

PARAMEDICINE

Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree
98-100 credits

DEGREE AS AWARDED ON TRANSCRIPT

Associate of Applied Science, Paramedicine

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The AAS in Paramedicine is designed for students seeking a career in emergency medical services and/or the fire service industry. The program meets or exceeds the required technical skills and knowledge necessary for national and state licensure testing.

The program is challenging and will require participants to spend between 600 and 800 hours in clinical and field settings. The program contains certification requirements at the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Paramedic levels. Students will need to satisfy a computer-based and practical hands-on test through the National Registry of EMTs to complete certification.

Paramedics work in a variety of settings including fire departments, private and public ambulance services, hospitals (emergency departments), emergency communication systems, law enforcement agencies, search and rescue, recreation industry, forest service/smokejumpers and some rural clinical environments. Paramedics provide many services to their communities, often working in teams where communication and technical skills are expected. Starting salaries range from \$2,500 to \$3,500 per month.

COST OF PROGRAM

In addition to standard tuition, student fees, lab fees and textbooks, students should anticipate the following estimated program costs:

- CPR for Healthcare Provider card: \$55. Must remain current throughout Basic and Paramedic classes.
- Background check: \$55. Students must pass a criminal history check (CHC) prior to enrolling in the Basic or Paramedic classes.
- Drug screen: \$55.
- Immunization upload \$14. Documentation of completion of the following immunizations; Hepatitis B, current TB, MMR, annual Influenza, Tetanus within previous 10 years, Varicella (Chickenpox).
- In some cases fees associated with immunizations can range from \$20-\$200.
- Materials (stethoscope, paramedic field manual, uniforms, etc.) range from \$20-\$150.
- Testing fees which include National Registry computer exams, practical skills testing, fingerprint background checks (depending on location of practical testing) range from \$450-\$1,000 (includes travel outside of the area).
- Paramedic students should anticipate costs for housing and living expenses when doing their field internship outside of the local area.

Note: As some of the above fees are paid to outside institutions, rates may vary throughout the academic year.

ADVISING INFORMATION

- It is strongly recommended that candidates enrolling in the Paramedicine program have a strong background in high school or college math and chemistry. This knowledge will enhance the student's success in Anatomy and Physiology and college-level math.
- Required for Paramedic courses: successfully completed application process and accepted into Paramedic sequence of courses.
- Second-year Paramedic courses are open only to students who have been admitted to the program.
- Students should contact the Admissions and Records office to obtain details for Paramedic course selection and application process.
- Speak with an advisor prior to registration to get a list of recommended courses in categories that offer more than one option such as the general education requirement.
- Speak with program director to make sure students understand the state and national testing process for EMT and Paramedic courses.

PROGRAM PREPARATION AND PREREQUISITES REQUIRED PRIOR TO ENTRY IN PROGRAM EMT OR PARAMEDIC COURSES

- High school diploma or GED.
- Students must be 18 years old or older to test for state and national exams.
- A current Health Care Provider CPR card is required prior to placement into EMT or Paramedic courses.
- Uploaded and verified, required immunizations as set forth in clinical agreement with St. Charles hospital system.
- Information on the courses that are required for entry into the Paramedic courses as prerequisites and those used to calculate points for selection can be found on the Paramedicine website.
- All COCC students enrolled in an EMT, paramedic course and/or seeking agency affiliation requiring practical experience, will have to pass a criminal history check (CHC) as a condition of their acceptance into a medical, fire or other facility for training. Students who do not pass the CHC may not be eligible to complete training at affiliated sites, to sit for licensure or certification exams, or to be hired for some professional positions. Students who believe their personal history may interfere with their ability to complete the program of study or to obtain licensure or certification in their chosen field should contact the appropriate state board or the program director.
- Prior to entry into a health profession program, students must complete a 10 panel urine drug screen with Verified Credentials, Inc. With the exception of certain prescribed medications, students with a positive drug screen, which prevents them from attending clinical, will be disqualified from entering the program. Please refer to the Paramedicine website and/or program handbook for more detailed information.
- All students will undergo drug screening, background check and immunization verification, with the vendor approved by Central Oregon Community College, prior to entrance into the EMT or Paramedic certification courses at their expense. Students will be administratively withdrawn from the program and the seat given to an alternate student if requirements are not initiated with the specified vendor by the due date indicated by the Paramedicine program. Students with a positive urine drug screen will be disqualified from entering the EMT or Paramedic certification courses at Central Oregon Community College, with the exception of certain prescribed medications. The director of EMS/SFS will notify the student of positive drug screens and their resulting disqualification from the program. Students have a right to appeal the decision.

PROCESS FOR APPLYING TO PARAMEDIC PROGRAM

- Complete application process found at cocc.edu.
- Acceptance into the program is based on the selection process found on the Paramedicine website.
- All required prerequisite courses completed with an overall GPA of 3.0.

