

Summer 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 12, 2025, AT 5 PM

Advanced Placement Bridge to Paramedic

CAREER STUDIES CERTIFICATE

Admission Requirements and Program Information



Health and Life Sciences Division
Keats Science Building
434.961.5445

Date Published: September 15, 2025

Accredited by:

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP)
9355 – 113th St. N, #7709 | Seminole, FL 33775 | 727.210.2350

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
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www.pvcc.edu/ems

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Introduction

The Advanced Placement Bridge to Paramedic program is designed to allow Advanced EMTs, Intermediates, and RNs to gain the knowledge, psychomotor skills, and clinical/field opportunities necessary to fulfill all requirements of the National EMS Educational Standards for the Paramedic level and sit for National Registry Paramedic certification.

The program reviews the skills and subjects contained in the National EMS Education Standards over approximately 500 hours of instruction. All EMS Education Standards 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 Paramedic curriculum.

The program is designed to provide quality education in all areas of pre-hospital patient care. These areas include pre-hospital environments, operations, preparatory skills, airway management and ventilation, patient assessment, trauma care, medical patient management, obstetrical and gynecological conditions, pediatric care, 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 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 books about the A.A.S. in Emergency Medical Services and Advanced EMT are available under separate covers.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Piedmont Virginia Community College is an equal opportunity institution providing educational and employment opportunities, programs, services, and activities. PVCC does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, family medical history or genetic information, military service, national origin, parental status, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), sexual orientation or any other non-merit base factor. The college permits appropriate employment preferences for veterans and specifically prohibits discrimination against veterans. The college also prohibits sexual harassment including sexual violence or misconduct.

Students, prospective students, or others who believe they have witnessed or experienced discriminatory conditions or discriminatory acts inclusive of sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment or inaccessible conditions, should present their concerns to the following:

- Title IX Coordinator, Kim Van Savage, Associate Vice President of Human Resources. 501 College Drive, Main Building, Room M132, Charlottesville, VA 22902, humanresources@pvcc.edu; 434.961.6567

Students, prospective students, or others who believe they have witnessed or experienced discriminatory conditions or discriminatory acts related to inaccessible conditions or disability, should present their concerns to the following:

- ADA Coordinator (staff and other non-students), Kim Van Savage, Associate Vice President of Human Resources. 501 College Drive, Main Building, Room M132, Charlottesville, VA 22902, humanresources@pvcc.edu; 434.961.6567
- ADA/Section 504/Title II Coordinator (students), Kari Hirst, Director of Student Accessibility and Accommodations. 501 College Drive, Bolick Center, Room B221, Charlottesville, VA 22902, khirst@pvcc.edu, 434.961.5281

Piedmont Virginia Community College offers vocational programs in several areas, including in the Divisions of Health and Life Sciences; Business, Math, and Technology; and Humanities, Fine Arts, and Social Sciences. Some vocational programs in the Health and Life Sciences Division, including Nursing, Radiography, and Sonography, offer admission based on selective criteria through a separate admissions process that is non-discriminatory. For more information about the application and admissions process, visit: www.pvcc.edu/hls

Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights. 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20202-1100; www.ed.gov.

Content Disclaimer

Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) provides its website, catalog, handbooks, printed and digital class schedules as well as any other printed materials or electronic media for your general guidance. PVCC does not guarantee that the information contained within them is up-to-date, complete, or accurate. This includes, but is not limited to, the contents of any page that resides under the Domain Naming System (DNS) registrations of www.pvcc.edu, www.facebook.com/PiedmontVaCC, or www.youtube.com/PVCCVIRGINIA. Individuals assume any risks associated with relying upon other information without consulting this program's Admission Information Book published for the year in which the student is applying for admission. Links to other materials and websites provided in these sources are also for information purposes only and do not constitute PVCC's endorsement of products or services referenced in such materials.

PVCC reserves the right to make changes to any provision or requirement within these sources, as well as changes to any curriculum or program, whether during a student's enrollment or otherwise.

College Mission and Goals

Mission

We strengthen our community by empowering students to realize their full potential and achieve economic and social mobility through the transformative power of education.

Vision

We will transform the lives of students and the communities we serve through accessible, equitable and innovative education, training and cultural enrichment.

Values

We are committed to a welcoming, inclusive and student-centered learning environment where we prioritize student success, lifelong learning and community engagement.

