social needs. Covers administration of medications, interpretation and use of diagnostic findings to implement pre-hospital patient treatment, facilitate referrals and/or access to a higher level of care.

Advisories/Rec Prep: ENGL M01A or M01AH; and MATH M03 (or equivalent); and ANPH M01 or (ANAT M01 and PHSO M01 or PHSO M01H); and HS M15 or NS M20; and NS M19; and Completion of 1000 hours of employment as an EMT in a primary care or 911 setting; and the following Certifications: Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS); Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS); Prehospital Life Support (PHTLS); Advanced Life Support (ALS); ECG (Electrocardiogram)

Enrollment Limitations: Criminal background clearance. Current CPR certification for health care provider (American Heart Association) or professional rescuer (American Red Cross). Drug and alcohol clearance. Fingerprint clearance. Minimum age of 18. No acrylic or long nails in clinical settings. Physical examination demonstrating general good health. Proof of freedom from and immunity to communicable diseases. Admission to the Paramedic Program.

Materials Fee: \$175.00

Grade Modes: Letter Graded, Student Option- Letter/Credit, Pass/No Pass Grading

Field Trips: May be required

Degree Applicability: Applies to Associate Degree

AA/AS GE: None

Transfer Credit: None

PM M20 Paramedic Clinical Rotation and Field Preceptorship 18 Units

In-Class Hours: 945 laboratory

Prerequisites: PM M10

Provides supervised hospital based and prehospital field training to paramedic students after successful completion of the Paramedic Studies (PM M10) coursework. Incorporates the didactic paramedic instruction into a practical clinical environment where paramedic students will perform assessments, determine patient priority, develop patient treatment plans and provide interventional patient care to emergency and non-emergency patients. Develops critical thinking skills, promotes decision making related to diversity and equity relating to emergency medical patients, incorporates didactic instruction with real world application of medical treatment and assessment for adult and pediatric patients.

Catalog Notes: Per regulatory guidelines, successful completion of the Field Preceptorship requires students to complete a minimum of 480 hours of field observation and instruction for a minimum of 40 Advanced Life Support (ALS) patients, with 20 of the ALS contacts receiving assessment and treatment by the paramedic student from the time of patient contact through the transfer of care process; students who successfully complete Clinical Rotations and the Field Preceptorship will be eligible to sit for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) Paramedic Certification Exam.

Enrollment Limitations: Criminal background clearance. Current CPR certification for health care provider (American Heart Association) or professional rescuer (American Red Cross). Current negative TB test or chest x-ray. Drug and alcohol clearance. Fingerprint clearance. Minimum age of 18. No acrylic or long nails in clinical settings. No visible tattoos or visible body piercings except single studs in earlobes. Physical examination demonstrating general good health. Proof of freedom from and immunity to communicable diseases.

Grade Modes: Letter Graded, Student Option- Letter/Credit, Pass/No Pass Grading

Degree Applicability: Applies to Associate Degree

AA/AS GE: None

Transfer Credit: None

- Paramedic Studies, Certificate of Achievement (<http://catalog.vcccd.edu/moorpark/programs-courses/paramedics/paramedic-studies/>)