

# PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATE PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKET



**Online applications will not be available after the application deadline. Applications will be considered after the deadline date if space is available and pre-requisite courses are successfully completed. Please read this packet carefully. If you have any questions regarding the program, your qualifications, or the application process, please contact [healthedu@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:healthedu@tcc.fl.edu) or (850) 558-4500.**

## **YOUR CAREER AS A PARAMEDIC**

Registered emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are eligible to pursue advancement in emergency care by completing the required paramedic program training. The paramedic is a professional in emergency medical care who is competent in recognizing and assessing medical emergencies as well as in rendering care at the scene of an emergency, in an advanced life support ambulance, and in other appropriate settings such as hospital emergency departments and intensive care units.

The paramedic program offered by Tallahassee Community College consists of classroom work as well as laboratory practice, supervised clinical instruction and practice, and supervised practicums in an advanced life support vehicle. The program of instruction in the paramedic program (minimum of 3 semesters required) totals approximately 42 semester hours of credit. Upon satisfactory completion of these 42 semester hours, the student is eligible to sit for the state examination to become a registered paramedic.

Tallahassee Community College offers two options for persons pursuing a paramedic career: the certificate program of 42 semester hours or the associate in science degree program. The degree program in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Technology is outlined on the attached curriculum sheet for your information. Persons who earn the degree are prepared for further advancement as managers and other higher positions on the emergency medical services career ladder.

## TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

**PROGRAM GOAL:** To prepare students for employment as registered paramedics to work as a member of the emergency medical team.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** The program provides instruction in the classroom, laboratory, in the hospital, and on the emergency vehicles in the field to prepare the registered emergency medical technician with the competencies required to render services at the scene of an emergency in an advanced life support ambulance and in other appropriate settings such as a hospital emergency department and in intensive care units.

**PROGRAM PERFORMANCE GOALS:** Upon completion of the program, the student will have the ability to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge base adequate to pass the state certification examination for achieving the designation of Registered Paramedic.
2. Recognize a medical emergency, assess the situation, manage emergency care and light extrication, direct and coordinate their own efforts with those persons from other agencies who may be involved in the care and transportation of the patient(s).
3. Make appropriate assessment, assign priorities of emergency treatment, record and communicate data to the designated medical command authority (MCA) or other responsible physician.
4. Initiate and continue emergency medical care under medical telecommunications control including:
  - a. Recognizing and initiating appropriate invasive and noninvasive treatments for such conditions as life threatening arrhythmias, shock, psychological crises, airway and respiratory problems and trauma
  - b. Assisting and reporting the patient's response to that treatment and initiating appropriate changes as required under a physician's direction.
5. Function under standing orders in the event the telecommunication equipment cannot be used immediately and exercise personal judgment based on customary practice in treating and stabilizing patients based on sound pathophysiology knowledge.
6. Direct and coordinate the transport of the patient(s) by selecting the best available method(s) after approval of the medical command authority.
7. Record in writing the details related to the patient's emergency care and the incident.
8. Direct the maintenance and preparation of emergency care equipment and supplies.

## **SAMPLE: JOB POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR A PARAMEDIC**

**Qualifications:** Successful completion of an approved paramedic program. Achievement of passing scores on written and practical certification examinations.

Must be a high school graduate or equivalent; at least 18 years of age. Must have valid driver's license. Ability to communicate verbally via telephone and radio equipment; ability to lift, carry, and balance up to 125 pounds (250 with assistance); ability to interpret written, oral, and diagnostic form instructions; ability to use good judgment and remain calm in high-stress situations; ability to read computer screens, manuals, encyclopedias, and road maps; accurately discern street signs and address numbers; ability to interview patient, family members, and bystanders; ability to document, in writing, and/or on a computer, all relevant information in prescribed format in light of legal ramifications; ability to converse with co-workers, hospital staff and other individuals as to status of patient. Good manual dexterity, with ability to perform all tasks related to highest quality patient care. Ability to bend, stoop, crawl, walk or run on uneven terrain; and the ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold, moisture and wind.

**Competency Areas:** Must be capable of utilizing all EMT-Basic skills and equipment, and be able to perform all Paramedic skills in accordance with all behavioral objectives in the DOT/EMT Paramedic curriculum.

**Descriptions of Tasks:** Receives call from dispatcher, responds verbally to emergency calls, reads maps, drives ambulance to emergency site, uses most expeditious route, and observes traffic ordinances and regulations. Works as member of a two-member team.

Visually inspects and assesses the scene upon arrival to determine if scene is safe. Determines the mechanism of illness or injury, the total number of patients involved, and remains calm and confident while demonstrating leadership and responsibility. Reports verbally to the responding EMS unit or communications center as to the nature and extent of injuries and the number of patients. Recognizes hazards. Conducts triage, sorting out and classifying priorities for most immediate needs for treatment. Uses judgment to identify priorities for most immediate need for treatment. Uses judgment to identify priorities based on the most critical needs for patient survival. Directs actions of EMTs in assisting at the scene.

Determines nature and extent of illness or injury, takes pulse, blood pressure, visually and auditorily observes patient, recognizes the mechanisms of injury and takes comprehensive medical history of patient, including patient's current usage of prescribed and non-prescribed medications/drugs. Obtains patient/parent consent and/or refusal for treatment.

Accepts primary responsibility for all aspects of advanced life support given to the patient, establishes priority for emergency care, renders appropriate pre-hospital emergency care of simple and multiple system traumas such as controlling hemorrhage; bandaging wounds; manually stabilizing painful, swollen joints and injured extremities; and immobilizing the spine. Delivers newborns. Administers medications through the most appropriate route, including intravenous. Uses equipment such as defibrillator, electrocardiograph and interprets ECGs. Performs endotracheal intubation to open airways and ventilate patient.

