



The Paramedic Education Program

The Methodist Hospitals
Gary and Merrillville, Indiana

National Accreditation of EMS Paramedic Education Programs since 2004



THE METHODIST HOSPITALS

The Methodist Hospitals has a strong community commitment to responding to the needs of our physicians and patients. Our regional reputation for excellence since 1923 continues to support our market positions. The Methodist Hospitals has two full service campuses just 14 miles apart. The Northlake Campus is our urban campus in Gary while The Southlake Campus in Merrillville is located near one of the Midwest's busiest retail areas. Combined campus bed capacity is 625 plus nurseries. Midlake Campus, opened in 2003, is our outpatient facility in Gary conveniently located between our Northlake and Southlake Campuses just off Interstate 94. The Midlake Campus is the base for EMS Education programs.

Our Mission

Our Mission is to provide compassionate, quality health care services to all those in need.

Our Vision

Our Vision is to be the best place for employees to work, the best place for patients to receive care and the best place for physicians to practice medicine.

THE REGIONAL COORDINATION CENTER

For over 25 years, the hospital's Regional Coordination Center for Emergency Medical Services has provided training programs for Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics over a seven-county area, including continuing education programs for national certification. The Center also actively participates in planning for the management and prevention of disasters countywide.

In 1973, Methodist responded to the Gary Fire Department's need for EMS training as they assumed responsibility for ambulance service. Under the guidance and medical direction of Dr. Dave E. Ross and Sherry Burger MSN, the first Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class graduated in June 1975.

By 1976, the governor of the State of Indiana designated Methodist as Regional Coordinating Center for a seven-county area serving Northwest Indiana: Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Stark, Jasper, Pulaski, and Newton. The RCC was accredited by the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency (ISEMA). EMS providers throughout Northwest Indiana have received specialized training in Basic and Advanced Life Support techniques as a result of the RCC and The Methodist Hospital's staff education offered programs.

Mission

To assist the communities we serve in Northwest Indiana in their efforts to develop their own quality EMS system and to further develop a comprehensive EMS system which is coordinated throughout Northwest Indiana.

Services Provided

The Regional Coordination Center provides multidisciplinary Emergency Medical Services training programs including continuing education for emergency physicians, nurses, paramedics, EMTs and initial training programs for paramedics, EMT-Intermediates and EMTs. Selected faculty members teaching in each program utilize a coordinated approach that emphasizes a team delivery of emergency medical services via a coordinated, multidisciplinary system.

Recognizing that the depth of knowledge, scope of skills and continuing education needs are unique to each professional group, the educational programs for each is a separate and individually tailored entity. Faculty and consultants participate in more than one program level. Although the level of objectives varies with the professional group, it has been beneficial to use a consistent team approach in terms of faculty and guest lecturers.

The goal of this structure is to provide a mechanism through which a broad representation from the EMS community can be organized to gain and assure active participation in the development of strategies that meet local EMS needs and objectives.

The following are a representation of the variety of programs offered:

- * First Responder Training,
- * Basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), initial and continuing education,
- * Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I), initial and continuing education,
- * Emergency Paramedic (EMT-P), initial and continuing education,
- * Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), initial and refresher courses,
- * Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), initial and refresher courses,
- * Pre Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS),
- * Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS),
- * Pediatric Emergencies for Pre Hospital Professionals (PEPP),
- * Disaster Preparedness,
- * Early Recognition and Treatment of Stroke Patients (Brain Alert Notification) ,
- * Early Recognition of Acute Cardiac Patient (Cardiac Alert and STEMI Alert Notification) including 12 Lead ECG Recognition
- * American Heart Association CPR and First Aid.

EMS TRAINING BASIC AND ADVANCED LEVELS

The concept of EMS is to bring medical care to the patient at the site of emergency and provide transport to a hospital emergency department.

