

PARAMEDIC

WHCL PARAMEDIC PROGRAM

Thank you for your interest in the WHCL Paramedic Program! Read on for more information about our program, including the application process, prerequisites and answers to general questions about the paramedic profession.

WHEN DOES THE NEXT PARAMEDIC PROGRAM BEGIN?

WHCL admits 24 students once per year to the paramedic program. Each new cohort begins in August and takes 16 months to complete. Terms are Fall, Spring, and Summer followed by the final Fall internship/capstone course.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR APPLICATION TO THE PROGRAM?

The WHCL Paramedic Program begins accepting applications in the late January/early February before the August start date.

Current pre-requisites to be eligible to apply to the program are:

- Minimum of 18 years of age** (verified by copy of valid diver license and vehicle insurance)
- Cumulative GPA of all college coursework 2.0** (validated by college transcripts)
- Current EMT certification with the State of California** (with no current disciplinary action) (validated by copy of current certification and program director verification of online certification database)
- Minimum of 6 months field experience as an EMT within the last 2 years** (verified by work verification form and employer letter of recommendation/good standing)
- Anatomy and Physiology requirement.** For certification track of the program EMT 052 must be taken and completed with “C” or better prior to admission, for AS degree track, BIO 032 and BIO 035 or equivalent must be taken and completed with a “C” or better prior to admission. (verified by college transcripts)

1. Complete and submit the application when it becomes available.

Additional Application documents needed at the time of application are:

- **Copies of official Transcripts** from every college attended uploaded to PDF files for each individual college
- **Work Employment Verification form** completed and signed by employer with employer Letter of Recommendation (limit of two, most current EMS employers) print form, have completed and save as PDF to upload to application along with PDF of employer letter of recommendation.
- **Current CPR certification** (ONLY American Heart Association CPR certification is accepted) copy as PDF for uploading to application

- **Copy of High School Diploma or GED or AS degree** posted to official transcripts (copy as PDF for uploading to application)

- **Copy of Valid CA Driver's license and vehicle insurance** saved as PDF documents for uploading to application

2. Applications are accepted and processed in the order that they are received. Fully completed applications will be forwarded for processing and if complete will be ranked on a first come first serve basis. Applications that are not complete or missing required documentation will not be processed or ranked for admission.

After official acceptance to the program:

3. You will need to submit documentation related to immunizations, criminal background checks, and any prerequisites that were in progress during the application period.

Required immunization you will need to provide are:

- **MMR** - Rubeola: 2 vaccines **OR** serological testing (titer) to demonstrate immunity
Mumps: 2 vaccines **OR** serological testing (titer) to demonstrate immunity
Rubella: 2 vaccines **OR** serological testing (titer) to demonstrate immunity
- **Varicella** - 2 vaccines **OR** serological testing (titer) to demonstrate immunity.
- **Hepatitis B** - Documentation of immunization (series of three doses) **AND** documentation of titer.
- **Tdap** – Documentation of booster.
- **TB Test** - If history of positive PPD, then chest X-Ray negative for active TB.
- **Influenza** - Vaccination for current season
- **Health clearance physical.** (**DMV Physical satisfies this requirement**)

***Background and drug screen information will be provided after acceptance into the program**

4. The program begins with the Fall semester, usually the second week of August. With an mandatory orientation usually in June.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the time commitment for the paramedic program?

The classroom component is scheduled to meet Thursday and Friday from 8am to 5pm at the Lemoore Campus in Room 714. Successful students study an average of 28-32 hours per week in addition to classroom learning.

Clinical rotations begin in summer immediately after second semester. Schedules are set and students are allowed to choose from these schedules. Order of choice is determined by grade in didactic. Clinical rotations are currently held at: Kaweah Delta, Adventist Medical Center – Hanford, Valley Children’s Hospital

Field internships are full time commitments and based on preceptor schedules and other demands. These occur beginning in Fall semester immediately following summer clinicals. You are expected to attend your internship according to the preceptor schedule. Students are encouraged to limit work schedules during this time if possible. Currently we are contracted for precepting with American Ambulance (Fresno/Kings), American Ambulance of Visalia, Lifestar Ambulance, Imperial Ambulance, Pistorosi Ambulance, and Dinuba City Fire Department.

What if I don't have experience on an ambulance?

Please be mindful that the field internship is challenging, even for an experienced EMT. Because you will be evaluated for paramedic knowledge and skills, it is expected that you can function as an EMT. As a result, you are required to have a minimum of six months pertinent field experience within the last two years at the time of your application. You will be required to show proof of employment and have employer recommendation.

What is the stress level and how will it affect my family and other relationships?

Per feedback from past graduates: until you experience the stress there is no way you can be prepared for it. It is very important that everyone important to you (family, friends, and work) understand and accept the time and emotional commitment by you. Everyone must understand that paramedic education will be your priority over this next 16 months.

What is the cost and is there financial aid?

It costs approximately \$6,000 to attend the Program if you are a California resident and are not being sponsored. Sponsored students typically do not have to pay for their field internships which brings the cost of the program down to approximately \$4,000; nonresidents pay about \$14,000. This does not include your living expenses (rent, food, utilities, etc.).

