



# EMS - Paramedic Emergency Services



## What is a paramedic?

Paramedics provide emergency care to the victims of medical and trauma emergencies. The care begins when they arrive on the scene and continues as they transport the victims to the hospital where definitive care is provided by doctors and nurses.

## What does a paramedic do?

Paramedics are a vital part of the EMS system. The community rely on their quick reaction, critical thinking, and competent emergency interventions. They are trained to recognize life threatening conditions and how to stabilize and treat those conditions en-route to a medical facility for definitive care. Paramedics have special training in cardiology, pulmonology, neurology, pediatrics, and toxicology.

Procedures that paramedics typically perform in emergencies include intravenous cannulation, IV drug administration, synchronized and unsynchronized electrical therapy, needle thoracostomy, needle cricothyrotomy, and placement of an intraosseous access device.

Paramedics also administer medications, perform endotracheal intubations, and interpret electrocardiograms. Procedures paramedics are permitted to perform vary by state.

## What type of students excel as paramedics?

Paramedics have high moral values, so integrity and honesty are important. A person must also have a compassion for people who are sick and injured as well as the ability to remain calm in chaotic situations.

## What is the employment outlook for this career?

Paramedic employment is expected to grow substantially, specifically in cities and areas with private ambulance services. Job growth of 15 percent is expected between 2016 and 2026 for paramedics and emergency technicians. More and more patients are transferred by ambulance to highly specialized medical centers, increasing the need for paramedics (source: [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)).

## What do paramedics earn?

Earnings vary by job, geographic location, employment setting, training, and education. The median annual wage of EMTs and paramedics was \$33,380 in 2017 (source: [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)). In addition, paramedic certification allows job candidates to be more competitive in applying for police, fire, and federal government jobs, which generally have a higher pay scale and greater opportunities for job advancement.

## Why should I choose HCC?

- Classes are offered in a hybrid format over a 12 month period
- Students train in a classroom and lab space equipped with simulation and an embedded ambulance chassis
- COAEMSP and CAAHEP accreditation allows students to sit for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) Written and Practical Examination and state licensure as an Emergency Medical Technician—Paramedic
- Middle States accreditation allows students to transfer credits to another education institution
- Program training provides excellent practical experience
- The program is taught using national standards, while integrating local protocols
- For those students who are currently licensed at the EMT-I level, HCC provides a two-year semester program that allows them to “bridge” to paramedics, emphasizing paramedic theory and practice

- The EMS Program is designated as a Health Manpower Shortage Program; therefore, some residents of Maryland enrolled in this program of study on the first day of the term may be eligible for in-county tuition rates for courses required for program completion

Important information about the educational debt, earnings, and completion rates of students who attended these programs can be viewed at [www.hagerstowncc.edu/gedp/cer\\_pes/51.0904-Gedt.html](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/gedp/cer_pes/51.0904-Gedt.html)

## What are the admission requirements?

Admission to HCC does not guarantee admission to the Paramedic Emergency Services Program. The requirements below must be completed and submitted to the Office of Admissions and Registration before the first day of class.

- Students are required to attend a mandatory paramedic program orientation meeting
- Current Emergency Medical Technician Certification
- Official transcripts from all colleges attended
- College placement test scores in English and mathematics. Courses require that students have completed developmental mathematics and English (MAT 098 and ENG 099) or have equivalent placement test scores
- A minimum cumulative grade point average for all college coursework of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. In addition, a minimum grade point average of 2.0 for all program courses is required
- Foreign educated students must have their college and high school transcripts evaluated by World Education Services (WES)
- Students must be capable of performing the technical standards of the program

## What are the program requirements?

Students practice selected procedures on each other in the college EMS laboratory. All paramedic students must receive:

1. A minimum grade of 70 percent in each paramedic course
2. A minimum of 70 percent on the final exam for each course
3. A mark of P (passing) for both the laboratory skills and clinical experiences.

Students who receive a final mark of F (failing) in the laboratory or clinical experiences, despite a passing theory grade, will not be permitted to progress in the paramedic program and will receive a final grade of "F" for the course.

- Competent evaluation of the affective domain criteria
- A minimum of 70% of an FISDAP Paramedic Readiness Exam

An orientation session will be held prior to the beginning of the first semester of the paramedic program. Attendance is mandatory.

Students who do not meet program, course, health, or affective domain standards (see the paramedic handbook and the website), that results in termination from the paramedic program by the college are not eligible for readmission. This guideline includes students who cannot meet safety standards and students who violate the college's Honor Code and Standards of Conduct, the paramedic program's standards of conduct, and the criminal code described by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

### Technical Standards

There are technical standards and skill requirements which students are expected to possess and demonstrate in order to be successful in this program. More information on these standards can be found at [www.hagerstown.edu/ems](http://www.hagerstown.edu/ems).