Responsible for thorough written documentation of all activity related to patient care and medication dispensation. Uses good judgment to draw conclusions with often, limited information; verbally communicates effectively to provide quality treatment to diverse age and cultural groups. Reassures patients, family and/or bystanders, provides family support, manages difficult patients, avoids mishandling patient and undue haste, searches for medical clues/identification on a patient such as a medical emblem bracelet.

Extricates patient from entrapment, assesses extent of injury, uses prescribed techniques and appliances, radios dispatchers for additional assistance or services, provides light rescue service if required, provides additional emergency care. Assists in lifting, carrying, and transporting patients into ambulance and medical facility.

Determines appropriate facility to which patient(s) will be transported, reports nature and extent of injuries or illness to that facility, seeks guidance from hospital physician or emergency department. Observes patient enroute and administers care as directed by physician or emergency department. Identifies diagnostic signs that require communication with facility. Assists in removing patient(s) at the scene and enroute to facility, provides assistance to emergency staff as required.

Replaces supplies, disposes of used supplies appropriately, and checks all equipment for future readiness. Maintains ambulance in operable condition; ensures ambulance cleanliness and orderliness of equipment and supplies; decontaminates vehicle interior; determines vehicle readiness.

**PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATE PROGRAM  
CURRICULUM**

**Prerequisites (4 credit hours)**

BSC1084C Essentials of Anatomy and Physiology  
Or  
BSC2085/2085L and BSC2086/2086L

**After Acceptance into the program:**

**First Semester**

EMS2603 Paramedic I 8cr.  
EMS2603L Paramedic I Lab 2cr.  
EMS2666L Paramedic I Clinical 4cr.

**Second Semester**

EMS2604 Paramedic II 8cr.  
EMS2604L Paramedic II Lab 2cr.  
EMS2667L Paramedic II Clinical 4cr.

**Third Semester**

EMS2605 Paramedic III 4cr.  
EMS2605L Paramedic III Lab 3cr.  
EMS2659L Field Internship 3cr.

## GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. The same procedures are applicable whether you are choosing the certificate program or the degree program in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Technology.
2. The applicant must be at least 18 years of age.
3. The applicant must have a high school diploma or equivalent based on performance on the General Education Development (GED) test.
4. The applicant must apply to TCC through the Enrollment Services office and complete all college required admission requirements.
5. Applicant must be college-ready, which means the applicant does not need developmental education courses in English, reading and/or mathematics. This requirement may be satisfied by one or more of the following options: the Florida Statute on Developmental Education exemption, adequate placement scores from the Florida Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) or other college placement scores accepted by TCC, completion of developmental education courses, or completion of at least [ENC1101 College Composition](#) and one general education [Mathematics](#).
6. The applicant must apply to the Paramedic program; this is a separate application from the college admission application.
7. The applicant must be a Florida certified EMT prior to the first day of class; certification must be active and unrestricted.
8. The applicant must be currently certified in BLS. This certification must be the American Heart Association's BLS for Health Care Providers or American Red Cross's Professional Rescuer CPR.
9. The applicant must have successfully completed the prerequisite courses with a grade of "C" or higher: BSC 1084C OR the anatomy and physiology requirement (BSC 2085 Anatomy and Physiology I, BSC 2085L Anatomy and Physiology Lab I, BSC 2086 Anatomy & Physiology II, BSC 2086L Anatomy and Physiology Lab II).
10. The applicant must take a course readiness test at the announced date/time. This test will be administered if the number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of available seats.
11. Turn in proof of completion or enrollment in pre-requisites, CPR card and EMT license to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Ghazvini Center.
12. Attend additional required intake and orientation meetings as outlined later in the application packet.

## **SELECTION/ACCEPTANCE INFORMATION**

After the deadline and after the course readiness test is completed, you will be notified whether or not you have been accepted into the Paramedic Program. Only applicants who submit a completed application will be considered.

Applicants will be selected by point system. Points are awarded for complete application, completed pre-requisites, work experience and service to the community.

### **FINANCIAL AID**

Questions regarding financial aid should be directed to the Financial Aid Office. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM.** This office is located in the Student Union Building on the TCC campus, (850) 201-8399.

### **Exposure to Disease or Injury**

Even though the college program faculty and clinical facilities makes extensive efforts to protect students enrolled in all health care programs from exposure to disease, injury or various other hazards involved in working with patients, total protection from all potential hazards is not possible. Students should, therefore, enroll with this understanding and with the intention to assume responsibility also for their own safety. If exposure to diseases or hazards or injury occur, students are required by clinical facilities to follow clinical facility policies. If this occurs, students may be required to have medical treatment. Any costs associated with medical treatments are the financial responsibility of the student.



## Estimated cost of the program

Tuition In-State (TOTAL COST)	\$ 4234.86
Out-of-State (TOTAL COST)	\$ 16265.34
Books, estimated	\$ 600.00
Lab fees	varies by course
Background Check and Drug Screen	\$146.75
Uniforms and supplies, estimated	\$300.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• White EMS shirt</li><li>• Navy Blue Polo with     Logo</li><li>• Dark navy blue pants</li><li>• Black boots/shoes</li><li>• Black belt</li><li>• Stethoscope</li><li>• Arm patch</li><li>• Watch with second hand</li><li>• Safety Vest</li><li>• TMH Student ID Badge</li><li>• Penlight</li><li>• Pocket Mask</li></ul>	
Immunizations and lab work (varies with individual's insurance coverage)	Varies
Paramedic Certification exam	\$85.00