

Program Information Sheet

Emergency Medical System (EMS) Associate of Applied Science Degree Program* and Paramedic Certificate Program

* Note: the graduate of this program is eligible to sit for the Paramedic Registry Exam.

Career Definition:

Paramedics have fulfilled prescribed requirements by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to practice the art and science of out-of-hospital medicine in conjunction with medical direction. They reach that status through successful completion of an educational program that includes classroom instruction, hospital-based and field-based clinical experiences under the direct supervision of a preceptor.

Paramedics strive to provide high quality service. They are expected to assess and recognize medical, traumatic, emotional and psychological emergencies, as well as render basic through advanced life support care in a wide variety of environmental conditions to people of all ages. Their goal is to prevent and reduce mortality and morbidity due to illness and injury.

Paramedics must demonstrate: (1) competency in practice; (2) the willingness to care for people with compassion; (3) an awareness of their abilities and limitations; (4) strong interpersonal skills; and (5) a capacity for calm and reasoned judgment while under stress. They must blend intelligence with common sense and be service oriented.

Paramedics are accountable to medical direction, the public and their peers. They should seek to take part in life-long professional development, peer evaluation, and assume an active role in professional community organizations (1998 DOT National EMT-P Curriculum).

Program Description and Overview:

An associate degree in Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) or a certificate in Paramedic Education is accessible through application to Harper College. Paramedic courses are conducted at Northwest Community Hospital. Clinical rotations are completed at area-wide hospitals and the field internship is completed at the Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider agency with which the student is either employed or has a participation agreement. General education, sciences and other support courses for the associate degree can be taken at Harper College.

Paramedic courses required in both the degree and the certificate offerings must be taken sequentially as defined in the curriculum plan of study. For the student pursuing the

associate degree, non-paramedic courses can be taken as desired, assuming prerequisite course work or defined competencies have been met.

Program Outcomes (Graduate Competencies):

Graduate outcomes from the program are to:

- Understand theoretical foundations of the profession.
- Be proficient in performing psychomotor skills.
- Understand the integration of this practice as it fits within the greater whole of the healthcare continuum. Include the ability to use conceptual and technical skills in the right context.
- Integrate theory and practice to competently perform the role of a paramedic.
- Change with evolutions in medicine or modify the care of one patient based on changing clinical presentations.
- Demonstrate professional behavior through:
 - Professional identity
 - Ethical standards
 - Scholarly concern for improvement
 - Motivation for continued learning
- Demonstrate integrity, empathy, self-motivation, appearance and personal hygiene, self-confidence, communications, time management, teamwork and diplomacy, respect, patient advocacy and careful delivery of service.

Opportunities for Employment:

Opportunities for employment exist with ambulance services, dispatch centers, first responder units, hospitals, emergency departments, rescue squads and fire departments.

Opportunities for Advancement:

Job opportunities for advancement include ambulance service manager, EMT-instructor, EMT-shift supervisor and service training coordinator.

Program Curriculum Plan:

The associate of applied science (AAS) degree program is a 64-credit hour offering. The certificate program is a 29-credit program with an admission requirement of successful completion of EMS 110 EMT–Basics (7 credits).

Degree Program

YEAR 1

Fall semester

BIO 160	Human Anatomy	4
ENG 101	English Composition	3
HSC 112	Medical Terminology	3
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology	3

Or		
SOC 101	Introduction to Sociology Elective	<u>3</u> 16

Spring Semester

BIO 161	Human Physiology	4
EMS 110	EMS – Basic	7
NUR 210	Physical Assessment	1
	Electives	<u>4</u> 16

Summer Semester

SPE 101	Speech	3
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YEAR 2 (these are also the courses required in the Paramedic Certificate Program)

This year involves only EMS courses. These courses typically begin in late October and run through the first week in June, approximately one to two weeks before the registry exam. See scheduling information below.

EMS 210	Paramedics I- Preparatory	6
EMS 211	Paramedics II- Medical Emergencies I	6
EMS 212	Paramedics II – Medical Emergencies II	6
EMS 213	Paramedics III – Trauma emergencies	3
EMS 214	Paramedics – Hospital Internship	2
EMS 215	Paramedic – Field Internship	3
EMS 216	Paramedic Seminar	<u>3</u> 29

Scheduling for EMT-Paramedic courses in Year 2 of the AAS degree program and the certificate offering:

Weeks 1-4: **Classroom sessions** Monday through Friday from 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

Weeks 5-17: **Class/clinical:** Students integrate hospital clinical rotations while continuing to attend classes the remaining days. Clinical rotations may be scheduled on weekdays not in class or on weekends during the day or evening shifts totaling a 40-hour week.

