



# Fall 2010

## RN to Paramedic Bridge Program

*Career Studies Certificate*



Offered by  
Piedmont Virginia  
Community College

in cooperation with the  
University of Virginia  
Health System,  
Department of  
Emergency Medicine

Shawn Tevendale  
434-961-5227  
stevendale@pvcc.edu

## Introduction

The PVCC/UVA Paramedic Program is a course of study leading to an Associate in Applied Science degree or a Career Studies Certificate in Emergency Medical Services. The Paramedic Program prepares graduates to provide pre-hospital emergency medical care at an advanced practice level within the bounds of standard accepted practice. This program is a unique partnership between PVCC and the University of Virginia Health System. It is born of the need to provide more paramedics to the Central Virginia region, and of the desire to give paramedicine the academic structure necessary to elevate its practitioner to the status of health care professional. The goal of all aspects of the paramedic program is to produce competent entry-level paramedics.

**INFORMATION PACKETS ABOUT THE EMT-B TO PARAMEDIC AAS DEGREE AND THE INTERMEDIATE TO PARAMEDIC BRIDGE PROGRAM ARE AVAILABLE SEPARATELY.**

## **PVCC Paramedic Program Goals and Objectives**

The goal of all aspects of the paramedic program is to produce competent entry-level paramedics to serve in career and volunteer positions in the PVCC service region.

### **Program Cognitive Objective**

- At the completion of the program, the graduate of the PVCC Paramedic Education Program will demonstrate the ability to comprehend, apply, and evaluate clinical information relative to the role as an entry level paramedic.

### **Program Psychomotor Objective**

- At the completion of the program, the graduate of the PVCC Paramedic Education Program will demonstrate technical proficiency in all skills necessary to fulfill the role of entry level paramedic.

### **Program Affective Objective**

- At the completion of the program, the graduate of the PVCC Paramedic Education Program will demonstrate personal behaviors consistent with professional and employer standards and expectations for an entry level paramedic.

## Virginia Registered Nurse to Paramedic Bridge Program

The RN to Paramedic Bridge Program is designed to certify the Virginia licensed Registered Nurse to the highest level of pre-hospital advanced life support care available in Virginia. This program fulfills all the requirements of the National Standard Curriculum for EMT – Paramedic.

The RN to Paramedic Bridge program reviews the skills and subjects contained in the DOT Paramedic Curriculum (1999) over approximately 120 hours of instruction. All DOT learning objectives will be provided to the student with the understanding that although all objectives will not be directly covered in the bridge course, the student is responsible for all the knowledge and skills included in the EMT-P curriculum.

A minimum of 136 hours are devoted to extensive clinical rotations requiring specific competencies and assessments. Additional hours may be required to complete all the required competencies. These clinical rotations may include time spent in OR/PACU, Critical Care Units, Labor & Delivery Units, Pediatrics, Emergency Department, Family Practice, and Mental Health Clinics.

The RN to Paramedic Bridge Program is designed to provide quality education in all areas of pre-hospital patient care. These areas include: pre-hospital environments, preparatory skills, airway management and ventilation, patient assessment, trauma care, medical patient management, obstetrical/gynecological conditions, pediatric patients, neonatal care, psychiatric and behavioral emergencies, special considerations, and assessment based management.

In Virginia, all initial Paramedic Programs are required to satisfy the testing guidelines established by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. Upon successful course completion and National Registry EMT – Paramedic certification, the technician must apply for Virginia certification before being allowed to practice at this level. After receiving Virginia credentials, the Paramedic has the option to maintain National Registry Paramedic certification without affecting their Virginia certification. However, Virginia certification must be maintained in order to provide patient care at this level in this state.

## RN to PARAMEDIC PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Current RN licensure in the state of Virginia
2. Two years experience as a registered nurse (may be modified for significant past ALS experience)
3. Current Virginia EMT-B certification
4. Current Healthcare Provider CPR certification
5. Completion of 2 semesters of Anatomy & Physiology equivalent to BIO 141/142
  - Courses must have been passed with a grade of “C” or better
6. Active volunteer status with an EMS agency (may be modified for significant past experience)

## Admission Procedures

Students who are interested in obtaining information regarding the Paramedic Program may consult the Piedmont Virginia Community College Catalog or may direct their questions to the Program Director at (434) 961-5227 or [stevendale@pvcc.edu](mailto:stevendale@pvcc.edu).

