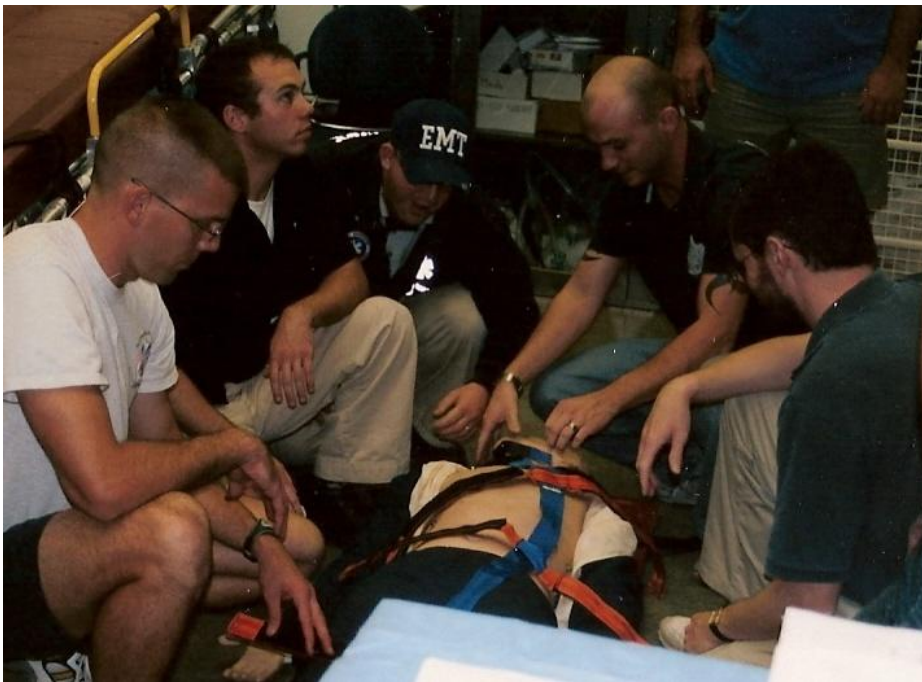


Fall
2010

Paramedic Program

AAS in Emergency Medical Services



Offered by
Piedmont Virginia
Community College

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

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Introduction

The PVCC/UVA Paramedic Program is a 2-year (4 semesters) course of study leading to an Associate in Applied Science degree in Emergency Medical Services. The associate degree 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.

Recently, a new partnership with Blue Ridge Community College has been developed. As a result, students in the Shenandoah Valley will be able to attend paramedic classes virtually at BRCC. These students will then only need to travel to Charlottesville one night per week for lecture and lab. These students will complete their clinical rotations at UVA. Also, the paramedic program is pleased to announce the new offerings of an Intermediate to Paramedic bridge and RN to Paramedic bridge courses.

Traditionally, paramedic programs have graduated students eligible to sit for the National Registry Paramedic examination without providing any academic credit or degree for the extensive didactic, laboratory, clinical and internship preparation required. The AAS degree in Emergency Medical Services promotes career advancement and provides students the opportunity to further their academic accomplishments by preparing them for admission into four-year colleges and universities.

If you are interested in providing advanced pre-hospital medical care to patients, working in an emergency room or if you wish to obtain an associate degree as a first step to pursuing a bachelors or higher degree in a health profession, then the Paramedic Program is an excellent choice.

INFORMATION PACKETS ABOUT THE INTERMEDIATE TO PARAMEDIC BRIDGE AND RN TO PARAMEDIC BRIDGE PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE SEPARATELY.

Paramedic Program Philosophy and Conceptual Framework

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.

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 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 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.

Paramedic Program Prerequisites

The following courses must be satisfactorily completed (or successfully challenged by means of college assessment tests) in order to be considered for admission to the Paramedic Program. Please remember that the admissions process into the Paramedic Program is competitive; only the best qualified applicants are accepted. Completion of these prerequisites and any of the general education courses in the curriculum does not guarantee admission.