Access: We believe that a high-quality, affordable education should be accessible to everyone, providing students with the preparation for transfer to baccalaureate degree programs and/or to enter or advance in high-demand occupations aligned with the needs of our regional economy.

Community: We take pride in developing innovative programs that meet the needs of our students and the community while contributing to the economic, civic and cultural well-being of our region and beyond.

Compassion: We approach education with a culture of care, recognizing the individual needs and potential of everyone in the college community.

Equity: We embrace impartial and fair policies and practices that ensure the success of all students, faculty and staff.

Excellence: We strive for excellence in all aspects of education, including teaching, support services and facilities.

Learning: We encourage intellectual curiosity, creative problem-solving, lifelong learning and the exchange of ideas among our students, staff and faculty.

Program Minimum Goals and Expectations

To prepare Paramedics who are competent in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains to enter the profession.

Office of EMS Enrollment

Students must complete a mandatory enrollment application with the Virginia Office of EMS (OEMS) within 5 days of the course start date. An access code will be given to you at the beginning of the class. Students who fail to enroll with the OEMS will NOT be eligible to test, regardless of grade or successful completion of the individual class. The program director will NOT automatically drop students from the course for failure to complete their OEMS enrollment.

Maintain Certifications

All EMS students must maintain a valid CPR for healthcare provider certification during this course. A lapse in CPR certification will result in the immediate suspension of clinical and/or field opportunities. Students who do not complete clinicals or field components of the course will receive an F or U for the course. The student may be removed from the program for any unsatisfactory grade in a course.

All ALS students are required by OEMS regulations to maintain their EMS certification during the course and through all testing phases. Continuing education credits will not be automatically given to students.

Licensure/Certification

Before the Program Director and Medical Director give permission for the student to take the National Registry Paramedic Exam, students must complete the following:

- Pass all core EMS courses with an 70% or better
- Successfully complete all clinical hours, competencies and team leader calls

- Successfully demonstrate competency as a paramedic
- Successfully pass the EMS Testing summative examination with a 70% within three attempts

Upon successful completion of the written and practical portions of the exam, candidates receive their National Registry Paramedic certification. Virginia will issue automatic reciprocity. 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.

Essential Functions and Standards of Performance

To successfully complete the classroom and clinical components of the program, qualified applicants are expected to meet all admission criteria, as well as these essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations, and to maintain related satisfactory demonstration of these standards for progression through 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.
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.

Program Behavior Expectations

The PVCC Health and Life Sciences Division reserves the right to refuse admission to applicants if such refusal is 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.

Student Learning Outcomes

The PVCC Emergency Medical Services 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.

Application Dates

The application for this program and all other non-nursing PVCC Health and Life Sciences Programs can be found in the HLS Admissions Portal 2025

<https://learn.vccs.edu/enroll/KKAP4B>

All applicants must create an account in the portal before beginning an application. Applications which are incomplete or missing requested materials by the application due date will not be considered. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application via email and through the application portal within seven (7) business days of the decision date.

Application Open Date

The application portal for this cohort will open on **October 1, 2025, at 9:00 AM.**

Application Due Date

All applications for this cohort must be completed by **November 12, 2025, at 5:00 PM.**

Decision Date

Admissions decisions for all applicants will be made by **December 12, 2025, at 5:00 PM.**

Curriculum

Successful completion of the program is dependent on satisfactory performance in all courses indicated in the table below. Students must complete all prerequisite courses before starting the program.

A minimum final grade of “C” (70%) is required in all listed courses, unless otherwise specified.

SEMESTER	COURSE	COURSE NAME	CREDITS	NOTES
SEMESTER 1 (SPRING)	EMS 123	EMS Clinical Preparation	1.0	
	EMS 221	Paramedic Cardiovascular Care	3.0	
	EMS 222	Paramedic Cardiovascular Care Lab	1.0	
	EMS 223	Paramedic Patient Care I	3.0	
	EMS 224	Paramedic Patient Care Lab	1.0	
	EMS 241	Paramedic Internship I	2.0	
SEMESTER 2 (SUMMER)	EMS 225	Paramedic Patient Care II	5.0	
	EMS 226	Paramedic Patient Care II Lab	2.0	
	EMS 246	Paramedic Internship II	2.0	
SEMESTER 3 (FALL)	EMS 210	EMS Operations	1.0	
	EMS 212	Leadership and Professional Development	1.0	
	EMS 165	Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)	1.0	
	EMS 163	Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS)	1.0	
	EMS 167 or EMS 169	Emergency Pediatrics Course (EPC) or Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)	1.0	
	EMS 164	Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS)	1.0	
	EMS 216	Paramedic Review	1.0	
	EMS 249	Paramedic Capstone Internship	2.0	

Advanced Standing Policy

The PVCC Paramedic program offers advanced standing for qualified healthcare professionals who hold current certifications or licenses as outlined below.