Week 18: **Hospital clinical rotations:** Students are expected to complete hospital clinical rotations.

Weeks 19-26: **Field internship:** Scheduling is mutually determined by the student and their provider agency if at least two third of the hours are completed between 7:00 am and 11:00 pm. Runs completed after 11:00 pm will count toward meeting internship requirements.

Weeks 27-31: Field internship/paramedic seminar: Field internship continues with one seminar day per week from 9:00 am-1:00 pm to review didactic content. Students are encouraged to come on their shift days.

Week 32: Classroom: Monday - Friday; 9:00 am-5:00 pm; Review and final exams.

Week 33: Student evaluations

Professional Organizations/Web Pages

www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/ems	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration EMS site
http://pwwemslaw.com	Page, Wolfberg & White EMS Attorneys – great info site
www.cdc.gov	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.nremt.org	National Registry of EMTs
www.CPR-ecc.org	American Heart Association
www.the-aaa.org	American Ambulance Association
www.caas.org	Committee on Accreditation of Ambulance Services
www.coaemsp.org	Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions
www.cecbems.org	Continuing Education Coordinating Board for EMS
www.ems-c.org	EMS for Children
www.fema.gov	Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.iaff.org	International Association of Fire Fighters
www.ireca.org	International Rescue & Emergency Care Association
www.JEMS.com	Journal of Emergency Medical Services



Frequently asked questions

1. How do I get started?

Your first step is to make application to the program. The procedure for doing that can be found at the program Web site:

<http://www.harpercollege.edu/apply/pdf/ems.pdf>

2. How much does the program cost?

Based on 2003-2004 academic year costs, the certificate program will cost approximately \$2615, and the associate degree program will be approximately \$5365. Tuition and fees are paid to Harper College, and are due as defined by the College.

3. I realize this program is affiliated with Northwest Community Hospital and that the EMS courses are taught there. From which of these institutions will I graduate?

The student who successfully completes the certificate or associate degree program will graduate from Harper College. Students will participate in the Harper College graduation. Certificate or degree will be conferred upon transcript audit revealing successful completion of required coursework.

4. What grades are required in these programs?

Students must carry a minimum overall GPA of 2.0 in EMS course work. Students must have a grade of C or higher in all required core curriculum courses.

5. How will I learn the material in this program?

The program uses problem-based teaching, behavioral pedagogy (lectures) and narrative pedagogy (case studies, critical incidents), Socratic questioning (ranging from spontaneous to preplanned), scholarly writing and using multiple intelligences through activities that appeal to visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners. Student-centered learning based on computer technology will be introduced as resources become available. Interactive learning experiences will engage students in meaningful outcome-focused exercises to stimulate self-reflection creativity, critical analysis and the acquisition of new knowledge.

6. What will I learn to do in the program specific to the paramedic role?

Upon completion, graduates will demonstrate competency/mastery in:

- A. Assess and observe appropriate safety precautions and triaging multiple patients.
- B. Gain patient access using a variety of extrication tools and techniques.
- C. Perform patient assessments, recognizing alterations from health, setting patient care priorities and coordinating their efforts with those of other agencies who may be involved in the care and transportation of patients.
- D. Establish rapport with patients and significant others to decrease anxiety and meet their emotional as well as physical needs.
- E. Initiate and continue care at the basic through ALS levels as prescribed by the EMS MD.
- F. Exercise critical judgment skills where direct communication has been delayed, interrupted or aborted, e.g., in cases where initial emergency care interventions have been authorized in advance by standing medical orders (SOPs).
- G. Communicate patient data to the designated medical command authority.
- H. Thoroughly document patient demographics, history, assessments, interventions, and on going monitoring on a pre-hospital medical record.
- I. Maintain ambulance inventories per the Drug and Supply list and prepare emergency care equipment and supplies before and after each call.

7. What is required to practice as a paramedic after I graduate from the program with a degree or certificate?

Upon successful completion of the certificate or degree program, successful candidates must take a registry exam.

State exam registration: Following graduation **and** a recommendation from the EMS MD, a graduate will be allowed to take the State Exam for Paramedics. Candidates who achieve a passing score on the exam will be licensed as an EMT-P.

All candidates must be pre-registered by the EMS System. No walk-ins are allowed. You must present three pieces of identification at the testing site: photo ID (ex. a driver's license); your EMT-B license; and a transaction card authorizing admittance to the exam and recommending licensure signed by the course coordinator and EMS MD. A candidate who presents without these items of identification, or who arrives late, will not be allowed to sit for the examination. The testing site will strictly enforce this policy.

Examination fees: There is a \$40.00 fee for the state EMT-P examination. These fees are paid by Northwest Community Hospital from student tuition monies.