The role of the basic Emergency Medical Technician is to utilize Basic Life Support knowledge and skills to assess the situation and condition of the patient, provide stabilization of the patient and prepare for and transport to a definitive care hospital. The EMT is trained to utilize limited equipment to assist in the preparation of the patient for transport and treatment mainly in cases of injury or trauma care. In cases of medical (non-trauma) illness, their role is to identify symptoms of conditions and provide care during transport for the symptoms until definitive medical treatment is provided at the hospital.

The role of the Paramedic is to provide Advanced Life Support to the patient at the scene and during transport. This level of care is bringing the treatments from the emergency room to the patient. A paramedic can administer life saving medication and treatments to the patient prior to arrival at the hospital. In trauma situations this includes administration of fluids in cases of blood loss shock conditions. In medical situations paramedics have additional training in recognizing medical situations and the ability to start treatment at the patient's side. Examples of these are heart attacks, diabetic conditions, and respiratory distress.

The Paramedic is a person who must be capable of staying focused while assuming the leadership role in carrying out the functions of his or her job. In this capacity the paramedic maintains a primary responsibility to patient care. Good judgment along with advanced knowledge and technical skills are essential in directing other team members to assist as needed. The technical skills include the use of cardiac monitoring devices and telemetry capability which enable them to be in contact with a Physician while rendering care at the scene. Self confidence is critical, as well as a tolerance for high stress. The Paramedic must be able to provide quality care, while handling the stress of the situation. This includes all legal ramifications for precise documentation, and the responsibility for using the knowledge and skills needed in emergency situations. The Paramedic provides a more extensive level pre-hospital care.

Each applicant for the Paramedic Education Program must be currently certified as an Emergency Medical Technician in the State of Indiana and meet all requirements established by the State of Indiana Emergency Medical Services Commission and Department of Homeland Security. Obtaining Basic EMT certification as a prerequisite can be accomplished through The Methodist Hospitals. The certification courses consist of a curriculum established to meet certification requirements of the State of Indiana EMS Commission and Department of Transportation standards.

PARAMEDIC EDUCATION FACULTY



Thomas Fentress, MBA, NRP, PI, CFI
EMS Director
Program Director



Melissa Weaver-Singleton, MLT, NRP, PI
EMS Educator
Lead Educator – Paramedic Program



Thomas Bettenhausen,
EMS Coordinator
Clinical / Lab Coordinator



Sheila Pochron, RN, MSN
Director – Nursing
Dean – Paramedic Program

Assisting faculty: The program utilizes instruction from many of the physicians, nurses and technicians at The Methodist Hospitals as well as healthcare professions, and paramedics from affiliated services in Northwest Indiana communities.

The Methodist Hospitals Paramedic Education is a certificate program that is 16 months in length. It begins each fall and ends in the winter of the following year. Class enrollment is approximately 20 -25 each year.

The Paramedic Education program is divided into three concurrent portions, didactic, Hospital and Field clinical and Field internship. The program is part of a career development track allowing qualifying candidates to progress from EMT training into the paramedic program.

Hospital clinicals are completed through the two campuses at Methodist Hospital in Gary and Merrillville, Indiana. Field clinicals and Internship are obtained at affiliating Advanced Life Support services throughout the Northwest Indiana area. Students are assigned to training field evaluators or preceptor to complete their field requirements.

Accreditation

The Methodist Hospitals is a certified Advanced Life Support Training organization and the training program is approved by the State of Indiana Department of Homeland Security Emergency Medical Services Commission.

The Methodist Hospitals Paramedic Education Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP).

- At the present time, there are 390 programs nationwide that are accredited through CoAEMSP / CAAHEP accreditation. They are found in 47 states. There are 23 locations in the state of Indiana.

- **Accreditation is granted to EMS education programs through the review and recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP).** The CoAEMSP operates under the auspices of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), which issues accreditation to Paramedic education programs. CAAHEP is a non-profit, non-governmental agency, which reviews and accredits over 2000 educational programs in twenty (20) allied health science occupations and is the **largest medical accrediting agency in the US.**

- **The primary purpose of program accreditation is student and public protection.** This is achieved by providing an independent, external, objective peer- review of institutional and/or programmatic quality as compared with accepted national standards. This protects the students' investment in their education by ensuring they graduate from a quality program and that **instructors possess adequate qualifications to teach and the necessary academic credentials.** Accreditation protects the public by ensuring they receive a **minimum standard of care** by individuals who are properly trained.

