

EMS Training
Public Safety and Emergency Services Institute
(520) 206-3502



PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
29th St. Coalition Center
4355 E. Calle Aurora
Tucson, AZ 85730

PARAMEDIC COURSE INFORMATION PACKET

Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Paramedic course offered by the Public Safety and Emergency Services Institute of Pima Community College. The helpful and friendly staff welcomes you and would like you to enjoy your educational experience.

This packet has been put together to give an overview of the paramedic course schedule, cost breakdown, prerequisites, and screening process.

The EMT – Paramedic Program at Pima Community College is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Education Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP).

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

9355 – 113th St. N, #7709

Seminole, FL 33775

727-210-2350

www.caahep.org

To Contact the CoAEMSP:

8301 Lakeview Parkway, Suite 111-312

Rowlett, TX 75088

214-703-8445

Fax: 214-703-8992

www.coaemsp.org

Functional Job Analysis

Paramedic Characteristics

The Paramedic must be a confident leader who can accept the challenge and high degree of responsibility entailed in the position. The Paramedic must have excellent judgment and be able to prioritize decisions and act quickly in the best interest of the patient, must be self-disciplined, able to develop patient rapport, interview hostile patients, maintain safe distance, and recognize and utilize communication unique to diverse multicultural groups and ages within those groups. Must be able to function independently, at optimum level, in a non-structured environment that is constantly changing.

Even though the Paramedic is generally part of a two-person team generally working with a lower skill and knowledge level Basic EMT, it is the Paramedic who is held responsible for safe and therapeutic administration of drugs including narcotics. Therefore, the Paramedic must not only be knowledgeable about medications but must be able to apply this knowledge in a practical sense.

Knowledge and practical application of medications include thoroughly knowing and understanding the general properties of all types of drugs including analgesics, anesthetics, anti-anxiety drugs, sedatives and hypnotics, anti-convulsants, central nervous stimulants, psychotherapeutics which include antidepressants, and other anti-psychotics, anticholinergics, cholinergics, muscle relaxants, anti-dysrhythmics, anti-hypertensives, anticoagulants, diuretics, bronchodilators, ophthalmics, pituitary drugs, gastro-intestinal drugs, hormones, antibiotics, antifungals, antiinflammatories, serums, vaccines, anti-parasitics, and others.

The Paramedic is personally responsible, legally, ethically, and morally for each drug administered, for using correct precautions and techniques, observing and documenting the effects of the drugs administered, keeping one's own pharmacological knowledge-base current as to changes and trends in administration and use, keeping abreast of all contraindications to administration of specific drugs to patients based on their constitutional make-up, and using drug reference literature.

The responsibility of the Paramedic includes obtaining a comprehensive drug history from the patient that includes names of drugs, strength, daily usage and dosage. The Paramedic must take into consideration that many factors, in relation to the history given, can affect the type medication to be given. For example, some patients may be taking several medications prescribed by several different doctors and some may lose track of what they have or have not taken. Some may be using non-prescription/over the counter drugs. Awareness of drug reactions and the synergistic effects of drugs combined with other medicines and in some instances, food, is imperative. The Paramedic must also take into consideration the possible

risks of medication administered to a pregnant mother and the fetus, keeping in mind that drug's may cross the placenta.

The Paramedic must be cognizant of the impact of medications on pediatric patients based on size and weight, special concerns related to newborns, geriatric patients and the physiological effects of aging such as the way skin can tear in the geriatric population with relatively little to no pressure. There must be an awareness of the high abuse potential of controlled substances and the potential for addiction, therefore, the Paramedic must be thorough in report writing and able to justify why a particular narcotic was used and why a particular amount was given. The ability to measure and re-measure drip rates for controlled substances/medications is essential. Once medication is stopped or not used, the Paramedic must send back unused portions to proper inventory arena.

The Paramedic must be able to apply basic principles of mathematics to the calculation of problems associated with medication dosages, perform conversion problems, differentiate temperature area between centigrade and Fahrenheit scales, be able to use proper advanced life support equipment and supplies (i.e. proper size of intravenous needles) based on patient's age and condition of veins, and be able to locate sites for obtaining blood samples and perform this task, administer medication intravenously, administer medications by gastric tube, administer oral medications, administer rectal medications, and comply with universal precautions and body substance isolation, disposing of contaminated items and equipment properly.

The Paramedic must be able to apply knowledge and skills to assist overdosed patients to overcome trauma through antidotes, and have knowledge of poisons and be able to administer treatment. The Paramedic must be knowledgeable as to the stages drugs/medications go through once they have entered the patient's system and be cognizant that route of administration is critical in relation to patient's needs and the effect that occurs.