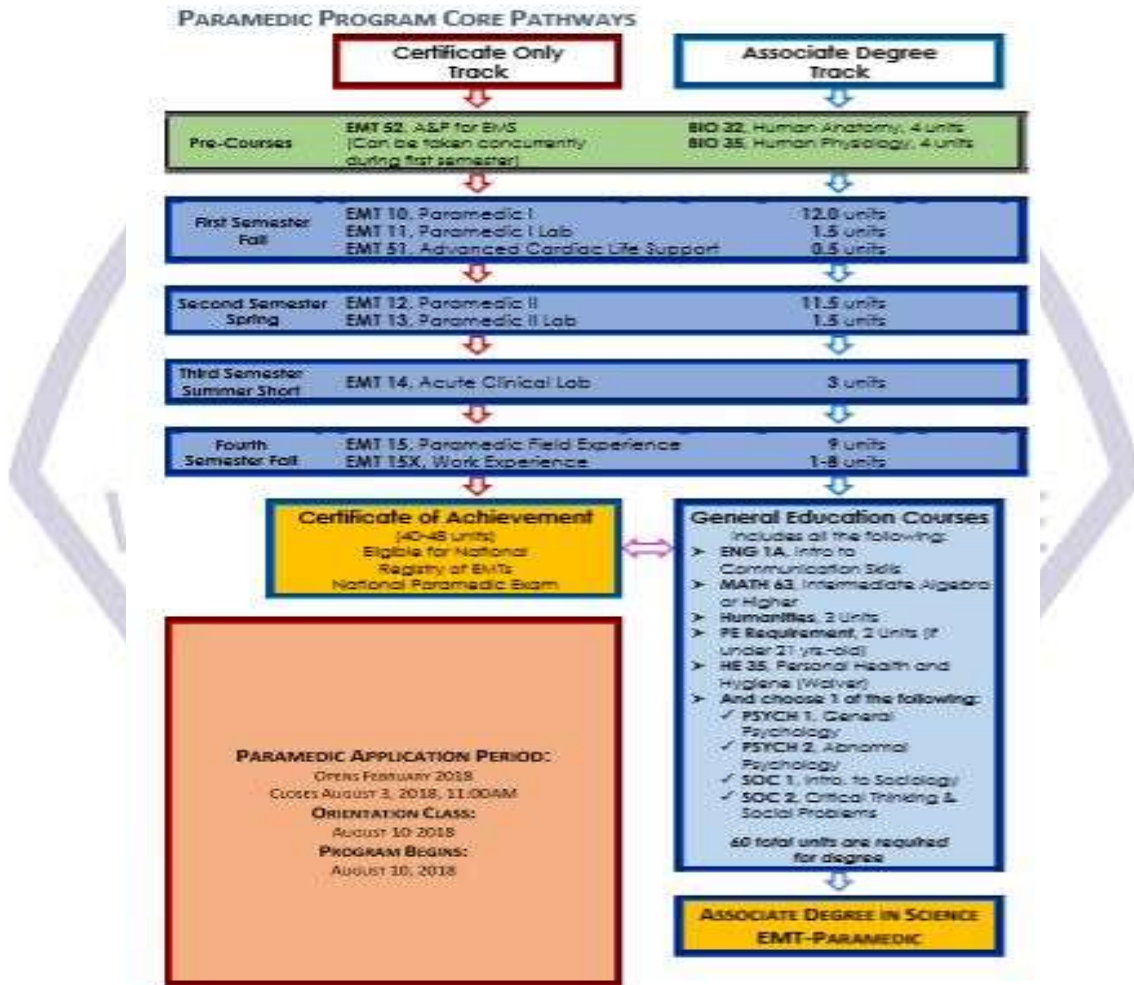
Start the financial aid process early and be persistent. There is an abundance of monies available and it requires effort on your part to go through the financial aid process.

Our Financial Aid office can be reached at:

<https://www.westhillscollge.com/lemoore/admissions/financial-aid> or call 559-925-2310

Am I able to get an Associate's Degree from the Program?

The Program offers both an Associate's Degree in Paramedicine (which has additional classes required) or the traditional Paramedic Certification. You can choose which works better for you. The chart below shows both tracks:



What's the recipe for success?

Professionalism, attitude and enthusiasm are all essential factors. Be diligent to the policies, procedures and details of the Program. A high degree of self-motivation is key to being successful in this program. Keep these points in mind and find ways to continually motivate yourself. Practice time management and organizational skills. This will be one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences of your life.

Is the Program accredited?

“The West Hills College Lemoore Paramedic Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP).”

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

113th St. N #7709
Seminole, FL 33775
727-210-2350

www.caahep.org

To contact CoAEMSP:

Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions
8301 Lakeview Parkway Suite 111-312 Rowlett, TX 75088
214-703-8445

www.coaemsp.org

What are the Program's course completion and NREMT pass rates?

In accordance with CoAEMSP disclosure requirements, the WHCL Paramedic Program reports the following information on its students:

- National Registry of EMTs Written and Practical Examination passing rate, 2015-17: 90.9%
- Retention rate (percentage of students graduating from the program), 2015-17: 82.5%
- Positive placement (percentage of students who are employed as paramedics), 2015-17: 97.9 %

For further questions, please contact:

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Or call

Health Careers Office

559.925.3490