Eligible Candidates for Advanced Standing:

- Nationally Registered Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (NRAEMT)
- Virginia Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediates (EMT-I)
- Virginia licensed Registered Nurses (RN) with valid Virginia EMT certification and minimum 2 years RN experience (or substantial prior EMS ALS experience)

Individuals who hold the abovementioned and current certifications/licensures (NRAEMT, EMT-I, or RN with EMT certification and 2 years of experience) will be exempt from the following courses, and will be given college credit as 'Credit for Prior Learning' for having successfully completed an In-Person or Hybrid Program in the past:

- EMS 170: ALS Internship I
- EMS 180: Advanced EMS Foundations
- EMS 181: Advanced Airway and Shock Management
- EMS 182: Advanced Airway and Shock Management Lab
- EMS 183: Advanced Medical Care
- EMS 184: Advanced Medical Care Lab
- EMS 185: Advanced Trauma Care
- EMS 186: Advanced Trauma Care Lab

However, these students will still be required to take EMS 123: EMS Clinical Preparation. This allows instructors to complete skill competency checks and allows students to meet the clinical compliance requirements needed to start their Clinical and Field Internships.

Minimum Program Eligibility Requirements

Only applicants who have completed the requirements listed below will be considered for admission. Meeting the minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee admission into the program. Applicants who do not meet all the minimum program eligibility requirements will not be admitted (see [Application Dates](#)).

In-Progress Coursework

Coursework which is still in progress, or which has otherwise not resulted in an eligible final grade **cannot** be used to meet minimum program eligibility requirements.

List of Requirements

By the application due date (see [Application Dates](#)), all applicants must have completed all of the following requirements.

1. Demonstrated competency in reading/writing by being eligible to enroll in ENG 111

Satisfied by any one of the following criteria

- Successfully completed ENG 1-5 or ENF 1-3 or equivalent
- Placed into ENG 111 via the Virginia Placement Test no earlier than two (2) years prior to the application due date
- Met one of the requirements for self-reporting to be eligible to enroll in ENG 111:
 - i) Graduated from high school with a GPA of 3.0 or greater in the last five years
 - ii) Earned a passing score on the ENG 111 self-assessment
 - iii) Reported being eligible on the ENG 111 eligibility questionnaire
- Completed or are currently enrolled in ENG 111 or equivalent
- Earned a verbal and writing score of 500 or greater on the SAT no earlier than 2 years prior to the application due date

- Earned a verbal and writing score of 52 or greater in the PSAT no earlier than 2 years prior to the application due date
- Earned a score of 18 or higher on the ACT no earlier than 2 years prior to the application due date
- Self-reported as being eligible to enroll in ENG 111

2. Demonstrated competency in algebra

Satisfied by any one of the following criteria

- Successfully completed MTE 1-5 or equivalent
- Earned a Virginia Placement Test math score showing proficiency in MTE 1-5 or better; score must be earned no earlier than eight (8) years prior to the application due date.
- Met one of the requirements for self-reporting equivalent to MTE 1-5
 - i) Graduated from high school with a GPA of 3.0 no earlier than 5 years prior to the application due date.
 - ii) Achieved a passing score on the MTH 1-5 self-assessment
- Earned a final grade of "C" or better in an acceptable college-level algebra course no earlier than eight (8) years prior to the application due date; technical math or statistics courses do not satisfy this requirement
- Earned a verbal and writing score of 500 or greater on the SAT no earlier than 2 years prior to the application due date
- Earned a verbal and writing score of 52 or greater in the PSAT no earlier than 2 years prior to the application due date
- Earned a score of 18 or higher on the ACT no earlier than 2 years prior to the application due date
- Earned a quantitative score of 500 or greater on the SAT no earlier than 2 years prior to the application due date
- Earned a verbal and writing score of 52 or greater in the PSAT no earlier than 2 years prior to the application due date
- Earned a score of 18 or higher on the ACT no earlier than 2 years prior to the application due date
- Reported being eligible to enroll in MTH 154 on the self-report questionnaire

3. Meet one of the following certification/licensure requirements:

- Hold a Registered Nurse license through the Virginia Board of Nursing and an Emergency Medical Technician certification or higher EMS certification through the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) and/or Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (VAOEMS).
- Two years of experience as an RN is required unless exempted due to experience as an ALS provider previously or RN experience in an ICU or ED setting. Exemption must be approved by the Program Director. Expired licenses, CNA, and/or LPN licenses, and licenses for other health professions do not satisfy this requirement.
- Advanced Emergency Medical Technician certification by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and/or Virginia Office of EMS.