1. English 1-5 (developmental English courses) or COMPASS placement testing demonstrating competency in this content:
 - a. Completion of an acceptable college-level composition course with a grade of “C” or better may be used to meet this prerequisite. **Completion of this course must be verified by an official transcript.**
 - b. SAT verbal and writing score of 520 or an ACT score of 21 may be used to meet this prerequisite.
2. Math 2, Math 9 (or BSK 6) and Math 3 (or BSK 8 & 9) (developmental math courses) or COMPASS placement testing **WITHIN THE PAST 8 YEARS** demonstrating competency in this content:
 - a. Completion of an acceptable college-level math course **WITHIN THE PAST 8 YEARS** with a grade of “C” or better may be used to meet this prerequisite. **Completion of this course must be verified by an official transcript. Technical math and certain liberal arts math courses will not satisfy this prerequisite.**
 - b. SAT quantitative score of 480 or an ACT score of 20 may be used to meet this prerequisite.
3. Biology and Chemistry- can be satisfied through any of the following paths:
 - a. Completion of high school biology and chemistry courses with a grade of “C” or better
 - b. Completion of acceptable college-level biology and chemistry courses
 - c. Completion of NAS 2- Foundations of Life Science
 - d. **Completion of above courses must be verified by an official transcript. Courses such as "Consumer Chemistry" do not satisfy the chemistry prerequisite.**
4. Current Virginia EMT-B certification
5. Current Healthcare Provider CPR certification

General Education Courses

(Required to complete the A.A.S. in EMS)

The “general education” courses in the paramedic curriculum are courses which form the foundation of basic knowledge upon which further education is based. These general education courses are:

ENG 111	*BIO 141-142
ITE 119	SDV 10__
HUM Elective	Social Science Elective (6 semester hours)

**BIO 141 and BIO 142 must be repeated if they were taken more than 8 years prior to date of application for admission to the Paramedic Program.*

BIO 141 and BIO 142 must be completed with a grade of “C” or better before students can enroll in second-year paramedic courses. *These two classes must be taken by all paramedic students, even those pursuing certification only.*

It is strongly recommended that students complete at least some of the required general education coursework prior to entering the program; the amount of general education coursework completed, particularly the science courses, is an important criteria used in making admissions decisions.

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.

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).
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. Remember that BIO 141 and BIO 142 must have been taken within 8 years of the date of admission to the Paramedic Program.
4. Register for and complete the PVCC assessment program in reading, writing, and math. Assessment testing must be completed by **May 15** in order to be considered for fall admission.
5. Completion of high school or college biology **and** chemistry courses with a grade of C or better or satisfactory completion of NAS 2, Foundations of Life Science prior to May 15. Consumer Chemistry is not acceptable to satisfy the chemistry prerequisite.
6. Upon completion of the assessment testing program, make an appointment with a member of the Advisement and Counseling staff for interpretation of the assessment results and admission into General Studies for Emergency Medical Services curriculum. During the interview, the counselor will review your academic records to insure that you have met the program prerequisites of developmental English, pre-algebra, algebra I, biology, and chemistry. In addition, the counselor will recommend appropriate courses to be taken prior to entry into the program. It is strongly suggested that you complete as much general education coursework, particularly in the sciences, as possible prior to entering the program so that you will be successful in the paramedic courses.
7. 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. SAT/ACT test scores from within the last 3 years may be accepted in place of testing. Original score reports are required. Contact the Advisement and Counseling Center at 434-961-5264 for additional information.
3. Register for and complete the PVCC assessment program in reading, writing, and math. Assessment testing must be completed by **May 15** in order to be considered for fall admission.
4. Completion of high school or college biology and chemistry courses with a grade of C or better or satisfactory completion of NAS 2, Foundations of Life Science prior to **May 15**. Consumer Chemistry is not acceptable to satisfy the chemistry prerequisite.
5. Upon completion of the assessment testing program, make an appointment with a member of the Advisement and Counseling staff for interpretation of the assessment results and admission into General Studies for Emergency Medical Services curriculum. During the interview, the counselor will review your academic records to insure that you have met the program prerequisites of developmental English, pre-algebra, algebra I, biology, and chemistry. In addition, the counselor will recommend appropriate courses to be taken prior to entry into the program. It is strongly suggested that you complete as much general education coursework, particularly in the sciences, as possible prior to entering the program so that you will be successful in the paramedic courses.
6. Complete the online Paramedic Program application by **May 15**. Go to <http://www.pvcc.edu/paramedic>. Click on "Apply/Register" to get started.