**Regular Decision:** Regular decision applicants will have **completed all prerequisites and application requirements for admission by May 15** and will have met the criteria established by the admissions committee by the end of the current spring semester. Transfer students who meet these criteria will also be considered at this time. Students will be notified of regular decision admissions by June 15.

**Space Available:** Applicants and transfer students who **fail to meet the May 15 deadline** and students seeking re-admission into the program will be considered on a space available basis. These applicants must have **completed all prerequisites, application (or re-admission) requirements and met criteria established by the admissions committee no later than 14 days prior to the beginning of the semester in which admission (re-admission) is being sought.** Decisions will be made no later than 7 days prior to the first day of class.

**ANY STUDENT WHO HAS FAILED TWO CORE EMS CLASSES AT PVCC MAY NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR RE-ADMISSION.**

## For Students Transferring Credits from Other Colleges

Students who plan to complete or have completed program requirements at other institutions need to indicate interest in the Piedmont Virginia Community College program by completing the standard admission procedure into GENERAL STUDIES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

1. Complete a PVCC application which is located on the PVCC website ([www.pvcc.edu](http://www.pvcc.edu)).
2. Have official copies of your high school and all other non-VCCS college transcripts sent to the Office of Admissions and Records. **It is the student's responsibility to verify that transcripts have been received at PVCC. Please note that the Admission & Records Office destroys files that have been inactive for 3 years.**
3. Once all other college transcripts have been received by the Office of Admissions and Records, the Registrar will perform a transcript evaluation so that you know which college courses will transfer to PVCC.
4. Complete the online Paramedic Program application by **May 15**. Go to <http://www.pvcc.edu/paramedic>. Click on "Apply/Register" to get started.

## For Students Not Transferring Credits from Other Institutions

1. Complete a PVCC application.
2. Have official copies of your high school transcript sent to the Office of Admissions and Records. It is the student's responsibility to verify that transcripts have been received at PVCC. The Admission & Records office destroys files that have been inactive for 3 years.
3. Complete the online Paramedic Program application by **May 15**. Go to <http://www.pvcc.edu/paramedic>. Click on "Apply/Register" to get started.

**Emergency Medical Services- Paramedic  
Career Studies Certificate  
RN to Paramedic Bridge Program**

<u>Fall Semester</u>		<u>Credits</u>
EMS 209	Advanced Pharmacology	4
EMS 207	Advanced Patient Assessment	3
EMS 205	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
EMS 240	ALS Internship II*	1
EMS 242	ALS Clinical Internship III *	2
EMS 243	ALS Field Internship III *	<u>2</u>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

<u>Spring Semester</u>		<u>Credits</u>
EMS 159	ALS Special Populations	2
EMS 256	12-lead Electrocardiogram Interpretation	3
EMS 244	ALS Clinical Internship IV*	2
EMS 245	ALS Field Internship IV*	2
EMS 211	Operations	2
EMS 215	Registry Review	<u>1</u>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12</b>

**\* Clinicals and field time will be individualized based on the student's past nursing and ALS experience.**

**Progress from one semester to the next demands successful completion of ALL core paramedic classes with an 80% or better.**

*Paramedic core courses are held in the evenings with occasional Saturday labs.*

## Curriculum Information

The curriculum will include didactic content, skills lab, and competencies in the areas of airway management, patient assessment, trauma, medical, special considerations and operations.

A **MINIMUM** of 136 total clinical hours is required. The following are the **MINIMUM** hours for each of the required areas:

- OR/PACU- 16 hours
- Intensive Care Units- 16 hours
- Labor & Delivery- 16 hours
- Pediatrics- 16 hours
- Emergency Department- 48 hours

Please note that more hours will be required in one or more of these areas to meet the mandatory competencies and hours will be adjusted according to a student's recent work experience. However, these minimum requirements cannot be waived regardless of the student's current work environment.

Candidates may obtain competencies in their work setting while they are enrolled in the program as long as the competencies are appropriately documented and signed by the nurse manager.

Successful completion of the program will be determined by producing a competent field provider not simply by the completion of a certain number of clinical or field hours. Didactic material, competencies and field team leader activities will run this program to approximately 300 hours. There are several variables that may play a significant role in this number, since documented previous experiences and the aggressiveness of the candidate to complete their competencies and field leader activities will dictate the time frame for this program.

## For Students Interested in the AAS Degree in Emergency Medical Services

Once a student has completed the RN to Paramedic bridge program and has received NREMT-P certification, only the following courses must be completed to obtain the AAS degree in EMS. These courses may be transferred from other colleges or taken at PVCC (see notes below for further details).