Times and location: EMT-P graduates are tested at central locations within their EMS regions. Exams for Region IX are offered in January, April, June and September. The course coordinator will inform students regarding the date, time and location of the exam.

Passing score: Minimum-passing score is 70%. An applicant may retest, if necessary, after paying an additional examination fee.

Non-compliance with testing: If an applicant neglects, fails without an approved excuse, or refuses to take the next available Illinois State Licensure examination offered, they forfeit the examination and will be dropped from the program.

National Registry Exam: Students who opt to test under the National Registry (NR) must prepare applications and money orders made out to the NR. (National Registry sites can charge more for the practical examination.) A NR representative must be present at each written and practical examination. The course coordinator must make arrangements for the test through the NR Office.

Students who test under NR must pass according to National Registry standards, which include achieving, required minimum sub-test scores.

8. What is the difference between the certificate program and the associate of applied science (AAS) degree program?

The certificate program involves taking only the EMS courses, whereas the AAS degree program involves additional coursework including general education and support courses required for an associate degree. Some of these additional courses will be helpful if pursuing another degree such as nursing. Additionally, many employers are now requiring the associate degree as a condition of employment.

Additionally, students who pursue the AAS degree by making program application will have first priority to enrolling in select course such as anatomy and physiology. Likewise, once accepted as a program student, opportunities to communicate updates and connect you with resources is enhanced. Please note

that there are some differences in admission requirements for the certificate versus the degree program.

9. I am a veteran. Am I eligible for educational and training benefits with this program?

Yes, the EMS/Paramedic program has been approved by the Department of Veteran's Affairs for educational and training benefits. Eligible veterans, dependents, reservists and service members may be able to seek tuition reimbursement while they are in good standing in the EMT-P training program.

10. Are there opportunities for advanced standing or credit for work experience in this program?

Advanced standing credits may be awarded to graduates of non-college based paramedic programs who present appropriate documentation of graduating from an IDPH-accredited program that meets or exceeds the 1998 National DOT paramedic curriculum standards. Credit earned toward an associate degree in a health sciences field will be evaluated for transfer as academic credit.

11. Is a physical examination required to participate in this program?

Yes, there are physical exam requirements for this program.

Health requirements for entry into first year clinical experience are required by clinical sites within your program and include:

1. Physical exam signed and dated by health care provider within current year
2. Mumps, Rubella, Rubeola and Varicella titers – Lab report required as proof of immunity
3. Hepatitis B: dates of immunization series or positive titer or signed waiver declining immunization. Hepatitis B immunization/titer is recommended
4. Verification of health insurance coverage: insurance card with student's name and current year date or written statement from employer or insurer confirming current coverage or enrollment in student health insurance plan
5. TB testing – Two step Mantoux test per Illinois Department of Public

Health

- Administered and documented by health care professional
- First test read and documented in mm by health care professional within
- 48 hours to 7 days after the test is administered
- Measure only induration in mm (i.e., 5 mm or 0 mm), not red area
- If the reaction to the first test is positive (>10mm), a person shall be referred for chest X-ray
- Repeat procedure within 7 to 21 days if first TB test negative (<10 mm)

- The second test must be read 48 to 72 hours after administration

All requirements must be submitted to Health and Psychological Services (HPS), A364, prior to August 1, 2003. Call HPS at 847.925.6849 or Life Science/Human Services at 847.925.6533 for questions.

Student is responsible to confirm that all requirements have been met. Upon completion, a VERIFICATION form will be given to the student by HPS to submit to program office.

Additional requirements:

Urine drug screen may be required depending on clinical sites; instructors will advise.

Dietary Tech students must have stool culture and stool for ova and parasites.

Northwest Community Hospital Outpatient Laboratory and its satellite treatment centers offer testing for the Mumps, Rubella, Rubeola and Varicella titers, stool culture and screening for ova and parasites and Hepatitis B antibody. However, you must first pay fees and obtain the order form from HPS.

Health and Psychological Services, A364, can provide the following requirements at a reasonable cost:

- Physical examinations
- Immunizations
- TB skin testing
- Student insurance coverage

Second year students require the following:

Health history form

TB testing – 1 Mantoux, read and documented 48 to 72 hours after administration

Update of immunizations, if needed

Insurance documentation

12. Will I be required to do a criminal background check for this program?

The College is currently in the process of developing a policy related to requiring clinical background checks for students entering select career programs. Please contact the Life Sciences and Human Services Division office (847.925.6475) or Admissions Outreach (847.925.6247) regarding the status of this requirement.

13. Will I need to have secured my own “field experience affiliate?”

Yes, student will need to be employed or sponsored by an approved affiliate prior to enrolling in EMS 210.