CoAEMSP regularly monitors the program's compliance with outcomes assessments thresholds through Annual reports as well as other documentation.

Affiliation

The Paramedic Education Program is affiliated with University of St. Francis, Indiana. Paramedic Graduates wishing to transfer into the Associate of Science in Paramedic Medicine Program at the University of Saint Francis will be awarded with credit towards that degree without having to duplicate any course content. Awarding of the degree requires enrollment into the university and successful completion of core course requirements.

The Paramedic Program is affiliated with IVY Tech Community College of Indiana which grants credit hours for successful completion of the program towards an Associate of Science degree in Paramedic Science. Awarding of the degree requires enrollment into the college and completion of the degree core education courses.

ADA Accommodation Policy

The Methodist Hospitals Reasonable Work Accommodations policy addresses that reasonable work accommodations shall be made for employees or applicants with known physical or mental limitations who desire or are deemed able to perform productive and meaningful work. The hospital has the right to demonstrate that some accommodations would impose an undue hardship on the operations of its programs and thereby deny the applicant for that reason.

The Methodist Hospitals Regional Coordination Center is adequately equipped to meet the needs of handicapped students. Our facilities have designated parking spaces and ramps and restrooms adjacent to classrooms are fitted with handicapped equipment. In accordance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American Disabilities Act (ADA), the Regional Coordination Center affirms its commitment to ensure equal education opportunities to students with disabilities. To ensure equality of access for students with disabilities the RCC will provide reasonable accommodations to enable students to meet the requirements of our programs and to provide access to our facilities. Exceptions will be made in those situations where the accommodation would fundamentally alter the nature of the program, causes undue hardship on the training center, or jeopardize the health or safety of others.

In order to satisfactorily accomplish the curriculum objectives of either the Basic or Advanced certificate program, the student must meet the essential eligibility requirements for admission into the EMS program. The student should be able to perform each activity listed in the skills performance objectives with or without reasonable accommodations. The skills performance objectives are not intended to be a complete listing of EMS provider behaviors, but are a sampling of the types of abilities needed by the EMT student to meet program objectives and requirements. Basic and Advanced Life Support candidates must also consult with the State training office or NREMT for agency specific requirements regarding certification testing.

Requests for accommodation should be submitted to the Regional Coordination Center office at the time the application is submitted. Requests for accommodation must be accompanied by evidence of a previously documented learning or physical disability as diagnosis by a psychologist or a physician. Instructors may not discuss or inquire about a student's potential disability prior to admission at any course sponsored by the Regional Coordination Center.

If the course Instructor becomes aware of any student who may qualify under the ADA during the program, the Instructor must notify the student that they may complete the course but that they may or may not be able to be certified depending on their ability to perform the essential functions of the position. In accordance with the standards set forth by the State of Indiana Department of Homeland Security, EMS Division, practical skills evaluations are required for successful course completion and/or certification. If a student has a disability requiring special

accommodations, he/she should submit in writing a request for specific accommodation.

At their discretion, students may use performance aids or equipment, which could be readily available to them in the pre-hospital setting. The student is responsible for providing any personal aids that would assist them with completing a specific task(s). No accommodation will be made in a training program that is not reasonably available in a pre-hospital environment. Accommodations during screening, evaluations, or examinations that may compromise or functionally alter the safety and efficiency of the evaluation of skills that are required in the profession are not permitted. (I.e. unlimited time for performances with a time limitation).

Non-Discrimination Policy

The Methodist Hospitals Regional Coordination Center prohibits discrimination and harassment in its admissions, educational programs, activities and employment regardless of race, color, gender, national and ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, age, marital status, political affiliation, and veteran status. Any person having inquiries concerning The Methodist Hospital's compliance with implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, or other civil rights laws should contact the HUMAN RESOURCES Service of The Methodist Hospitals.