Factors Considered for Admission Decisions

Prerequisites for Admission

Applications for admission will not be considered until documentation that the following prerequisites are complete has been provided. Completion of these prerequisites does **NOT** guarantee admission into the Paramedic Program.

1. Must be 18 years old on the first day of fall classes.
2. Completion of college placement testing in Math and English.
 - a. Must place into MTH 4 (BSK 6) or higher (*or successfully complete developmental Math courses through MTH 3 (BSK 8 and BSK 9)*). **Must be completed within past 8 years.**
 - b. Must place into ENG 111 (*or successfully complete developmental reading and writing courses through ENG 3 and/or ENG 5*).
3. Completion of high school or college biology and chemistry courses with a grade of C or better or satisfactory completion of NAS 2 (*Foundations of Life Sciences*), prior to May 15. **Consumer Chemistry is not acceptable to satisfy the chemistry prerequisite.**
4. Current Virginia EMT-B certification
5. Current Healthcare Provider CPR certification

After completion of the above prerequisites, applications will be evaluated using the admission criteria described below.

The following factors are considered in order of priority:

1. Paramedic curricular GPA (applicants with a curricular GPA below 2.0 will not be considered.)
2. Science GPA (BIO 141, BIO 142) completed within the last 8 years (applicants with a science GPA below 2.0 will not be considered.)

Number of curricular courses (including science courses) completed.

AAS Degree Emergency Medical Services

First Semester (Fall)

BIO 141 Anatomy & Physiology I	4 credits
ENG 111 Composition I	3 credits
EMS 151 Introduction to Advanced Life Support	4 credits
EMS 157 ALS Trauma Care	3 credits
EMS 170 Advanced Life Support Internship	2 credits
SDV 10__ Student Development	<u>1 credit</u>
Total	17

Second Semester (Spring)

BIO 142 Anatomy & Physiology II	4 credits
ENG 112 College Composition II	3 credits
EMS 159 Special Populations	2 credits
EMS 155 ALS Medical Care	4 credits
EMS 153 Basic ECG Interpretation	2 credits
EMS 173 ALS Field Internship II	1 credit
EMS 172 ALS Clinical Internship II	<u>2 credits</u>
Total	18

Third Semester (Fall)

EMS 209 Advanced Pharmacology	4 credits
EMS 205 Advanced Pathophysiology	3 credits
EMS 240 ALS Internship II	1 credit
EMS 242 ALS Clinical Internship III	2 credits
EMS 243 ALS Field Internship III	2 credits
ITE 119 Information Literacy	<u>3 credits</u>
Total	15

Fourth Semester (Spring)

EMS 256 Twelve-Lead Electrocardiogram Interpretation	3 credits
EMS 244 ALS Clinical Internship IV	2 credits
EMS 245 ALS Field Internship IV	2 credits
EMS 211 Operations	2 credits
EMS 215 Registry Review	1 credit
___ ___ Humanities Elective ¹	3 credits
___ ___ Social Science Elective	<u>3 credits</u>
Total	16

Total Program Credits = 66

¹Humanities elective may be selected from courses in art, literature, foreign language, humanities, music history and appreciation, philosophy, religion, and drama. History and speech classes do not satisfy the humanities elective requirement.