The Paramedic must also be capable of providing advanced life support emergency medical services to patients including conducting of and interpreting electrocardiograms (EKGs), electrical interventions to support the cardiac functions, performing advanced endotracheal intubations in airway management and relief of pneumothorax and administering of appropriate intravenous fluids and drugs under direction of off-site designated physician.

The Paramedic is a person who must not only remain calm while working in difficult and stressful circumstances, but must be capable of staying focused while assuming the leadership role inherent in carrying out the functions of the position. Good judgment along with advanced knowledge and technical skills are essential in directing other team members to assist as needed. The Paramedic must be able to provide top quality care, concurrently handle high levels of stress, and be willing to take on the personal responsibility required of the position. This includes not only all legal ramifications for precise documentation, but also the responsibility for using the knowledge and skills acquired in real life threatening emergency situations.

The Paramedic must be able to deal with adverse and often dangerous situations which include responding to calls in districts known to have high crime and mortality rates. Self-confidence is critical, as is a desire to work with people, solid emotional stability, a tolerance for high stress, and the ability to meet the physical, intellectual, and cognitive requirements demanded by this position.

Physical Demands

Aptitudes required for work of this nature are good physical stamina, endurance, and body condition that would not be adversely affected by frequently having to walk, stand, lift, carry, and balance at times, in excess of 125 pounds. Motor coordination is necessary because over uneven terrain, the patient's, the Paramedic's, and other workers well-being must not be jeopardized.

Comments

The Paramedic provides the most extensive pre-hospital care and may work for fire departments, private ambulance services, police departments or hospitals. Response times for nature of work are dependent upon nature of call. For example, a Paramedic working for a private ambulance service that transports the elderly from nursing homes to routine medical appointments and check-ups may endure somewhat less stressful circumstances than the Paramedic who works primarily with 911 calls in districts known to have high crime rates. Thus, the particular stresses inherent in the role of the Paramedic can vary, depending on place and type of employment.

However, in general, in the analyst's opinion, the Paramedic must be flexible to meet the demands of the ever-changing emergency scene. When an emergency exists, the situation can be complex and care of the patient must be started immediately. In essence, the Paramedic in the EMS system uses advanced training and equipment to extend emergency physician services to the ambulance. The Paramedic must be able to make accurate independent judgments while following oral directives. The ability to perform duties in a timely manner is essential, as it could mean the difference between life and death for the patient.

Use of the telephone or radio dispatch for coordination of prompt emergency services is required, as is a pager, depending on place of employment. Accurately discerning street names through map reading, and correctly distinguishing house numbers or business addresses are essential to task completion in the most expedient manner. Concisely and accurately describing orally to dispatcher and other concerned staff, one's impression of patient's condition, is critical as the Paramedic works in emergency conditions where there may not be time for deliberation. The Paramedic must also be able to accurately report orally and in writing, all relevant patient data. At times, reporting may require a detailed narrative on extenuating circumstances or conditions that go beyond what is required on a prescribed form. In some instances, the Paramedic must enter data on computer from a laptop in ambulance. Verbal skills and reasoning skills are used extensively.

Course Schedule

The program is tentatively scheduled to start June 14, 2021, with a graduation date of TBD. The paramedic class is scheduled for two days per week, both days from 0800 to 1700. Further instructions for class scheduling will be given upon acceptance into the program.

The Paramedic program carries a course load of 48-52.5 credit hours.

All class sessions and screening are currently held at the 29th St. Coalition Center, 4355 E Calle Aurora. (29th St. and Columbus) - **Building A**



In addition to classroom time, the student must complete a minimum of 500 hours of clinical and vehicular rotations. The student is required to schedule these hours outside of class time throughout the paramedic course.

The course contains the following classes:

• *EMT 155	AMLS	1.5 credits
• *EMT 140	PHTLS	1.5 credits
• EMT 170	Operations	1.5 credit
• EMT 205	ALS Pharmacology and Medication	3.5 credits
• EMT 214	ALS Advanced Special Consideration	2.0 credits
• EMT 218	Paramedic National Registry Preparatory	3.0 credits
• EMT 219	ALS Foundations	1.0 credit
• EMT 221	ALS Airway and Ventilation	2.0 credits
• EMT 222	ALS Patient Assessment and Assessment Based Management	2.0 credits
• EMT 223	ALS Trauma Emergencies and Systems	2.5 credits
• EMT 224	ALS Medical Emergencies	4.0 credits
• EMT 225	ALS Special Medical Considerations	2.5 credits
• EMT 227LC	ALS Practicum: Clinical Lab	1.5 credits
• EMT 228LC	ALS Practicum: Vehicular Lab	2.0 credits
• EMT 230	Basic ECG Interpretation	3.0 credits
• EMT 242	ALS Advanced Foundations	4.0 credits
• EMT 244	ALS Advanced Medical Emergencies	2.5 credits
• EMT 247LC	ALS Advanced Practicum: Clinical Lab	2.0 credits
• EMT 248LC	ALS Advanced Practicum: Vehicular Lab	4.0 credits
• EMT 250	Advanced Cardiac Care	1.0 credit
• EMT 252	Pediatric Advanced Life Support	1.0 credit
• EMT 254	Advanced ECG Interpretation	2.0 credits
• *EMT 258	Pediatric Education for Pre-hospital Professionals	1.5 credits
• EMT 295	ALS Independent Research	1.0 credit

*Course with an * are optional coursework but highly recommended for foundational preparedness and required by some field agencies for student rotations, but are not components of the paramedic degree pathway.