The Methodist Hospitals Northwest Indiana Regional Coordination Center

EMERGENCY PARAMEDIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

PURPOSE:

To prepare competent entry-level Paramedics in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains with or without exit points at the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician and/or Emergency Medical Technician, and/or Emergency Medical Responder levels.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To prepare the EMT-Paramedic to assess and evaluate life-threatening conditions of Trauma, Cardiac, and Medical origin, assign priorities of Emergency Treatment, and coordinate total patient care.
2. To prepare the EMT-Paramedic to administer appropriate Advanced Life Support intervention according to the prescribed medical control of a certified supervising hospital.
3. To prepare the EMT-Paramedic to perform his Advanced Life Support knowledge and skills which meets State of Indiana and National Registry certification standards.
4. To prepare the EMT-Paramedic to demonstrate integrity, empathy, self-confidence, teamwork, respect, and careful delivery of service with appropriate team leadership management and professionalism.

PARTICIPANT QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Must be 18 year of age
2. Hold a current valid State of Indiana EMT Certification.
3. Must show evidence of a High School Diploma or G.E.D. equivalent.
4. Have no physical or mental disorders that would determine ineligibility for certification as evidenced by completion of a Physical Examination.
5. Highly recommended: 20 hours of patient contact, and six months experience as a functioning EMT in the field.
6. Must meet all requirements set forth by the State of Indiana E. M. S. Commission (Indiana EMSC – ALS Rule 836 IAC 4-9-1 Student qualifications to enter training
An applicant for Indiana paramedic training shall meet the following requirements:
 - (1) Hold a valid certificate as an emergency medical technician.
 - (2) Be at a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age.
 - (3) Have a high school diploma or general education diploma.
7. Individuals who have successfully completed an Indiana basic emergency medical technician course or are accepted for basic reciprocity and have taken the Indiana

basic written and practical skills certification examinations may hold a provisional spot in a paramedic course.

8. Hold a valid current CPR training card of American Heart Association Healthcare Provider level or equivalent.
9. Must submit two letters of recommendation attesting to their character, professionalism and commitment.
10. Meet eligibility requirements for application for certification as established by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
11. Re-enrollment after prior unsuccessful participation in Education Course.
 - (1) This section refers to any person who has previously been enrolled in a Paramedic Education Course at The Methodist Hospitals or any other State of Indiana approved Paramedic Education Institution.
 - (2) Any candidate who has been enrolled and participated unsuccessfully in the Education course two times during the previous years, must submit in writing to the Course Medical Director and Course Coordinator:
 - i) An explanation of the reasons for being unable to complete the Education Course during the prior attempts.
 - ii) What efforts have been made to alter these circumstances to assure successful completion.
 - iii) If affiliated with a provider service, verification from the Provider Service Administrator or Chief, the services awareness of the prior enrollment in the course and the service's commitment for the candidate's additional enrollment during this course.
 - (3) The candidate must agree to a personal interview with the Course Medical Director, Course Coordinator and/or Education Staff to review the application.
 - (4) The candidate agrees to any special provisions made by the above review board as a contingency to enrollment and course completion.
 - (5) A student who was enrolled in the Methodist Hospital Education Program the prior year and did not successfully complete due to academics may apply to re enroll according to the Academic Re-Enrollment Guidelines.

Selection Criteria

1. Candidate must submit and have on file prior to the beginning of the course:
 - (1) A physical examination.
 - (2) A high school diploma or general education diploma.
 - (3) Verification of current immunization for Rubella and results of Tuberculosis skin Test.
 - (4) Verification of initiation or completion of Hepatitis vaccination series.
 - (5) If not affiliated with or sponsored by a Provider Organization, must show evidence of Personal Liability and Malpractice Insurance.
2. Candidate must attain a minimum passing grade on:
 - (1) FISDAP Paramedic Entrance Examination of 70% or above.
 - (2) Practical Skills Examination on Basic Life Support level that meets the National Standards.
3. Must complete an interview with the Program Director, Lead Instructor, or Medical Director prior to entering the program.
4. Acceptance into the program will be based on a review by the program staff of the submitted information.
5. Re-enrollment after prior unsuccessful participation in Education Course.