MINIMUM GPA OR GRADE REQUIREMENTS

All prerequisite courses must be completed at an average of a 3.0 GPA or higher. Students must maintain a minimum overall 2.7 GPA to maintain enrollment in the program; students falling below an overall 2.7 GPA during the Paramedicine program will have one term to correct the deficit. Students who fail to bring their grades up may not be allowed to register the following term and complete the course. They may reapply for the following year if they meet current requirements as set forth in the Paramedic program readmission policy. Students applying for readmission who have failed a course will have to repeat the entire program sequence.

PARAMEDICINE *(continued)*

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Each year, on the first day of Spring term, the application period for the following academic year's Fall term start of the Paramedic program is available. The Paramedic program admits one cohort per year beginning Fall term. All other courses are offered multiple times throughout Fall, Winter and Spring terms. See the online schedule for information.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

State requirements: 85 percent attendance in EMT or Paramedic classes; 100 percent attendance for clinical and field rotations; and students must pass the overall EMT or Paramedic class at a minimum of 76 percent to sit for state and national registry testing and certification.

The Paramedicine handbook outlines requirements for class, lab, clinical and field settings; these can be obtained by contacting the director of EMS/SFS programs. Continuation in the Paramedicine program will be determined on an individual basis and will depend on the ability of the student to correct deficiencies, broken relationships with clinical personnel and to show continued improvements in grades and skills.

Failure to successfully complete each term may affect a student's ability to finish the program and sit for state and national testing.

Each course must be taken in succession, within one academic year and at COCC.

NATIONAL/STATE LEGAL ELIGIBILITY OR UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE, ADVANCEMENT, AND/OR ENTRY INTO OCCUPATION

- Any student wishing to obtain an NREMT paramedic certification must graduate from a program accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP).
- The Central Oregon Community College Paramedicine program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (caahep.org) upon the recommendation of the CoAEMSP Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
25400 US Highway 19 North, Suite 158
Clearwater, FL 33763
727.210.2350
caahep.org
- The Paramedicine program is accredited by the Board of Education and the Oregon State Health Services and Trauma section. This accreditation requires that students complete didactic, lab, clinical and field internships as outlined in the Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR).

In Oregon it is required to have an AAS degree or higher to be a paramedic. National registry requirements may be obtained at nremt.org.

TRANSFER INFORMATION

This degree is designed for students planning to enter their chosen career upon graduation. Students who choose to pursue a higher degree in the field of paramedicine will have several options for transfer of credits; however, students who choose to pursue higher degrees in general studies should be aware that only selected credits may be transferrable to public or private baccalaureate institutions.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

SUPPORT COURSES

HHP 242	Stress Management	3
or HHP 266	Nutrition for Health	
or HHP 295	Health and Fitness	
MTH 065	Algebra II ¹	4
(or higher)		
SP 111	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	3-4
(or higher)		
WR 121	Academic Composition	4

Human Relations

FOR 211	Supervision and Leadership	3
or BA 285	Business Human Relations	

CORE REQUIREMENTS

AH 111	Medical Terminology	3
BI 231	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BI 232	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
BI 233	Human Anatomy and Physiology III	4
EMT 151	Emergency Medical Technician Part A	5
EMT 152	Emergency Medical Technician Part B	5
EMT 170	Emergency Response Comm/Doc	2
EMT 171	Emergency Response Patient Transport	2
EMT 175	Introduction to Emergency Services	3
or SFS 101	Introduction to Emergency Services	
EMT 195	Crisis Intervention	3
EMT 290	Paramedic Part I	8
EMT 291	Paramedic Clinical Part I	3
EMT 292	Paramedic Part II	8
EMT 293	Paramedic Clinical Part II	3
EMT 294	Paramedic Part III	8
EMT 295	Paramedic Clinical Part III	3
EMT 296	Advanced Cardiac Life Support	1
EMT 297	Pediatric Advanced Life Support	1
EMT 298	Prehospital Trauma Life Support	1
SFS 230	Rescue Practices	3
Paramedicine Electives ²		3-5

Students must enroll in 4 credits of Co-op Work Experience.

Select from the list below to meet this requirement:

EMT 280	Paramedic Co-op Work Experience ³	4
EMT 280A	Paramedic Co-op Work Experience	1
EMT 280B	Paramedic Co-op Work Experience	2
EMT 280C	Paramedic Co-op Work Experience	3

Upon completion of EMT 151 and EMT 152, students must pass the National Registry exam and be certified in the state of Oregon before continuing in Paramedic courses. Currently certified students do not need to retake the courses for the degree but must hold a current Oregon EMT License or higher to enter the Paramedic program. License must remain current during entire program including CWE; failure to maintain current license and CPR card will result in student removal from the program.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Students planning to transfer should take MTH 105 or 111.

² Approved Paramedicine electives: ANTH 103, BI 234, CJ 100, EMT 163, EMT 164, OL 244, PSY 101, PSY 201, PSY 202, PSY 216, SOC 201, SOC 206.

³ Student will have the option if affiliated with a transporting EMS agency to enroll in a 1 credit CWE course in the Winter and/or Spring terms. If a student completes a CWE in one or both of these terms, they will enroll in a two or three credit CWE for the Summer term in order to have a total of four credits worth of CWE. Summer CWE is required by the program as more than 50% of a student's patient contacts needs to happen at the conclusion of all didactic and clinical experiences.