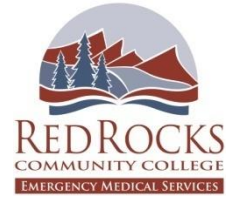




Red Rocks Community College Paramedic Preparation Program Information Packet



Thank you for your interest in the Paramedic Preparation Program at Red Rocks Community College.

The Paramedic Preparation Program is combined with the AEMT curriculum and EMT Intermediate Curriculum, and is designed to prepare graduates to earn an Associates of Emergency Medical Technology and enter a Paramedic course of study. Additionally, upon completion of a Paramedic course of study an Associate Degree in Paramedicine may be an option for individuals desiring an opportunity for career enhancement. The course of study provides the student an opportunity to acquire basic and advanced life support knowledge and skills by utilizing classroom instruction, practical laboratory sessions, realistic simulations, hospital clinical experience, and field internships with emergency medical service agencies.

Most students in the Paramedic Preparation Program are employed in the EMS field at the time of their acceptance into the program, or gain employment while enrolled in the program. Employment while enrolled in the program is encouraged as it enhances the educational process and allows immediate application of the knowledge and skills gained in the program. Employment opportunities include ambulance services, fire and rescue agencies, hospitals, industry, and government agencies.

Paramedic education in the state of Colorado is provided at local hospitals and some community colleges. Pre-requisites for most programs include:

- Valid EMT and CPR certification (12 credit hours)
- IV therapy course (2 credit hours)
- EKG Interpretation course (2 credit hours)
- BIO 106 – Anatomy and Physiology* (4 credit hours)
- 1 year of field experience as an EMT in the pre-hospital setting*

Sub – Total – 20 hours

*These requirements are program dependent and there may be additional requirements for each Paramedic program you apply to

Requirements for the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Paramedicine at RRCC are as follows:

- English – 3 hours
- Math – 3 hours
- Arts, Humanities, or Social Sciences – 3 hours
- BIO 201 and 202, Anatomy and Physiology – 8 hours
- Paramedic classes – 45 hours

Sub – Total – 62 hours

- However, the biology discipline group of the Colorado Community College system has made General Biology a pre-requisite to Anatomy and Physiology which adds an additional 5 hours of credits.

Sub – Total – 5 hours

Total Hours – 87 hours

We have developed the Paramedic Preparation program at RRCC to not only meet Paramedic pre-requisites with an Associate’s degree option, but also to provide a solid academic and clinical background that will help students succeed in their Paramedic applications and studies. That being said, I must be clear that this program is in no way required to gain acceptance into a Paramedic course, it is only an alternate option to meet the admission requirements of these programs, as well as a way to earn all required credits for an Associate’s degree. It is the responsibility of the applicants to ensure this program will meet the pre-requisites of the Paramedic program they are interested in. Our graduates have been accepted into, and successfully completed Paramedic programs at HealthONE EMS, St. Anthony’s Hospital, and Denver Health. Additionally successful upon completion of the program the HealthONE EMS Paramedic Education Program will offer the graduate a place in their program.

The program begins each semester and applications are accepted on a continual basis. Interviews are conducted in late November or early December for a spring start, and mid-April for a fall start.

Below is the suggested course sequence for the entire program

Paramedic Preparation Program Course Sequence

<p>Semester I – 16 credit hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS 121 – EMT Fundamentals • EMS 122 – EMT Medical Emergencies • EMS 123 – EMT Trauma Emergencies • EMS 124 – EMT Special Considerations • EMS 170 – EMT Clinical Internship • BIO 106 – Anatomy and Physiology 	<p>Semester III – 17 credit hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS 138 – Basic Simulations • EMS 178 – EMS Seminar • EMS 181 – EMS Internship I • EMS 270 – Clinical EMS Intermediate • ENG 121 – English Composition • General Elective (3 credit hours)
<p>Semester II – 16 credit hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS 127 – AEMT Special Considerations • EMS 129 – AEMT Pharmacology • EMS 130 – EMT Intravenous Therapy • EMS 131 – AEMT Fundamentals • EMS 133 – AEMT Medical Emergencies • EMS 135 – AEMT Trauma Emergencies • EMS 171 – AEMT Clinical Internship • MAT 107 – Career Math 	<p>Semester IV – 14 credit hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS 140 – Advanced Simulations • EMS 182 – EMS Internship II • EMS 279 - Seminar • General Elective (3 credit hours)