A complete list of approved electives is located on the PVCC Web site; under Quick Links, select College Catalog. The list immediately precedes the programs of study curricular sheets.

PROGRESS FROM ONE SEMESTER TO THE NEXT DEMANDS SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF ALL CORE PARAMEDIC CLASSES WITH AN 80% OR BETTER.

IN ADDITION, BIO 141 & BIO 142 MUST BE COMPLETED WITH A GRADE OF "C" OR BETTER TO PROGRESS TO THE SECOND YEAR OF THE PROGRAM.

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

For Students Who Have a Current NREMT-P Certification and are Interested in the AAS Degree in Emergency Medical Services

A student who has a current NREMT-P certification and has been practicing as a paramedic for a minimum of one year may apply for a waiver of the EMS courses in the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Emergency Medical Services. Once accepted into the program, the student may submit a written request to the Dean of Math, Science, and Human Services to waive a majority of the EMS course requirements. At that point, they will have to complete only the following:

- ENG 111
- ENG 112
- BIO 141 and BIO 142
- 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

A complete list of approved electives is located on the PVCC Web site; under Quick Links, select College Catalog. The list immediately precedes the programs of study curricular sheets.

To count towards the degree, BIO 141 & 142 must be passed with a grade of C or better.

Note

- These students must meet all program prerequisites for admission.
- **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.

Questions Commonly Asked About the Paramedic Program



1. WHAT COURSES AT PVCC SHOULD I TAKE IF I AM PREPARING FOR ADMISSION INTO THE PARAMEDIC PROGRAM?

Any developmental courses which are recommended as a result of assessment testing should be taken immediately. Developmental English (writing and/or reading) probably should be the first developmental courses to be taken, if necessary. Developmental pre-algebra and algebra should then be taken, followed by NAS 2, Foundations of Life Science, if necessary. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to take the Anatomy & Physiology courses prior to applying for admission, both to lighten the student's course load once he/she is admitted to the Paramedic Program and also to strengthen the student's qualifications for admission.

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

The Paramedic Program curriculum can be completed within a two-year period.

3. 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.

4. 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	\$300.00 – First Year
	\$200.00 – Second Year
Supplies	\$200.00 (total for 2 years includes scrubs, lab coat, stethoscope, scissors)

Additional Fees (estimated)

Background Check/Drug Screening	\$103
NREMT-P registry test fee	\$110
FISDAP	\$80
Test fees for EMT-E and EMT-I (optional)	\$150 approx.

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

Questions Commonly Asked About the Paramedic Program (cont.)



5. 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.

6. IF I AM TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER COLLEGE, CAN I GET CREDIT FOR SOME OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES?

Yes. Once your transcripts are on file in the Office of Admissions and Records, the Registrar will do a transcript evaluation and inform you in writing which courses can be accepted for credit towards the Paramedic Program.

7. 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.

8. IF I AM GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN JUNE, WHAT SHOULD I DO TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ADMISSION INTO THE PARAMEDIC PROGRAM?

First, you must be 18 years old on the first day of fall classes. Complete biology, chemistry, and algebra I in high school, demonstrate strong academic skills through your GPA and class standing, demonstrate (through college assessment testing) that you are ready to take college level courses, and meet the prerequisites listed at the beginning of this booklet. With all at in place, you will be considered for admission into the Paramedic Program. Again, all admission requirements must be completed before admission can be considered.

It is highly recommended that students coming out of high school complete the science requirements of this program before actual admission into the program. However, applicants with strong academic records, especially in science and math, will be considered by the admissions committee.

Questions Commonly Asked About the Paramedic Program (cont.)



