

Fall 2012
Emergency Medical Services
RN to Paramedic Bridge Program
Information Packet
Career Studies Certificate



Introduction

The RN to Paramedic Bridge Program is designed to assist the RN to fulfill all the requirements of the National Standard Curriculum for EMT–Paramedic.

The program reviews the skills and subjects contained in the DOT Paramedic Curriculum (1999) over approximately 250 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 program, the student is responsible for all the knowledge and skills included in the EMT-P curriculum.

The 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.

Information packets about the EMT-B to Paramedic AAS degree and the Intermediate to Paramedic Bridge Program are available under separate cover.

Nondiscrimination Statement

PVCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, political affiliation, disability, veteran status, gender, age or sexual orientation in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Vice President for Instruction and Student Services, 501 College Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22902; 434.961.5206.

Paramedic Program Objectives

The RN to Paramedic Bridge Program prepares graduates to provide pre-hospital emergency medical care at an advanced practice level within the bounds of standard accepted practice. The goal of all aspects of the program is to produce competent entry-level paramedics to serve in career and volunteer positions in their communities.

Graduates of the program will demonstrate:

- the ability to comprehend, apply, and evaluate clinical information relative to the role as an entry-level paramedic
- technical proficiency in all skills necessary to fulfill the role of entry-level paramedic
- personal behaviors consistent with professional and employer standards and expectations for an entry-level paramedic

Essential Functions and Standards for Successful Performance

To successfully complete the classroom and clinical components of the program, the paramedic student must, either independently or with reasonable accommodation, be able to perform all of the following essential standards and functions. Students who are unable to meet these standards are not eligible for admission to the program.

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 and Comprehension:** Auditory acuity sufficient to respond to verbal instruction, perceive and interpret various equipment signals, use the telephone, understand and respond appropriately to verbal directions 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 50 pounds independently and 125 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. Have tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and manipulation of equipment.
7. **Mentation:** Ability to remain focused on multiple details and tasks 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 RN to Paramedic Bridge 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 Health and Life Sciences Division Office in the Kluge-Moses Science Building, Room K224A.

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 or 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 Health and Life Sciences. 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 PVCC Paramedic Program.

National Registry Exam

Successful program graduates are eligible to sit for the National Registry Paramedic Exam. Before the Program Director and Medical Director give permission to take 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

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 PRIOR TO ADMISSION 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.

Program Behavior Expectations

The RN to Paramedic Bridge Program reserves the right to refuse admission to applicants if such refusal is considered to be in the best interest of the program. The program will not accept any student who has been dismissed from another college or program due to misconduct or threatening behavior or who has been determined to be a potential threat. Students may be denied admission to the program if there is sufficient reason to believe that they present a danger to themselves, other members of the college community or clients in the clinical setting.

Curriculum for RN to Paramedic Bridge Program

(Fall 2012 curriculum is under review)

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
Fall Semester		
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 II	2
Spring Semester		
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
Total Credits		27
<p><i>Progress from one semester to the next demands successful completion of all core paramedic classes with an 80% or better.</i></p> <p><i>Paramedic core courses are held in the evenings with occasional Saturday labs.</i></p>		

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. These minimum requirements cannot be waived regardless of the student's current or previous experience.

In order to receive credit for Intermediate level competencies, skills, and assessments, students must provide documentation of all clinical hours, competencies, skills, and assessments performed. These can be within the bounds of an accredited EMS education program, or they can be from patient encounters. All must be verified by proper written documentation: for example, a PPCR completed by the student, a clinical

assessment form from an accredited program or a letter from the director of an accredited program. Credit can only be given on items that occurred in the two years prior to the start of the RN to Paramedic program. Any Intermediate level competencies which cannot be satisfactorily documented will have to be completed within the bounds of this program. If the program accepts previous competency documentation and no further competency contacts are required based on the curriculum, the student must still demonstrate current competency in that skill during the bridge program. The Program Director and Medical Director reserve the final right to accept or deny any previous competencies, or to require students to complete additional hours and assessments in order to assure student competence.

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. There are several variables that may play a significant role in the required number of lab, clinical and field internship hours since documented previous experiences and the aggressiveness of the candidate to complete their competencies and field leader activities will dictate the timeframe 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 Emergency Medical Services. These courses may be transferred from other colleges or taken at PVCC.