- Emergency Medical Technician- Intermediate certification by the Virginia Office of EMS.

Any EMS certification that is held by the NREMT but not VAOEMS must be able to receive reciprocity by VAOEMS as soon as possible. If reciprocity cannot be attained due to any reason, the student will be withdrawn from the program.

4. Currently certified to perform CPR

PVCC recognizes American Heart Association BLS Provider certification and American Red Cross BLS for Healthcare Providers certification.

CPR Certification must meet all of the following requirements:

- One or Two Rescuer CPR – Adult and Child
- Infant Resuscitation
- Complete Airway Obstruction – Unconscious Victim
- Complete Airway Obstruction – Conscious Victim
- Complete Airway Obstruction – Unconscious Infant
- Complete Airway Obstruction – Conscious/Choking Infant

5. Is at least eighteen (18) years of age by the first day of class (see the [PVCC Academic Calendar](#))

6. Earned a high school diploma or equivalent

7. Earned a standard score of 84 or higher and a speaking score of 26 or higher on the Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-Based Test (TOEFL iBT) if the applicant is not a native English speaker.

The TOEFL, which stands for the Test of English as a Foreign Language, is an examination intended to assess non-native English speakers' academic English language proficiency. It is an essential component for non-native English speakers who are planning to work or study as healthcare professionals in an English-speaking country. The test is generally not necessary if you are coming from a country in which English is a first language. What is most important to note is that if you plan to work in healthcare, it is crucial that you communicate clearly and effectively with patients, physicians, and other team members so that the patient receives the appropriate care. According to the Educational Testing Service, the TOEFL exam measures reading, listening, speaking, and writing skills.

- These scores are based on recommendations from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing for the level of proficiency required to perform entry level Paramedic duties safely and effectively. The recommendations from the State Boards of Nursing remain the standard for Health Science programs.
- Completion of ENG 111 or ENG 112 does not satisfy this requirement.
- Scores must be no more than two (2) years old as of the application due date.
- If a student misses the required TOEFL scores by a few points and believes they can communicate at the required level of English, they may request a meeting with the program director and program faculty for an informal speaking assessment. As a result of that meeting, the program director may waive the TOEFL score requirement. The applicant would then be required to sign a statement that if they are accepted into the program and are

determined to be unable to understand and speak English at the required proficiency, they will be dismissed from the program.

- Students who are determined to be unable to understand and speak English at the required proficiency will be dismissed from the program.

PVCC Testing Centers

Students who seek to complete placement tests, entrance exams, and accreditation/licensure assessments may be able to do so through PVCC's testing centers. Visit <https://www.pvcc.edu/testing-centers> for more information.

Any required exams can be scheduled through any authorized testing center; applicants are not restricted to the PVCC Testing Centers for meeting admission requirements.

GPA Calculation

During eligibility screening and ranking, GPA is calculated by converting final grades for relevant coursework to numerical format and averaging based on the number of credits completed for each course. Standard grades convert to the following GPA.

LETTER GRADE	EQUIVALENT GPA
A	4.0
B	3.0
C	2.0
D	1.0
F	0.0

Nonstandard Grades

A final grade of "P+" will be treated as a final grade of "C+" with a corresponding GPA of 2.5 for the purposes of GPA calculation.

All other final grades which are outside of the standard A-F grading scale will be evaluated and assigned value at the discretion of the head of the program (see [Personnel and Contacts](#)) or designee.

All final letter grades which are modified by a + or – (e.g. B+ or C-) will be treated as the unmodified version of that letter grade for the purposes of any GPA calculation, with the exception of "P+" final grades.

For example, a B+ and a B- would both be treated as a B (3.0).