- (1) This section refers to any person who has previously been enrolled in a Paramedic Education Course at The Methodist Hospitals or any other State of Indiana approved Paramedic Education Institution.
- (2) Any student dismissed from a prior training program for non-academic reasons must agree to a review by program staff for enrollment eligibility into the course.
- (3) Any candidate who has been enrolled and participated unsuccessfully in the Education course two times during the previous years, must submit in writing to the Course Medical Director and Course Coordinator:
 - i) An explanation of the reasons for being unable to complete the Education Course during the prior attempts.
 - ii) What efforts have been made to alter these circumstances to assure successful completion.
 - iii) If affiliated with a provider service, verification from the Provider Service Administrator or Chief, the services awareness of the prior enrollment in the course and the service's commitment for the candidate's additional enrollment during this course.
- (4) The candidate must agree to a personal interview with the Course Medical Director, Course Coordinator and/or Education Staff to review the application.
- (5) The candidate agrees to any special provisions made by the above review board as a contingency to enrollment and course completion.

Course Fees

1. Candidate will assume total responsibility for the course fee unless specifically designated in writing prior to the start of the Course to transfer responsibility to the sponsoring organization or another agency under agreement.
2. Course fee is due prior to the starting date of the course.
3. Student or designated sponsoring organization will be held responsible for the total tuition payment regardless of the student matriculation.
4. Course fee will not cover the following:
 - (1) Cost of personal items (stethoscope, penlights, watches, uniforms, computer, online access, etc.).
 - (2) Cost of physical examination and vaccinations.
 - (3) Pretest fees.
 - (4) National Registry fees.

Refund Policy

Refunds of tuition will be given prior to the first day of class, with return of any and all course materials distributed prior to that date upon receipt of written request of withdrawal. This is with the consideration of an individual's decision to attend the Paramedic Education Program and the common knowledge of the time and effort needed to complete the course,

Online Computer Access

Students must have access to an online computer service. Students will also be required to use an online program that tracks the students graduation requirements, psychomotor skills assessments, to schedule lab, clinical, and field shifts and enter all of their lab, clinical, and field experience skills and patient contacts. Students must complete this entry within 72 hours of the completion of each experience.

The Methodist Hospitals Paramedic Education Course

Didactic (Classroom session)

Anatomy & Physiology

The student learns to use and applies fundamental knowledge of the anatomy and functions of all human systems to the practice of EMS. Integrates a complex depth and comprehensive breadth of knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of all human systems.

Introduction to A & P

Organ Systems of the Body Overview

Chemistry of Life

Cells and Tissues of the Body

Cellular Pathophysiology

Nutrition and Metabolism

Fluids and Electrolytes

Acid and Base Balance

Body Systems

Skeletal System

Muscular System

Integument System

Nervous System

Endocrine System

Cardiovascular System

Lymphatic System

Respiratory System

Digestive System

Urinary System

Reproductive System

Senses

Cellular Pathophysiology

Preparatory

The student learns to use, apply and integrate comprehensive knowledge of EMS systems, the safety and well being of the EMS personnel and the medical-legal and ethical issues which are intended to improve the health of EMS personnel, patients and the community.

EMS Systems

Workplace Safety and Well-being

Injury and Illness Prevention

Medical, Legal, and Ethics

Public Health

Life Span

Patient Assessment

The student formulates a foundation upon which they learn to use, apply and integrate scene and patient assessment findings with knowledge of epidemiology and pathophysiology to form a field impression. This includes developing a list of differential diagnosis through clinical reasoning to modify the assessment and formulate a treatment plan using assessment information to recognize shock, respiratory failure or arrest, and cardiac arrest by integrating comprehensive knowledge of causes and pathophysiology into the management and early intervention to prevent arrest and peri-arrest states.