### Articulation Agreements

Students who are considering transferring to a four-year college should inform their advisors at the earliest opportunity so that their course selection can be planned.

### Additional Information

Additional information on program requirements including criminal background checks, drug screening, readmission to the paramedic program, and transferring to or from another college or paramedic program can be found at [www.hagerstowncc.edu/ems](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/ems).

### A.A.S. Degree

## Paramedic Emergency Services

### General Education Requirements 22-26 credits

#### Arts/Humanities

Select from approved General Education course list ...3

#### Biological and Physical Science

BIO 203 Human Anatomy and Physiology I .....4  
**AND**

BIO 204 Human Anatomy and Physiology .....4

#### Diversity

Select from approved General Education course list ...3

### English

ENG 101 English Composition .....3  
**OR**

ELL 101 English Composition for English Language Learners..... 4

\*A minimum grad of "C" or better is required for ENG 101 and ELL 101

### Mathematics

MAT 101 College Algebra.....3

**OR**

MAT 114 Introduction to Applied Algebra ..... (3)

### Paramedic Course Sequence

#### Program Requirements 38 credits

#### First Year - Fall Semester (Semester 1)

EMS 151 Introduction to Emergency Medical Services.....3

EMS 155 Anatomy and Physiology for EMS Providers.....4

EMS 161 Airway Management .....3

EMS 201 Shock Trauma Resuscitation.....2

EMS 181 EMS Practicum I.....1

#### First Year - Spring Semester (Semester 2)

EMS 163 Medical Emergencies I .....3

EMS 164 Cardiology and Cardiovascular Diseases .....4

EMS 210 Medical Emergencies II .....3

EMS 211 Pediatrics and Special Populations.....2

EMS 182 EMS Practicum II.....3

#### Inter-Year - Summer Semester (Semester 3)

EMS 220 EMS Operations.....2

EMS 221 Seminar in Paramedic Emergency Services .....2

EMS 281 EMS Practicum III .....3

EMS 282 EMS Practicum IV.....3

#### Degree Requirements ..... 60-64

### Other Program Options

#### Accelerated Certificate

## Paramedic Emergency Services

#### Program Requirements 38 credits

#### First Year - Fall Semester (Semester 1)

EMS 151 Introduction to Emergency Medical Services.....3

EMS 155 Anatomy and Physiology for EMS Providers.....4

EMS 161 Airway Management .....3

EMS 201 Shock Trauma Resuscitation.....2

EMS 181 EMS Practicum I .....1

#### First Year - Spring Semester (Semester 2)

EMS 163 Medical Emergencies I .....3

EMS 164 Cardiology and Cardiovascular Diseases .....4

EMS 210 Medical Emergencies II .....3

EMS 211 Pediatrics and Special Populations.....2

EMS 182 EMS Practicum II.....3

#### Inter-Year - Summer Semester (Semester 3)

EMS 220 EMS Operations.....2

EMS 221 Seminar in Paramedic Emergency Services .....2

EMS 281 EMS Practicum III .....3

EMS 282 EMS Practicum IV.....3

#### Certificate Requirements..... 38

## Certificate Paramedic Emergency Services: EMT-I to EMT-P Bridge

Current EMT-I Certification is required upon admission.

#### Program Requirements 25 credits

#### First Year - Fall Semester

EMS 155 Anatomy and Physiology for EMS Providers.....4

EMS 165 Pharmacology and Cardiology .....4

EMS 180 EMT Intermediate to Paramedic Transition.....3

EMS 283 Bridge Practicum I.....3

#### First Year - Spring Semester

EMS 166 Medical Emergencies Bridge.....3

EMS 205 Pediatrics and Trauma Bridge.....3

EMS 221 Seminar in Paramedic Emergency Services .....2

EMS 284 EMS Practicum II.....3

#### Certificate Requirements..... 25

### Certificate

## Emergency Medical Technician

Please refer to the catalog for complete admission and program requirements.

This program prepares students for work in the emergency medical services field. Students who complete this program are eligible to sit for the Maryland and National Registry certification tests.

#### Program Requirements 12 credits

EMS 120 Emergency Medical Technician—Part A .....8

EMS 121 Emergency Medical Technician—Part B .....3

EMS 122 Emergency Medical Technician Practicum .....1

#### Certificate Requirements..... 12

### Contact Information

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### Recommended

#### Professional Resources

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMSS):  
[www.miemss.org](http://www.miemss.org)  
National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT):  
[www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)