9. DO I HAVE TO TAKE SCIENCE AND ALGEBRA?

You must demonstrate competency in mathematics through the Algebra I level. This can be done by the completion of developmental Algebra (Math 9 and Math 3), by achieving a COMPASS Algebra score of at least 32, or by completing another approved college-level math course with a grade of “C” or better. The program will determine which college math courses are acceptable. If you did not take biology and chemistry in high school (and earn a grade of C or higher) you must take NAS 2 (Foundations of Life Science) or college level biology **and** chemistry courses. In addition, completion of the developmental English requirements (by taking the developmental courses, achieving appropriate reading and writing placement test scores or by transferring ENG 111 or its equivalent) is a prerequisite for the science course sequence.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

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.

A Message from the Head of the PVCC Math Department
To Students who are going to take the Compass Placement Test in Mathematics

Dear Student,

As Head of the Mathematics Department at PVCC, I would like you to keep in mind the following suggestions as you get ready to take your placement exam. Most folks go in and take the test and things go correctly. But on occasion, we get people who do not place where they should be. This letter is written especially to help prevent people from placing below their true level.

- Take the exam **very** seriously. The exam determines your starting level of mathematics and hence how much mathematics you will need to take in order to finish your program and/or get your degree. **Re-takes of the placement test are not allowed** (except under special conditions or *extreme* circumstances.)
- Give yourself the time you need. The test is not timed! If you are about to start the test and will be crunched for time (personal deadline, center closing, etc.), please reconsider and...
- Come back early on a different day and take the test when time will not be a factor. Use the time to carefully and seriously answer the questions. *A little time wisely spent on the placement exam can save a semester or more of work!*
- Remember that the correct answer is in front of you, and process of elimination/careful consideration of the choices will help. You want your placement score to reflect what you truly know.
- You are allowed the use of a graphing calculator on this test. If you find yourself without the proper calculator, please ask for assistance at the desk.
- Many students will have to take several placement tests, e.g. Math and English. Consider doing these on separate days to minimize the effect of test fatigue.
- Brushing up on your mathematics before the test is just fine. But don't try to cram and learn things ahead of where you are. You can obtain practice problems for the compass test in mathematics from the Learning Center desk and on the internet at www.act.org/compass. The library has math texts on reserve for your review.
- So—in summary, do yourself justice and place where you truly are in math by being serious and smart about your time.

Recommendations for Prospective Paramedic Students from Previous Students

The Piedmont Virginia Community College/University of Virginia Paramedic Program requirements are rigorous, stressful and time consuming. In order to make your experience in the program more satisfying, we urge you to consider the following recommendations:

Be sure you are competent in basic math skills before entering the program. These skills are VITAL when giving medications.

Complete the BIO 141-142 series before beginning the program. Anatomy and Physiology plus Paramedic courses creates a heavy workload.

For every 1 hour spent in class, students should plan to spend an additional 2-3 hours of study time. For every 1 hour spent in lab or clinicals, students should plan to spend an additional 1 – 2 hours of preparation and study time.

Meet with your assigned academic advisor to plan your curriculum in advance. The faculty are willing to help you plan a schedule that will work for you.

Try not to work more than 16-20 hours/week at an outside job. Students who work more than this are often unable to pass the courses. The same holds true for volunteer rescue or fire duty.

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:

- _____ Math assessment testing with placement at the MTH 4 level or higher or completion of the appropriate developmental math course(s) **WITHIN THE PAST 8 YEARS**
- _____ Reading and writing assessment testing, with placement at college level or completion of the appropriate developmental English course(s).
- _____ Completion of high school biology **and** chemistry with a grade of "C" or better (Consumer Chemistry is not acceptable) or completion of NAS 2 or college biology **and** chemistry courses.
- _____ Submission of online paramedic program application (<http://www.pvcc.edu/paramedic>)
- _____ Submission of official high school transcript* or GED certificate to the Office of Admissions and Records.
- _____ Submission of official college transcripts (if you have attended colleges other than PVCC or another VCCS college).
- _____ Submission of a copy of current 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.