- ENG 111
- ENG 112
- SDV 10\_\_ (can be waived if student has previous college degree)
- ITE 119
- 3 semester hours of social science elective
- 3 semester hours of humanities elective  
(see page 55 of college catalog for a list of approved electives-  
<http://www.pvcc.edu/docs/catalog.pdf>)

### Notes

- **Students who apply for the AAS degree must complete 18 semester hours (25%) of course work in residency at PVCC with a minimum GPA of 2.0.**
- If this is a second degree from PVCC, the student will need an additional 12 credits.
- The Dean of Mathematics, Sciences and Human Services has final approval on awarding advanced placement credits and waivers.

## Piedmont Virginia Community College Paramedic Program

### Essential Functions and Standards for Successful Performance

To successfully complete the classroom and clinical components of the program, the student in the paramedic program must, either independently **or with reasonable accommodation**, be able to perform all of the following essential standards and functions of a registered paramedic.

1. **Speech:** Establish interpersonal rapport and communicate verbally and in writing with clients, physicians, peers, family members, and the health care team from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
2. **Hearing:** Auditory acuity sufficient to respond to verbal instruction, perceive and interpret various equipment signals, use the telephone, and hear faint body sounds.
3. **Vision:** Visual acuity sufficient to identify and distinguish colors, read handwritten orders and any other handwritten or printed data such as medication records or scales, chart data, and provide for the safety of clients' condition by clearly viewing monitors and other equipment in order to correctly interpret data.
4. **Mobility:** Stand and/or walk eight hours daily in the clinical setting. Bend, squat, or kneel. Assist in lifting or moving clients of all age groups and weights. Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (move around client to manually compress chest and ventilate). Work with arms fully extended overhead. Lift 125 pounds independently and 250 pounds with assistance.
5. **Manual Dexterity:** Demonstrate eye/hand coordination sufficient to manipulate equipment (syringes, infusion pumps, life support systems)
6. **Fine Motor Ability:** Ability to use hands for grasping, pushing, pulling, and fine manipulation. Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.
7. **Mentation:** Maintain reality orientation for at least an eight-hour period of time. Assimilate and apply knowledge acquired through lectures, discussions, and readings.
8. **Smell:** Olfactory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.
9. **Writing:** Ability to organize thoughts and present them clearly and logically in writing.
10. **Reading:** Ability to read and understand written directions, instructions and comments in both classroom and clinical settings.

## Health Status

All individuals admitted to the paramedic program will be required to submit documentation of a complete health assessment by his/her health care provider. This will include documentation that specific immunizations and tests have been completed. A list of these immunizations may be obtained from the Math, Science and Human Services office, Room 270.

## Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening

All PVCC paramedic students must complete the Authorization Form for Background Check and Drug Screening. No other processes may be substituted for this requirement. Forms and information will be mailed to students upon acceptance into the paramedic program.

This testing is completed through an outside vendor and all fees will be paid directly to this vendor. The testing will compare findings against the following criteria:

- Adult or child sexual offenses
- Adult, child, or elder abuse of neglect
- Assault or battery
- Fraud
- Narcotics or other drugs, including prescription drugs
- Felonies of any type

The vendor will report only whether a student clears or does not clear the criteria listed above. All reports will be returned to the Dean of Math, Science, and Human Services. In the event that a student is not cleared, the student must make any clarifications directly with the vendor. The student may elect to involve the Dean in any clarification procedures. If no suitable arrangement can be made, the student shall be administratively withdrawn from the Paramedic Program.

## Questions Commonly Asked About the Paramedic Program



### 1. HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM?

The RN to Paramedic curriculum can be completed within a one-year period.

### 2. AM I A PARAMEDIC WHEN I COMPLETE THE PROGRAM?

No. Once you have completed the paramedic course of study you are eligible to take the National Registry Paramedic Examination. Upon passing this examination, you are issued credentials through the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. These credentials can be used to apply for reciprocity with the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services. Other states may have different procedures. If you are considering practicing as a paramedic in another state, you will have to check with that state regarding legal recognition and reciprocity with the National Registry.

### 3. WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED IN THE PARAMEDIC PROGRAM?

In addition to tuition and the cost of transportation to clinical sites and parking, students are responsible for the following items (estimated):

Books	\$350
Supplies	\$200 (includes scrubs, lab coat, stethoscope, scissors)
Additional Fees (estimated)	
Background Check/Drug Screening	\$103
NREMT-P registry test fee	\$110
FISDAP	\$80

Students are also responsible for obtaining ACLS, ITLS, and PALS certification.