Transfer Credit

Only the PVCC Registrar's Office is authorized to accept transfer credits and apply such credits toward progress in the program of study. Students should consult the "Transfer Credit to PVCC" webpage (<https://www.pvcc.edu/transfer-credit-pvcc>) for instructions on how and when a transfer credit evaluation can be completed.

Credits which are accepted to meet admission requirements **are not** automatically eligible for transfer credit and must still be evaluated by the Registrar's Office after admission.

Note: Any student wishing to use AP courses to meet eligibility requirements and for general education course ranking criteria must upload the following to the application portal:

- Copy of official AP score (must earn a 3 or higher)
- Copy of High school transcript documenting the grade earned in the AP course.

Pre-Admission Transcript Evaluation

If you have taken any of the following courses at a college or university **outside of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS)** and are unsure if they will transfer to PVCC to satisfy a prerequisite or general education for your desired program, you can request a pre-admission transcript evaluation:

BIO 145, EMS 213

This process is for students who have taken any courses at a college or **university outside of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS)** and are unsure if they will transfer to PVCC to satisfy a prerequisite or general education for your desired program

To request a pre-admission transcript evaluation, you will need to do the following:

1. Apply to PVCC through [our online portal](#)
2. Email Advising (advising@pvcc.edu) including the following information:
 - a. Full name and PVCC ID number
 - b. Program(s) you are applying to and desired application cycle (ex. Spring 2026)
 - c. All unofficial transcripts you wish to be evaluated
 - d. Full name and city/state of the colleges up for review
 - i. Please make sure all grades and courses are legible.
 - ii. Highlight **OR** list the courses up for evaluation.
 - iii. Your name and graduation dates should be visible.

This review does not guarantee the transfer of courses from an outside college or university to PVCC. This process is for application use only.

Omitted information in your email request will delay your evaluation return time.

3. Once this request is sent, you will receive a confirmation email that has been submitted. **From the point of confirmation, you will be emailed your evaluation results within 7 business days.** Consider this timeline in comparison to your application deadline.

Please note: Once admitted, if it is determined that a course taken at another college or university does not meet PVCC transfer requirements, you will need to

repeat the course to fulfill degree requirements.

Required Documentation

Applicants must upload documentation to demonstrate that each requirement has been met as part of their application.

Documentation which does not include the applicant's full name will not be reviewed.

Unofficial transcripts are acceptable documentation for all application requirements being met by specific coursework. In addition to the applicant's full name, valid transcripts must show **all** of the following information in order to be reviewed:

- Name of the school, college, or university as applicable
- Course subject and number (e.g., "BIO 141")
- Full name of course (e.g., "Human Anatomy & Physiology I")
- Semester and year of course completion (e.g., "Fall 2025")
- Number of credits awarded for course completion
- Final grade

Applicants are not required to upload transcripts for credit-bearing courses taken at VCCS schools. Transcripts for non-credit courses or from schools outside of the VCCS system must still be provided if applicable.

Do NOT send official transcripts to PVCC for this application.

Official transcripts or test scores sent separately to PVCC will not be reviewed with your application. All transcripts and test scores must be uploaded in the application portal.

Ranking Criteria

If more applicants meet the minimum program eligibility requirements than there are available seats in this year's cohort, all eligible applicants will be ranked according to the following criteria in priority order.

1. Residence in the PVCC Service Region

The PVCC Service Region is defined as the Virginia localities of Albemarle, Buckingham, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson.

2. Active volunteer or career status with an EMS agency

Applicants may be asked to provide the name of the agency and other information related to their membership

3. Completed BIO 145 Prior to application due date

The completion of both BIO 141 and BIO 142 can also fulfill this requirement.

Ties that remain during ranking are broken by the date/time of submission of the application.

