

Emergency Medical Services

Associate in Applied Science Degree

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A paramedic is a medical professional, usually a member of an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System, who provides care to patients of all ages who are experiencing a healthcare emergency in the prehospital environment. A paramedic has a duty to respond in a timely manner, assure scene safety, provide emergency assessments and treatments within their scope of practice in compliance with local protocols and transport patients to the closest appropriate hospital.

Paramedics are accountable to their EMS medical director, their employer, peers, the healthcare team and the public. The field of EMS requires practitioners who are internally motivated, passionate about excellent patient care, able to think critically and who relate well to people.

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics must also demonstrate ethical behavior, be emotionally stable and be able to physically perform all essential aspects of the profession. They must be able to read significant volumes at a 12th grade or above level in a short period of time, understand the content of the material and be able to manipulate the information and apply it to a variety of patient situations.

EMTs and paramedics must successfully complete education that is consistent with national standards, but certification or licensure requirements vary by state. This limited enrollment program is a joint educational venture with Northwest Community Hospital, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department and Harper College. The Paramedic program fulfills prescribed requirements and is approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

Successful completion of the certificate courses may make the EMT and paramedic graduates eligible to take the National Registry of EMT (NREMT) or the state exam as a prerequisite for licensure in Illinois.

Career Opportunities

Career opportunities available to graduates of this program may include positions with ambulance services, dispatch centers, or hospitals and fire departments that have EMS as one of their missions. Depending on a person's performance and other qualifications, job opportunities for advancement may include field training officer, preceptor, ambulance service manager, EMT instructor, EMT shift supervisor and service training coordinator.

Most EMS agencies function 24 hours a day; therefore, EMTs and paramedics generally have irregular working hours on all shifts, including weekends and holidays. Many employers require employees to be on call.



Competition for jobs is considerable in fire/EMS departments, hospitals and private ambulance services due to the fact that the healthcare sector is still expanding. Openings in fire departments are much more limited than those in the private industry.

For a complete overview to all related positions and job market and salary trends, please consult the Occupational Outlook Handbook: <http://www.bls.gov/OOH/>. (Please note that this information may not be fully accurate for EMS opportunities in northern Illinois.)

Program Outcomes

- Students who successfully complete this program will be able to:
- understand theoretical foundations of the profession.
 - be proficient in performing EMS-related psychomotor skills.
 - understand the integration of EMS practice as it fits within the greater whole of the healthcare continuum.
 - 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 and 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.

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Required Core Courses:¹

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|---|-----|---|
| Emergency Medical Services: EMT Basic Certificate: ² | | |
| EMS | 110 | Emergency Medical Technician Training..... 7 |
| EMT—Paramedic: ³ | | |
| EMS | 210 | Paramedic I—Preparatory 6 |
| EMS | 211 | Paramedic II—Medical Emergencies I..... 6 |
| EMS | 212 | Paramedic II—Medical Emergencies II..... 6 |
| EMS | 213 | Paramedic III—Trauma Emergencies and Special Clients 3 |
| EMS | 214 | Paramedic—Hospital Internship 2 |
| EMS | 215 | Paramedic—Field Internship..... 3 |
| EMS | 216 | Paramedic Seminar 3 |

Required General Education and Support Courses:¹

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|-----------------------------------|------|--|
| BIO | 160 | Human Anatomy 4 |
| BIO | 161 | Human Physiology 4 |
| Electives ⁴ | | 4 |
| ENG | 101 | Composition 3 |
| HSC | 112 | Medical Terminology 2 |
| Mathematics elective ⁵ | | 0 |
| NUR | 210 | Physical Assessment 2 |
| SOC | 101♦ | Introduction to Sociology..... 3 |
| SPE | 101 | Fundamentals of Speech Communication 3 |

* This is a limited enrollment program and has specific admission requirements. Please contact the Admissions Outreach Office, 847.925.6700, or consult the Web site for an overview of these requirements. Students who apply for this limited enrollment program are required to meet current admission requirements and follow program curriculum as defined at the time of acceptance into the program.

¹ A grade of C or better in all BIO, EMS, (EMS 214 and EMS 215 with a grade of P), HSC and NUR courses is required for all students.

^{2,3} Separate application and admission policies exist for both EMT—Basic and EMT—Paramedic. Please contact the Admissions Outreach Office at 847.925.6700 or check the following Web site: harpercollege.edu for specific admission requirements.

⁴ Electives: BIO 130, CHM 100, HSC 104, or HSC 213.

⁵ Group 2 Math requirement is met by the Emergency Medical Services admission requirements.

♦ This course meets the World Cultures and Diversity graduation requirement.

Emergency Medical Services

Certificates

Emergency Medical Services: EMT Basic Certificate*

The 7 credit-hour certificate program provides entry-level emergency medical care knowledge and skills associated with the delivery of Basic Life Support (BLS) as defined by the State of Illinois EMS Act and the EMS Rules. Meets all requirements of the Federal Department of Transportation EMT-B training curriculum and has been approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Division of EMS and Highway Safety. This program is offered at Northwest Community Hospital.

Required:

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|----------------------|---|---|
| EMS 110 ¹ | Emergency Medical Technician Training | 7 |
|----------------------|---|---|

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¹ A grade of C or better in EMS 110 is required for all students.

Paramedic Certificate*

The 29 credit-hour certificate program is to be offered in two semesters starting in August (fall semester) and concluding the following May (spring semester). The program is designed to expand the entry-level knowledge and skills initially acquired through Emergency Medical Technician-Basics (EMT-B) or Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I) training. Paramedics reach that status through successful completion of either EMT-B or EMT-I training that includes classroom instruction, hospital-based, and field-based clinical experiences under the direct supervision of a preceptor. The Paramedic program exposes the students to a wide variety of emergency situations, including direct patient care in one of the involved EMS system hospitals and on emergency vehicles. Instructional content and design is based on the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective standard objectives specified in the U.S. Department of Transportation, 1998 National Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic Curriculum. The Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of EMS and Highway Safety accredits the Paramedic program.

The Paramedic program course work including the internships are administered through Northwest Community Healthcare, Emergency Medical Services Department. Hospital internships are completed at eight area-wide hospitals while 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. After completion of the program, candidates are eligible to take the EMT-Paramedic licensure exam in the State of Illinois.

Required:¹

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

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¹ A grade of C or better in all EMS courses is required for all students.