Pathophysiology

History Taking

Techniques of physical Exam

Patient Assessment

Hemorrhage and Shock

Clinical Decision Making

Communication

Documentation

Pharmacology

The student learns the basics to apply to patient assessment and management fundamental knowledge of medications and integrate comprehensive knowledge of pharmacology to formulate a treatment plan intended to mitigate emergencies and improve the overall health of the patient.

Principles of Pharmacology
Medication Administration

IV Therapy
Drug Dose Calculation

Airway Management

The student learns to apply and integrate complex knowledge of anatomy, physiology and Pathophysiology into the assessment to develop and implement a treatment plan with the goal of assuring a patent airway, adequate mechanical ventilation and respiration for patients of all ages.

Respiratory Assessment
CPAP and Difficult Airways

Advanced Airway Maneuvers
Oxygen and Misc Resp. Agents

Trauma

The student learns to apply fundamental knowledge to provide emergency care and transportation based on findings for an acutely injured patient integrating assessment findings with principles of epidemiology and pathophysiology for formulate a field impression to implement a comprehensive plan for an acutely injured patient.

Trauma Systems
Thoracic Trauma
Spinal Trauma
Musculoskeletal Trauma
Burns
PHTLS Certification

Mechanism of Injury
Neuro Trauma
Abdominal Trauma
Soft Tissue Trauma
Airway Trauma

Cardiology

The student learns the basis of using assessment information to recognize cardiac shock, failure or arrest, to integrate comprehensive knowledge of cardiac causes and pathophysiology into the management and early intervention to prevent arrest and peri-arrest states.

Cardiac Assessment
Cardiac Pharmacology
ACLS Certification

ECG Interpretation
12-lead Interpretation
CPR Certification

OB/GYN & Pediatrics

The student learns fundamentally to recognize and manage life threats by applying knowledge of growth, development and aging and assessment findings to provide care and transportation for a patient with special needs, including patients in stages of pregnancy and emergency birth conditions and newborn care. Integrating assessment findings with principles of pathophysiology and knowledge of psychosocial needs to formulate a field impression and implement a comprehensive treatment and disposition plan for patients with special needs.

Obstetrics
Neonatology

Gynecological Emergencies
PALS Certification

Medical Emergencies

The student learns to recognize and manage life threatening conditions by applying fundamental knowledge based on assessment of findings of a patient with a non-traumatic medical emergency. Integrating assessment findings with principles of epidemiology and pathophysiology to formulate a field impression and implement a comprehensive treatment plan for a patient with a non-traumatic medical complaint.

CNS Disorders
Environmental Emergencies
Immunologic Emergencies
Urology
Behavioral Emergencies
Abuse and Assault
AMLS Certification

Neurological Disorders
Endocrine Emergencies
Gastroenterology
Toxicology
Communicable Disease
Geriatrics

Operations

The student learns to recognize and manages emergency scenes by applying knowledge of operational roles and responsibilities to ensure safe patient, public, and personal safety.

Bioterrorism Awareness
Ambulance Operations
HazMat Operations
Extrication and Vehicle Rescue

MCI Command
Rescue Ops
Crime Scene Awareness
CISD

Several of the listed topics may be presented in multiple sessions to crossover and integrate concepts (i.e. assessment, clinical decision making, pathophysiology, pharmacology, and growth development).

The exact session hours may vary on an annual basis due to revision in the program to incorporate updated information.

Clinicals – Hospital and Field

The student actively participates in performing a comprehensive history and physical examination to identify factors affecting the health and needs of a patient.

Methodist Hospitals' clinical rotations approach the clinical in a way to attempt exposure to a maximum variety of patients during the whole of the program. The Field clinical internship is separate from the hospital internship. The first and second stages are orientation and a concentration on patient assessment skills. The third stage incorporates the performance of skills after the student has demonstrated assessment capabilities. The fourth stage adds in the expectation of the student to take on a team leadership role in addition to basic and advanced skills performance.