Application Process

1. Apply for admission to PVCC. Only current PVCC students may apply to a health sciences program. Visit the PVCC website (pvcc.edu) to apply.
Important Note: Admission to PVCC does not equate to admission to the Advanced Placement Bridge to Paramedic program. Students must apply separately through the HLS Admissions Portal 2025 for Advanced Placement Bridge to Paramedic.
2. Enroll in the HLS Admissions Portal 2025 in Canvas by navigating to this URL: <https://learn.vccs.edu/enroll/KKAP4B>
3. Read the Application Instructions in the "START HERE" module
4. Once the application open date (see [Application Dates](#)) has passed, start an application for the program.
5. Complete all questions in the application questionnaire and upload all relevant documents by the application due date (see [Application Dates](#)).
 - a. **Your application will not be reviewed unless you have submitted the Apply to Advanced Placement Bridge to Paramedic questionnaire and uploaded all relevant documents.**
6. Once the application due date has passed, our application will be screened for eligibility according to the minimum program eligibility requirements and, if necessary, ranked according to the ranking criteria.
7. Within seven (7) business days of the decision date (see [Application Dates](#)) you will be contacted with the outcome of your application. Your application will be placed in one of the following statuses:
 - a. **Admitted.** Your application met minimum eligibility requirements and was ranked highly enough for a seat in this year's cohort. You'll receive instructions for accepting your admission. Your offer of admission may be conditional; additional steps may be required of you in order to retain your seat in the cohort. If your offer of admission is conditional, this will be communicated to you along with the specific conditions.
 - b. **Waitlisted.** Your application met minimum eligibility requirements but was not ranked highly enough for a seat in this year's cohort at this time. If a seat becomes available, the highest ranked applicant on the waitlist will be moved to "admitted" status and contacted accordingly.
 - c. **Denied.** Your application did not meet minimum eligibility requirements. You are not eligible to join the program for this cohort year. You will be provided with information regarding inquiries and formal appeals.

Applications do not carry over into future application cycles. If you are not admitted in this application cycle, you will need to submit a new application during the next cycle to be considered. Applications are not saved.

Competitive Admission Appeals

Students who are denied admission to competitive admission programs have the right to appeal. The deadline to begin an appeal will be communicated to the student with the notification of denial.

The policy on student appeals can be found in the College Catalog:

<https://catalog.pvcc.edu/content.php?catoid=7&navoid=886#student-appeals>

Readmission

Students seeking readmission into the program or advanced placement transfer will be considered on a space-available basis. Applicants for readmission must have submitted a letter to the head of the program ([see Personnel and Contacts](#)) requesting readmission by November 12th for summer readmission.

Any student who has failed two EMS classes required for this program is not eligible for readmission.

Clinical Compliance Requirements

All students who have been admitted to the program are required to provide documentation that they have met the program's clinical compliance requirements by the given deadline(s). These requirements may include – but are not limited to – a complete health assessment by a licensed healthcare provider, specific immunizations, and completed tests. Please note that becoming clinically compliant is time-consuming so incoming students should plan accordingly. Students who do not meet deadlines for providing documentation of clinical compliance may be barred from attending clinical sites and may be dismissed from the program. This includes any failure to follow instructions for properly submitting documentation.

Clinical compliance requirements are set by the clinical sites. PVCC does not have the authority to waive, exempt, or alter these requirements.

The following is a list of clinical compliance requirements for the program as of the date of publication. **These are not requirements for admission.**

- Immunity to Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- Immunity to Varicella (Chicken Pox)
- Immunity to Hepatitis B or Declination Form
- Immunity to Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (TDaP)
- Tuberculosis (TB) test, which determines exposure or active infection
- Vaccinated against Influenza
- An annual Virginia Risk Assessment Form
- High School transcripts or Equivalent
- Completed Physical Exam and Essential Functions Form
- Background Check
- Drug Screening
- CPR certification by American Heart Association Basic Life Support for

- Health Providers or American Red Cross Basic Life Support
- Computer Based Learning (CBL), or Computer Based Training (CBT)

The program's clinical compliance requirements are subject to change at any time. Changes to clinical compliance requirements which were made after the date of publication are not reflected in this document.

A current list of clinical compliance requirements can be obtained by contacting the Clinical Compliance Coordinator ([see Personnel and Contacts](#)).

Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening

All students admitted to the program must complete a background check and drug screening through the service and vendor designated by the Clinical Compliance Coordinator (see [Personnel and Contacts](#)). No other processes may be substituted for this requirement and no other service or vendor may be used. Forms and information will be made available to students after acceptance into the program. This testing is completed through an outside vendor and all fees must be paid directly to this vendor. Students are responsible for payment of this service and must complete the background check and drug screening by the deadline provided after admission. Students who have not completed the background check and drug screen within the required timeframe will be dismissed from the program.

Students may be required to complete background checks or drug screenings through multiple vendors and services as required by our clinical partners. These additional requirements, if any, will be communicated to admitted students.

No PVCC employee is authorized to predetermine the outcome of a background check or drug screening. Any information provided by a PVCC employee regarding a specific background check or drug screening should be considered advisory only.