Financial aid is available if you qualify. You must see a Financial Aid Advisor for more information.

The Paramedic course follows the National Education Guidelines for the Curriculum and is approved by the Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. Upon successful completion of the program the student will be eligible to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians exams. Completion of the Paramedic course alone does not certify a student for employment. Certification is controlled entirely by the Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition, fees, and refunds are subject to change without notice. Some courses will be subject to differential tuition starting in spring 2021. Please refer to www.pima.edu for the most up to date information.

The program textbooks will be available to purchase at the East Campus or Northwest Campus bookstore prior to the start of the paramedic course.

• Tuition and fees	\$6049.25 (48-52.5 credits)
• Text Books (<i>approximate</i> cost)	\$1431.65
• MyClinical Exchange*	\$35.00
• NW Hospital Badge*	\$5.00
• 10 panel Drug Screen	\$50.00 (approx.)
• Total <u>estimated</u> costs	\$7,570.75

**Instructions for obtaining these will be given out during class*

Mosby Paramedic Book Textbook, 5th Ed with online resources ISBN# 9781284156911*****Discount code available, contact PSEI for discount code.	\$758.25**
Understanding 12-lead EKGs, 3rd Edition ISBN #9780132921060	\$111.50
Anatomy and Physiology for Health Professionals W/Navigate 2 Advantage Access, 3rd edition ISBN #9781284151978	\$105.95
ACLS Provider Manual 2020 Guidelines <u>Hardcopy</u> ISBN #9781616697723 <u>OR</u>	\$62.50
ACLS Provider Manual <u>eBook</u> ISBN #9781616697976	\$36.50
Handbook of Emergency Cardiovascular Care <u>Hardcopy</u> ISBN #9781616697662 <u>OR</u>	\$41.75
Handbook of Emergency Cardiovascular Care <u>eBook</u> ISBN #9781616698027	\$27.00
PALS Provider Manual 2020 Guidelines <u>Hardcopy</u> ISBN #9781616697853 <u>OR</u>	\$69.50
PALS Provider Manual <u>eBook</u> ISBN #9781616698041	\$44.00
AMLS Provider Manual 3rd Editions ISBN #9781284198744	\$124.95
PHTLS Provider Manual 9th Edition ISBN #9781284171471	\$68.75
PHTLS Provider Manual <i>Military</i> 9th Edition ISBN #9781284180589	\$83.25
PEPP Provider Manual 4th Edition with Online access Code ISBN #9781284229752	\$88.50

Course fees also include (All will be handed out in class):

- Stethoscope
- Pocket Mask
- Pen Light
- PCC-PSESI Polo Shirt
- PCC-PSESI T-Shirt
- PCC Nametag

Pre-requisites

Upon acceptance into the program, you will be required to submit your prerequisite packet. The packet must be complete with ALL prerequisites, or it will not be accepted. You will be given one opportunity to remedy the deficiencies and turn in within 3 days. It is highly recommended you begin to collect and prepare these items in anticipation of your acceptance. Prerequisites must be submitted electronically in individual pdf files, screen shots or jpeg's of documents will not be accepted. If you do not have a complete packet you are at risk of losing your seat in the class.

A Background check will be completed on each student by an external party contracted thru My Clinical Exchange, any items discovered during this phase will result in the dismissal of the student.

Pre Requisites:

- A. American Heart Association Basic Life Support for the Healthcare Provider certification card. This card must remain current throughout the course of training and the certification process.
- B. Current EMT-Basic or AEMT certification. This certification **MUST** remain current throughout the paramedic course (a lapse in certification will result in immediate expulsion from the program) and be either:
 1. National Registry certification; or
 2. State of Arizona certification
- C. Proof of Arizona Department of Health Services online account (printout of online profile).
- D. Proof of 18 years old
- E. Active MyPima Account
- F. No restrictions/holds (Academic or Financial) on Pima Account
- G. Reading assessment at the 9th grade level is mandatory according to ADHS. (*Please understand the curricula is written at an 11 grade reading level*).
 1. A 4 year degree + from an Accredited institution is acceptable however an official transcript from the awarding institution must be sent to PCC's transcript office and on file.
- H. Provide proof of immunity or immunization for the following (Specific clinical immunization requirements attached):
 1. Current Flu Shot
 - Must remain current throughout the program
 2. Measles (Rubeola)/Mumps/Rubella:
 - Positive titer for all 3, or
 - Documentation of a completed series of MMR immunizations. One series includes 2 immunizations for each disease on separate dates at least 28 days apart.