Suggested Gen Eds: PHI 111, PHI 112, PHI 220, PSY 227, PSY 101, PSY 102, PSY 249, PSY 235, COM 116, MAT 121, SOC 101, SOC 215, HIS 247, CHE 211, BIO 204, BIO 216

This sequence illustrates the method by which you will earn all your pre-requisites for a Paramedic program and requirements for an Associate’s degree, begin your Advanced Life Support education, gain 500 hours of internship time in the back of an ambulance, 250 hours in various departments of the hospital, 120 hours of simulation time, and create a professional portfolio detailing all your patient contacts, what you learned from each one, and how the knowledge gained applies to your future as a Paramedic. This portfolio can then be presented at the time of application to a Paramedic program to enhance your chances of admission and prove experience equivalent to the required one year of EMT experience.

Not only does the sequence meet the paramedic pre-requisites and culminate in an Associate’s degree, but it will make you a full time student at RRCC and therefore eligible for various financial aid programs as well as increase your competitiveness when applying for a Paramedic program and employment. Moreover many of the courses are

transferable to a four year university in the event you decide to further your education. Furthermore most emergency services agencies now require a degree for any type of promotion or career advancement. Finally, if the Paramedic program you choose to attend offers a degree in Paramedicine these credits can be transferred to that institution and used to earn that degree as well.

There are several advantages to this program. First participants are educated with their end goal of becoming a Paramedic in mind. As a result we will be approaching all topics from a Paramedic's point of view and fostering an appreciation for the depth of medical knowledge needed by Paramedics. All patient contacts, both simulated and during internship rotations, will be reviewed and discussed in terms of patient presentation, disease pathophysiology, appropriate treatment, and rationale for treatment. In essence you will be taught to think like a Paramedic from day one of the program. This also allows those who may have difficulty finding employment as an EMT, due to age, competitive job markets, etc., a method for gaining the required clinical experience for admission to a Paramedic course of study. Additionally the participant will remain continuously enrolled in college throughout their education which maintains their eligibility for financial aid, the ability to remain on their parents medical insurance, and other such benefits of being enrolled in college full time.

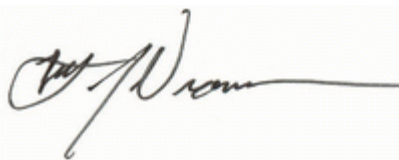
Although minor, there are a few things that must be considered before entering this course of study. There are additional college classes within this program which does equate to a greater overall educational expense. As mentioned above the Paramedic degree can be obtained with 87 semester hours of credit. The entire preparation program adds an additional 21 semester hours for a total of 108 semester hours culminating in two degrees, the Emergency Medical Technology Degree and the Paramedicine Degree.

Some Paramedic programs may view your EMT Intermediate education as part of your Paramedic education. This would reduce the amount of credit hours needed to complete your Paramedic certification. Programs that are most likely to do this are those that offer an Intermediate to Paramedic bridge program. Other programs may still require the full 45 hours of Paramedic courses.

Unfortunately it cannot be predicted as to how each program will view the hours gained in the preparatory program; however these potentials need to be made clear. As a result it is strongly recommended that you contact the Paramedic program you are interested in attending to determine how they may, or may not, incorporate these hours. You might also consider asking if they are affiliated with a college, if their students are considered to be enrolled in a collegiate based program, their student's eligibility for financial aid, and other such questions. This should assist you in making the best educational decisions to reach your career goal of becoming a Paramedic.

If you have any additional questions, or need further information, please feel free to contact me at any time. I look forward to working with you as you begin the journey toward your goal of becoming a Paramedic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Vroman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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EMS Program Director
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