### 4. WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL SITES FOR THE PROGRAM?

The vast majority of hospital clinicals are completed at the University of Virginia Medical Center (MICU, STICU, NICU, PICU, NNICU, Adult and Peds Emergency Room, Labor and Delivery, Anesthesia). Field rotations can be completed at any of approximately 20 agencies in the Central Virginia area. Other facilities and agencies may be added at student or agency request.



5. IF I AM TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER PARAMEDIC PROGRAM, CAN I GET CREDIT FOR SOME OF THE PARAMEDIC COURSES?

Yes. Once your transcripts are on file in the Office of Admissions and Records, make an appointment with the Paramedic Program Director. The Program Director and Division Dean will evaluate paramedic coursework taken elsewhere. You may be asked to provide faculty with course outlines or syllabi in order to determine what work may transfer. You will also need to provide documentation of any clinical or field hours, skills, competencies, and assessments completed.

6. IS THERE FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE TO PARAMEDIC STUDENTS?

Yes. There are a number of financial aid opportunities. Some of these require enrollment in 12 semester hours each term; this should be considered as you plan your schedule. For further information, please contact the FINANCIAL AID OFFICE at 434-961-6545 at your earliest convenience. There is also a paramedic scholarship available; more information will be provided by the Program Director after admission to the program.

7. SHOULD I BELONG TO A LOCAL EMS AGENCY WHILE IN THE PROGRAM?

Membership in one of the many outstanding EMS agencies in this area is *strongly recommended*. Exposure to patients in the field will help reinforce all that the student is learning in the classroom. Occasionally, agencies will also assist with the financial burden of the Paramedic Program in exchange for continued service after graduation.

8. HOW IMPORTANT IS PRIOR EXPERIENCE?

Only a strong EMT will grow into a strong paramedic. Therefore, it is highly recommended that candidates accumulate 9 – 12 months of active service with an EMS agency prior to applying to the Paramedic Program.

## COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM

**BEFORE THEY WILL BE GIVEN PERMISSION TO SIT FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTRY PARAMEDIC EXAM, STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:**

- **Pass all core EMS courses with an 80% or better**
- **Successfully complete all clinical hours, competencies, and team leader calls**
- **Successfully demonstrate competency as an entry-level paramedic**

NATIONAL REGISTRY EXAM – Successful paramedic program graduates are eligible to sit for the National Registry Paramedic exam. Upon successful completion of the written and practical portions of the exam, candidates receive their National Registry Paramedic certification. This is required prior to applying for reciprocity as a Virginia paramedic. The Virginia Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services will only grant certification as a paramedic in Virginia through initial certification and reciprocity afforded through the National Registry.

**Permission to sit for the National Registry exam can be denied to any applicant convicted of the following offenses:**

1. Fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure a license;
2. Unprofessional conduct;
3. Willful or repeated violation of any of the provisions of this chapter;
4. Conviction of any felony; conviction of any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude;
5. Practicing in a manner contrary to the standards of ethics or in such a manner as to make his/her practice a danger to the health and welfare of patients or to the public;
6. Use of alcohol or drugs to the extent that such use renders him/her unsafe to practice, or any mental or physical illness rendering him/her unsafe to practice;
7. The denial, revocation, suspension or restriction of a license or certificate to practice in another state, the District of Columbia or a United States possession or territory; or
8. Abuse, negligent practice, or misappropriation of a patient's or resident's property.

Applicants who are in doubt about their eligibility to take the exam should contact the National Registry early in their course of study to discuss their individual situation. The Program Director is available to help with this process if necessary.

The above offenses, if committed after the applicant is certified by the National Registry, may result in suspension or loss of the certification.

## ADMISSION CHECKLIST

I understand that the following requirements must be complete by the application deadline of **MAY 15** in order to be considered for fall admission:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Submission of online PVCC application (<http://www.pvcc.edu>)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Submission of online paramedic program application (<http://www.pvcc.edu/paramedic>)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Submission of official college transcripts (if you have attended colleges other than PVCC or another VCCS college).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Submission of a copy of current Virginia RN license, Virginia EMT-B and Healthcare Provider CPR certification.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Admission into the General Studies for EMS curriculum.

\*It is the applicant's responsibility to verify that all transcripts are on file with the Admissions and Records Office. **PLEASE NOTE: THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE PURGES ALL FILES THAT HAVE BEEN INACTIVE FOR 3 YEARS.**

Successful completion of this program does not guarantee national certification and/or employment.