- ENG 111
- ENG 112
- SDV 100/101/108 (can be waived if student has previous college degree)
- ITE 119
- PED 101 or PED 102
- Three semester hours of Social Science elective*
- Three semester hours of Humanities Elective*

*Lists of courses that fulfill the requirement for the Social Science Elective and Humanities Elective can be found on PVCC's Web site (http://www.pvcc.edu/docs/approved_electives.pdf). Introductory (101 or 102 level) foreign language courses will not meet the Humanities Elective requirement for this program.

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 Health and Life Sciences has final approval on awarding advanced placement credits and waivers.

RN to Paramedic Bridge Program

Prerequisites

Application review will begin on July 6, 2012. Applicants who have completed all program prerequisites will be admitted until the admission class is full. Applications will not be considered after 5:00 p.m., August 1, 2012.

The following items must be satisfactorily completed in order to be considered for admission to the PVCC Paramedic Program. Completion of these prerequisites does not guarantee admission.

1. Current RN licensure in the state of Virginia
2. Two years experience as an RN (may be modified for significant past ALS experience)
3. Current Virginia EMT-B certification
4. Current Healthcare Provider CPR certification
5. Completion of two semesters of Anatomy and Physiology equivalent to BIO 141/142. Courses must have been passed with a grade of "C" or better within the last eight years.
6. Active volunteer status with an EMS agency (may be modified for significant past experience)
7. Completion of TOEFL iBT if nonnative English speaker

Students who are interested in obtaining information regarding the program may direct their questions to PVCC's Admissions and Advising Center (434.961.5264 or 434.961.6581) or the Program Director, Matthew Cathcart, at 434.961.5291 or mcathcart@pvcc.edu.

Factors Considered for Admission Decisions

Applicants must submit all official documentation and demonstrate minimum requirements for consideration by the posted deadline to be considered for acceptance. Coursework in progress at time of deadline will not be considered during the application process. Students meeting all of the minimum requirements for admission are not guaranteed acceptance. Priority for admission is given to students who are residents of the PVCC service region (Albemarle, Buckingham, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson).

All applicants are highly encouraged to meet with an academic advisor available in PVCC's Admissions and Advising Center in the Main Building on weekdays and the Paramedic Program Director prior to applying for admission.

Evaluation Process

1. Paramedic Program applicants complete online RN to Paramedic program application and complete all required prerequisites prior to August 1 deadline. Applications or documentation received after the deadline will not be considered. THIS PROGRAM APPLICATION IS IN ADDITION TO THE PVCC COLLEGE APPLICATION.
2. All application documents are compiled by division and admissions office personnel.
3. The Program Director conducts a preliminary screening of all applicants to determine those who have met the minimum prerequisites and thus are eligible for admission.
4. The Program Director, in collaboration with the Program Medical Director, reviews the applications and academic records of eligible candidates.
5. Applicants are evaluated according to the following criteria in order of importance:
 - a. The number of science courses completed by the application deadline (BIO 141 and BIO 142)
 - b. The GPA earned in those completed courses
6. Letters to all applicants will be mailed the week of August 6, 2012.



Frequently Asked Questions



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

The RN to Paramedic Program 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 certifications.

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 Pediatric 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. After official transcripts have been received by the Office of Admissions and Records and you have made written request to the registrar for transcript analysis, 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. It is best to complete your financial aid application by March 31 for the following fall semester. 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. This also helps to solidify in the student's mind that paramedicine is indeed the best career path for them.

RN to Paramedic Program Admission Checklist

Use this as a tool to complete the Paramedic Application Requirements by August 1, 2012.

Application Requirement	How Met?	Date Completed
Complete PVCC Application www.pvcc.edu	Online Application	
Complete Paramedic Program Application www.pvcc.edu/paramedic .	Online Application	
Submit college transcripts to PVCC Office of Admissions and Advising.	Have colleges send official transcripts to PVCC Office of Admissions and Advising and complete request form to have courses evaluated for transfer credit.	
Submit high school transcript or GED to PVCC Office of Admissions and Advising.	Have high school send official transcript to PVCC Office of Admissions and Advising.	
Complete science prerequisite requirement.	College transcript	
Submit current Virginia and NREMT-Intermediate certification.	Submit copy of certification to Health and Life Sciences' Division Office.	
Submit Health Care Provider CPR certification.	Submit copy of current certification to Health and Life Sciences' Division Office.	
Complete TOEFL iBT if nonnative English speaker.	TOEFL iBT is scheduled through PVCC's Testing Center.	