Background Check

The background check will search for misdemeanor and felony convictions of any type. However, only certain circumstances result in failure of the background check. Students who fail the background check - or who are charged/convicted of any crime after admission that would result in failure of the background check - may be dismissed from the program.

The following circumstances will result in failure of the background check.

Convictions of Barrier Crimes

This program's list of barrier crimes is consistent with the EMS Personnel Requirements of the Virginia Administrative Code: [12VA5-21-910 Criminal or Enforcement History](#)

- A. General denial. Application for affiliation or certification of individuals convicted of certain crimes presents an unreasonable risk to public health and safety. Thus,

applications for affiliation or certification by individuals convicted of the following crimes will be denied in all cases:

- a. Felonies involving sexual misconduct where the victim's failure to affirmatively consent is an element of the crime, such as forcible rape.
 - b. Felonies involving the sexual or physical abuse of children, the elderly or the infirm, such as sexual misconduct with a child, making or distributing child pornography or using a child in a sexual display, incest involving a child, or assault on an elderly or infirm person.
 - c. Any crime in which the victim is an out-of-hospital patient or a patient or resident of a health care facility including abuse of, neglect of, theft from, or financial exploitation of a person entrusted to the care or protection of the applicant.
 - d. Serious crimes of violence against persons such as assault or battery with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, murder or attempted murder, manslaughter except involuntary manslaughter, kidnapping, robbery of any degree, or arson.
 - e. Has been subject to a permanent revocation of license or certification by another state EMS office or other recognized state or national health care provider licensing or certifying body.
- B. Presumptive denial. Application for affiliation or current certification by individuals in the following categories will be denied except in extraordinary circumstances, and then will be granted only if the applicant or provider establishes by clear and convincing evidence that certification will not jeopardize public health and safety.
- a. Application for affiliation or certification by individuals who have been convicted of any crime and who are currently incarcerated, on work release, on probation, or on parole.
 - b. Application for affiliation or certification by individuals convicted of crimes in the following categories unless at least five years have passed since the conviction or five years have passed since release from custodial confinement whichever occurs later:
 - i. Crimes involving controlled substances or synthetics, including unlawful possession or distribution or intent to distribute unlawfully Schedule I through V drugs as defined by the Virginia Drug Control Act (§ 54.1- 3400 seq. of the Code of Virginia).
 - ii. Serious crimes against property, such as grand larceny, burglary, embezzlement, or insurance fraud.
 - iii. Any other crime involving sexual misconduct.
 - c. Is currently under any disciplinary or enforcement action from another state EMS office or other recognized state or national healthcare provider licensing or certifying body. Personnel subject to these disciplinary or enforcement actions may be eligible for affiliation or certification provided there have been no further disciplinary or enforcement actions for five years prior to application for certification in Virginia.

- C. Permitted vehicle operations. Agencies are responsible for the monitoring of compliance with all driving criteria set forth in these regulations.
- a. Personnel operating OEMS permitted vehicles shall possess a valid operator's or driver's license from his state of residence.
 - b. Personnel operating OEMS permitted vehicles shall not have been convicted on any charge as described in subsections A and B of this section.
 - c. Personnel who as the proximate result of having operated an OEMS permitted vehicle are (i) convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs or (ii) sentenced or assigned to any alcohol safety action program or any driver alcohol rehabilitation program pursuant to the Code of Virginia shall be prohibited from operating any OEMS permitted vehicle. Personnel or agencies shall be required to report these situations to OEMS.
 - d. Agencies shall develop and maintain policies that address driver eligibility, record review, and vehicle operation. Such policies must minimally address:
 - i. Driving education or training required for personnel to include information on the agency's policy content;
 - ii. Safe operation of vehicles;
 - iii. Agency driving record review procedures;
 - iv. Requirement for immediate agency notification by personnel regarding any convictions, regardless of the state where an infraction occurred or changes to his operator's or driver's license. The immediate agency notification shall be defined as no more than 10 calendar days following the conviction date; and
 - v. Identification of internal mechanisms regarding agency level actions for driver penalties (i.e., probation or suspension of driving privileges).
- D. All references to criminal acts or convictions under this section refer to substantially similar laws or regulations of any other state or the United States. Convictions include prior adult convictions, juvenile convictions and adjudications of delinquency based on an offense that would have been, at the time of conviction, a felony conviction if committed by an adult within or outside Virginia.
- E. Agencies shall submit a report regarding items in this section to OEMS upon request.