The Field Internship stage of Methodist Field Clinical addresses the goal to evaluate the performance objectives of the individual while performing all activities with the expectation of serving as team leader.

GROUP I

Hospital	ER Triage	4 Hours
Field Internship	Stage 1	100 Hours

GROUP II

Hospital	ER	72 Hours
	Resp. Therapy	16 Hours
Field Internship	Stage 2	100 Hours

GROUP III

Hospital	ER	76 Hours
	Cath Lab	8 Hours
	Pediatrics*	16 Hours
	ICU / NICU	16 Hours
Field Internship	Stage 3	100 Hours

GROUP IV

Hospital	ER	100 Hours
	L&D*	16 Hours
	Surgery*	16 Hours
Capstone Field Internship		100 Hours (minimum)**

* Some of the clinical sites may not be available, if this is the case, the student will have to add those hours to the overall total in the emergency room.

**During capstone field internship a student will be required to precept a minimum of 100 hours. The student must have 25 total ALS team leads prior to successful completion of Capstone.

Total Hospital Clinical Hours	332 Hours
Total Field Internship Hours	400 Hours*

*On average students actual hours can be 10 to 15% over the minimum.

Functional Job Analysis Paramedic Characteristics

The Paramedic must be a confident leader who can accept the challenge and high degree of responsibility entailed in the position. The Paramedic must have excellent judgment and be able to prioritize decisions and act quickly in the best interest of the patient, must be self disciplined, able to develop patient rapport, interview hostile patients, maintain safe distance, and recognize and utilize communication unique to diverse multicultural groups and ages within those groups. Must be able to function independently at optimum level in a non-structured environment that is constantly changing.

Even though the Paramedic is generally part of a two- person team generally working with a lower skill and knowledge level Basic EMT, it is the Paramedic who is held responsible for safe and therapeutic administration of drugs including narcotics. Therefore, the Paramedic must not only have knowledge about medications but must be able to apply this knowledge in a practical sense. Knowledge and practical application of medications include thoroughly knowing and understanding the general properties of all types of drugs including analgesics, anesthetics, anti-anxiety drugs, sedatives and hypnotics, anti-convulsants, central nervous stimulants, psychotherapeutics which include antidepressants, and other anti-psychotics, anticholinergics, cholinergics, muscle relaxants, anti-dysrhythmics, anti-hypertensives, anticoagulants, diuretics, bronchodilators, ophthalmics, pituitary drugs, gastro-intestinal drugs, hormones, antibiotics, antifungals, antiinflammatories, serums, vaccines, anti-parasitics, and others.

The Paramedic is personally responsible, legally, ethically, and morally for each drug administered, for using correct precautions and techniques, observing and documenting the effects of the drugs administered, keeping one's own pharmacological knowledge-base current as to changes and trends in administration and use, keeping abreast of all contraindications to administration of specific drugs to patients based on their constitutional make-up, and using drug reference literature.

The responsibility of the Paramedic includes obtaining a comprehensive drug history from the patient that includes names of drugs, strength, daily usage, and dosage. The Paramedic must take into consideration that many factors, in relation to the history given, can affect the type of medication to be given. For example, some patients may be taking several medications prescribed by several different doctors and some may lose track of what they have or have not taken. Some may be using non-prescription/ over the counter drugs. Awareness of drug reactions and the synergistic effects of drugs combined with other medicines and in some instances, food, are imperative. The Paramedic must also take into consideration the possible risks of medication administered to a pregnant mother and the fetus, keeping in mind those drugs may cross the placenta.

The Paramedic must be cognizant of the impact of medications on pediatric patients based on size and weight, special concerns related to newborns, geriatric patients and the physiological effects of aging such as the way skin can tear in the geriatric population with relatively little to no pressure. There must be an awareness of the high abuse potential of controlled substances and the potential for addiction, therefore, the

Paramedic must be thorough in report writing and able to justify why a particular narcotic was used and why a particular amount was given. The ability to measure and re-measure drip rates for controlled substances/medications are essential. Once medication is stopped or not used, the Paramedic must send back unused portions to proper inventory arena.