3. Varicella
 - Positive titer for Varicella or
 - Documentation of a completed series. One series includes 2 immunizations 30 days apart.
 4. Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap)
 - A one-time adult dose of Tdap (age 19 or older), followed by Td booster every 10 years.
 5. Results of serological testing showing Hepatitis B (HBV) immunization, or Hepatitis B Series (3 vaccinations at least 30 days apart)
 6. Proof of negative TB test or chest X-ray for 2 consecutive years and must not expire while in the program. (TB test are good for 12 months).
- I. Current health insurance coverage
 1. This coverage must remain current throughout the course of training and the certification process.
 - J. Negative results of a 10 panel drug screening within 1 month of the course start date. **Drug screening must be sent to PSESI directly from the lab.**

Screening Process

You will need an active PCC account (free of holds) PCC account in order participate in the screening process. Upon requesting to take the entrance exam you will need to provide your PCC A#.

Entrance Exam Breakdown

1. ALS entrance Exam consisting of 150-question multiple-choice, electronically graded.
2. Oral board consisting of not less than 2 members selected by the Program Administration.

The weighted percentages will be as follows:

Written ALS entrance:	50%
Oral board:	50%
Total	100%

The candidate must obtain scores of 70% to be eligible for attendance in a PSESI paramedic course. Seats will be filled based on these scores, along with the approval of the PSESI Medical Director.

Breakdown of Scoring Written ALS entrance:

The written ALS entrance exam will be scored on a percentage basis.

Oral Board:

The oral board will consist of questions relating to candidate history, reasons for enrolling,
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support systems, past experience, judgment questions, and questions on expected EMT-B knowledge. The candidates will be scored on each question as well as overall presentation.

ALS Entrance Exam

Please call PSESI (520-206-3502) to schedule to take the ALS Entrance Exam on one of the following dates/times available.

- April 12, 13, or 14

The test will begin at 9:00 am each day. On the scheduled date, the candidate should report to 4355 E. Calle Aurora, Building A, Room TBD.

The ALS entrance exam will be a computer based exam with 150 questions and based on the EMT National Standards Curriculum. The candidate will have 2 ½ hours to complete the exam, and will have one attempt only.

Before the exam, please make sure you are a current Pima Community College student with no holds and have activated your MyPima Account - <https://mypima.pima.edu/cp/home/displaylogin>.

The exam will be based solely on EMT-B knowledge (National Standards Curriculum). It is recommended that the candidate prepare for this ALS entrance exam. Please utilize a current EMT-Basic textbook to study.

Oral Board Interview

Please email Maria Cisneros-Leon (mcisneros@pima.edu) to schedule a timeslot on the desired date (listed below) for your Oral Board Interview (the dates are pre-determined and are available on a first contact basis). On the scheduled date, the candidate should report to 4355 E. Calle Aurora, Building A, Room 18

- April 26, 27, 28, and 29, 2021

The Candidate is required to participate in an Oral Interview. The Oral Interview will last approximately 30 minutes. Please allow extra time for scheduling adjustments.

The PSESI Medical Director makes the final determination whether or not a candidate is accepted into a PSESI paramedic course. The Medical Director will take the candidate's screening results, criminal history, past educational history with the PSESI, and whether or not all the prerequisites have been completed and verified into account in making the determination to accept or deny the candidate entrance into the paramedic course. Candidates who have withdrawn or been removed within 2 years from the program may be ineligible for return.

Further questions in regards to the Paramedic Program or other programs that the PSESI offers may be

forwarded to: Sharon Hollingsworth – shollingsworth@pima.edu

Verification of 9th Grade Reading Level

The Candidate must show proof of the ability to read at the 9th grade level. The student can be tested for free at any Pima Community College test center.

The minimum score is 9th grade level is mandatory according to ADHS. The only acceptable type of assessment tests is Accuplacer. (*Please understand the curriculum is written at an 11 grade reading level*).

10-Panel Drug Screening

The candidate must provide proof of negative 10-panel drug screening. This test must be done no earlier than within 1 month of the start date of the class. The student can obtain this test from their Primary Care Physician, or several other independent clinics around town. Please contact the PSESI office before testing (520-206-3502) or (mcisneros@pima.edu) for a referral. **Drug screening must be sent to PSESI directly from the lab.**