The program's barrier crimes are subject to change at any time. Changes to barrier crimes which were made after the date of publication are not reflected in this document.

Charges/Convictions of Clinically Disqualifying Crimes

A crime is clinically disqualifying if a clinical site will not allow a student to attend a clinical rotation due to a charge or conviction of that crime. Most clinical sites consider charges/convictions on a case-by-case basis. If you are unsure of whether your criminal record is disqualifying, please reach out to the head of the program (see Personnel and Contacts).

PVCC cannot guarantee placement at any specific clinical site. Each clinical site has the right to change their policies and procedures regarding disqualifying crimes which may impact a student's clinical placement after admission. The program will make every effort to provide advanced notice to students of changes that may affect them.

Drug Screening

The drug screen tests for amphetamine (methamphetamine), barbiturates, benzodiazepine, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates (codeine, morphine), phencyclidine and propoxyphene.

Any of these drugs found in the student's drug screen will result in the student failing the drug screen. In cases of failure, the student will be contacted for further evaluation. Students may be granted an exception for a valid prescription.

Students who fail the drug screen and do not receive an exception will be dismissed from the program.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long will it take to complete the program?

The program can be completed in one year, spanning three semesters: spring, summer, and fall.

For individuals who are not yet certified EMS providers:

- They must first complete and pass the EMT course to earn certification. This includes obtaining both the National Registry and Virginia State EMT certifications. Once certified, they may then enroll in the Advanced EMT courses.
- Estimated time to complete: 2 semesters.

For individuals who are already certified as Virginia State EMTs:

- Refer to the Paramedic Admissions Information Book.
- Advanced Placement is for students who already have their AEMT certification, EMT-Intermediate certification

Am I a paramedic when I complete the program?

No. Once you have completed the 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.

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 (all costs are estimated):

MATERIAL / PLATFORM	ESTIMATE COST
BOOKS	\$367
EMS STUDENT POLO (2)	\$50
EMS TESTING/PLATINUM PLANNER	\$200
SUPPLIES	\$285
HEALTH SCREENING	\$100 – 500 (depending on provider and requirements)
CLINICAL COMPLIANCE TRACKING	\$132
ACEMAPP (IF REQUIRED)	\$50/year
NATIONAL REGISTRY COGNITIVE EXAM	\$175

What are the clinical sites for the program?

Clinical rotations can be completed at the University of Virginia Health System, Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital, Augusta Medical Center, Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital Bon Secours Hospitals, Carillion Hospitals, and Culpeper Regional Hospital. Field rotations can be completed at any of approximately 30 agencies in the Central Virginia area. Other facilities and agencies may be added at student or agency request.

Students will be expected to attend clinical sites that may be outside of the Charlottesville/Albemarle area.

If I transfer from another Paramedic Program, is it possible for me to get credit for some of the Paramedic courses?

Yes. Students who are admitted to the Advanced Placement Bridge to Paramedic can have official transcripts sent to the Registrar's office and then complete a transfer credit evaluation. Students should consult the "Credit for Prior Learning" webpage (<https://www.pvcc.edu/credit-prior-learning>) for instructions. You must provide unofficial copies of your transcripts in your application to the program for them to be considered for meeting eligibility requirements.

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 program in exchange for continued service after graduation.

In addition, volunteer or career status with an EMS agency makes an applicant more competitive for admission to the program.

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.

Is there financial aid available to Paramedic students?

Yes, there are a number of financial aid opportunities available to eligible students that have completed the most current FAFSA application. For further information, please contact the Financial Aid Office (434-961-6545) or visit the following link: <https://www.pvcc.edu/pay-for-pvcc/financial-aid>. We recommend that students complete the FAFSA application when it becomes available each year, typically at the beginning of October for the following Academic Year.

Can I make an appointment with someone in the Paramedic Program to review my application?

Due to the large number of applicants, Paramedic Program faculty are not able to schedule individual appointments to review application documents. To provide students with the most current and comprehensive data, information sessions are held throughout the fall and spring semesters and are recorded and posted on the program's website for students who are unable to attend. During these sessions, the program faculty will review the application process, prerequisites and the competitive ranking criteria. All applicants are highly encouraged to attend one of these sessions. In addition, there are advisors available daily in the PVCC Admissions and Advising Center.