The Paramedic must be able to apply basic principles of mathematics to the calculation of problems associated with medication dosages, perform conversion problems, differentiate temperature reading between centigrade and Fahrenheit scales, be able to use proper advanced life support equipment and supplies (i.e. proper size of intravenous needles) based on patient's age and condition of veins, and be able to locate sites for obtaining blood samples and perform this task, administer medication intravenously, administer medications by gastric tube, administer oral medications, administer rectal medications, and comply with universal pre-cautions and body substance isolation, disposing of contaminated items and equipment properly.

The Paramedic must be able to apply knowledge and skills to assist overdosed patients to overcome trauma through antidotes, and have knowledge of poisons and be able to administer treatment. The Paramedic must be knowledgeable as to the stages drugs/medications go through once they have entered the patient's system and be cognizant that route of administration is critical in relation to patient's needs and the effect that occurs.

The Paramedic must also be capable of providing advanced life support emergency medical services to patients including conducting of and interpreting electrocardiograms (EKGs), electrical interventions to support the cardiac functions, performing advanced endotracheal intubations in airway management and relief of pneumothorax and administering of appropriate intravenous fluids and drugs under direction of off-site designated physician.

The Paramedic is a person who must not only remain calm while working in difficult and stressful circumstances, but must be capable of staying focused while assuming the leadership role inherent in carrying out the functions of the position. Good judgment along with advanced knowledge and technical skills are essential in directing other team members to assist as needed. The Paramedic must be able to provide top quality care, concurrently handle high levels of stress, and be willing to take on the personal responsibility required of the position. This includes not only all legal ramifications for precise documentation, but also the responsibility for using the knowledge and skills acquired in real life threatening emergency situations.

The Paramedic must be able to deal with adverse and often dangerous situations which include responding to calls in districts known to have high crime and mortality rates. Self-confidence is critical, as is a desire to work with people, solid emotional stability, a tolerance for high stress, and the ability to meet the physical, intellectual, and cognitive requirements demanded by this position.

Physical Demands

Aptitudes required for work of this nature are good physical stamina, endurance, and body condition that would not be adversely affected by frequently having to walk, stand, lift, carry, and balance at times, in excess of 125 pounds. Motor coordination is necessary because over uneven terrain, the patient's, the Paramedic's, and other workers' well being must not be jeopardized.

Comments

The Paramedic provides the most extensive pre-hospital care and may work for fire departments, private ambulance services, police departments or hospitals. Response times for nature of work are dependent upon nature of call. For example, a Paramedic working for a private ambulance service that transports the elderly from nursing homes to routine medical appointments and check-ups may endure somewhat less stressful circumstances than the Paramedic who works primarily with 911 calls in districts known to have high crime rates. Thus, the particular stresses inherent in the role of the Paramedic can vary, depending on place and type of employment.

However, in general, in the analyst's opinion, the Paramedic must be flexible to meet the demands of the ever-changing emergency scene. When emergencies exist, the situation can be complex and care of the patient must be started immediately. In essence, the Paramedic in the EMS system uses advanced training and equipment to extend emergency physician services to the ambulance. The Paramedic must be able to make accurate independent judgments while following oral directives. The ability to perform duties in a timely manner is essential, as it could mean the difference between life and death for the patient.

Use of the telephone or radio dispatch for coordination of prompt emergency services is required, as is a pager, depending on place of employment. Accurately discerning street names through map reading, and correctly distinguishing house numbers or business addresses are essential to task completion in the most expedient manner. Concisely and accurately describing orally to dispatcher and other concerned staff, one's impression of patient's condition, is critical as the Paramedic works in emergency conditions where there may not be time for deliberation. The Paramedic must also be able to accurately report orally and in writing, all relevant patient data. At times, reporting may require a detailed narrative on extenuating circumstances or conditions that go beyond what is required on a prescribed form. In some instances, the Paramedic must enter data on computer from a laptop in ambulance. Verbal skills and reasoning skills are used extensively.