



## Red Rocks Community College Emergency Medical Technology “Paramedic Prep” Overview



This program prepares graduates to enter the workforce as an EMT after the first semester, as an Advanced EMT after the second semester, or to enter a Paramedic course of study as an ALS provider with an Associate’s degree in Emergency Medical Technology after the fourth semester. The course of study provides the student an opportunity to acquire basic and advanced life support knowledge and skills by utilizing classroom instruction, practical laboratory sessions, realistic simulations, hospital clinical experience, and field internships with emergency medical service agencies.

Students in the second year of the program are employed in the EMS field at the time of their acceptance into the program, or gain employment while enrolled in the program with the assistance of the RRCC EMS Program. Employment while enrolled in the program is required as it enhances the educational process and allows immediate application of the knowledge and skills gained in the program. Upon graduation employment opportunities include ambulance services, fire and rescue agencies, hospitals, industry, and government agencies.

Paramedic education in the state of Colorado is provided at local hospitals and some community colleges. Pre-requisites for most programs include:

- Valid EMT and CPR certification
- IV therapy course
- EKG Interpretation course
- BIO 1006 – Anatomy and Physiology\*
- 1 year of field experience as an EMT in the pre-hospital setting\*

\*These requirements are program dependent and there may be additional requirements for each Paramedic program you apply to for admission. We strongly recommend taking BIO 2101 and 2102, rather than BIO 1006 as this will not only better prepare you for your paramedic education, but some paramedic schools require these courses, and will not accept BIO 1006.

Requirements for the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Paramedicine at RRCC are as follows:

- English 1021 or higher
- Math 1140 or higher
- Arts, Humanities, or Social Sciences elective
- BIO 2101 and 2102, Anatomy and Physiology
- Paramedic courses

The Emergency Medical Technology degree at RRCC was designed to not only meet Paramedic pre-requisites with an Associate’s degree option, but also to provide a solid academic and clinical background that will help students succeed in their Paramedic school application and studies. That being said, I must be clear that this program is in no way required to gain acceptance into a Paramedic course, it is only an alternate option to meet the admission requirements of these programs, as well as a way to earn all required credits for an Associate’s degree. It is the responsibility of the applicants to ensure this program will meet the pre-requisites of the Paramedic program they are interested in. Our graduates have been accepted into, and successfully completed, Paramedic programs at Arapahoe Community College, St. Anthony’s Hospital, and Denver Health. Based on the graduate’s choice of Paramedic programs upon graduation from RRCC they may receive preferred or guaranteed admission into that program.

## Course Sequence

This course sequence assumes a traditional fall semester (August) start date. For alternative sequences or start dates please contact your faculty advisor. A grade of C or higher in all EMS courses is required to remain enrolled.

### Fall 1 (15 ch)

- EMS 1021 – EMT Fundamentals
- EMS 1022 – EMT Medical Emergencies
- EMS 1023 – EMT Trauma Emergencies
- EMS 1024 – EMT Special Considerations
- EMS 1070 – EMT Clinical Internship
- MAT 1140 – Career Math\*

### Fall 2 (14 ch)

- EMS 1138 – Basic Simulations
- EMS 1078 – EMS Seminar
- EMS 1081 – EMS Internship I
- EMS 2070 – Clinical EMS Intermediate
- General Elective (3 credit hours)

### Spring 1 (16 ch)

- EMS 1125 – AEMT Fundamentals
- EMS 1127 – AEMT Special Considerations
- EMS 1129 – AEMT Pharmacology
- EMS 1132 – EMT IV/IO Therapy
- EMS 1133 – AEMT Medical Emergencies
- EMS 1135 – AEMT Trauma Emergencies
- EMS 1071 – AEMT Clinical Internship
- ENG 1031 – Technical Writing

### Spring 2 (14 ch)

- EMS 1140 – Advanced Simulations
- EMS 1082 – EMS Internship II
- EMS 2079 - Seminar
- Social Science Elective (3 credit hours)

### Summer 1 (3 ch)

- BIO 1006 – Anatomy and Physiology\*\*

### Summer 2

- Paramedic Program

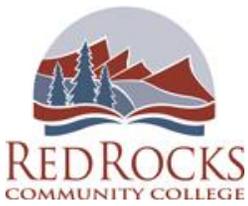
Suggested Electives: PHI 1012, PSY 2440, PSY 2552, CHE 2111, CHE 2112, BIO 2104, BIO 2116

## Course Substitutions

**\*Math 1140** will meet the basic requirements of this degree; however, it is a non-transferable course. Therefore, we recommend MAT 1340, college algebra, instead of MAT 1140.

**\*\*Biology 1006** – Anatomy and Physiology will meet the basic requirements of this degree. However only certain paramedic programs will accept this as a pre-requisite; therefore we highly recommend taking the following biology courses to meet the pre-requisites of all paramedic programs. Also take into consideration that biology 1006 is a non-transferable course, whereas the courses below will transfer to a four year university

- Summer 1: Social science elective, such as PSY 2440 or 2552
- Summer 1: Biology 1111 – General Biology (this is a pre-requisite to BIO 201)
- Fall 2: Biology 2101 – Anatomy and Physiology 1 (This meets the natural sciences requirement)
- Spring 2: Biology 1202 – Anatomy and Physiology 2 (This meets the general elective requirement)



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This sequence illustrates the method by which you will earn your Emergency Medical Technology degree, meet all your pre-requisites for a Paramedic program, and meet the general education requirements of the Paramedicine Associate’s degree at RRCC. During the program you will begin your Advanced Life Support education, gain experience through a paid internship program, spend 250 hours in various departments of the hospital, and create a professional portfolio. The portfolio will detail all your patient contacts, what you learned from each one, and how the knowledge gained applies to your future as a Paramedic. This portfolio will then be presented at the time of application to a Paramedic program to enhance your chances of admission and prove experience equivalent to the required one year of EMT experience.

Not only does the program meet the paramedic pre-requisites and culminate in an Associate’s degree, but it will make you a full time student at RRCC and therefore eligible for various financial aid programs as well as increase your competitiveness when applying for a Paramedic program and employment. Moreover many of the courses are transferable to a four year university in the event you decide to further your education. Furthermore most emergency services agencies now require a degree for any type of promotion or career advancement, and many require them to apply for employment. Finally, if the Paramedic program you choose to attend offers a degree in Paramedicine your general education credits are transferrable to that institution in order to earn a second degree.

During the program participants are educated with their end goal of becoming a Paramedic in mind. As a result we will be approaching all topics from a Paramedic’s point of view and fostering an appreciation for the depth of medical knowledge needed by Paramedics. All patient contacts, both simulated and real, will be reviewed and discussed in terms of patient presentation, disease pathophysiology, appropriate treatment, and rationale for treatment. In essence you will be taught to think like a Paramedic from day one of the program.

This also allows those who may have difficulty finding employment as an EMT, due to age, competitive job markets, etc., a method for gaining the required clinical experience for admission to a Paramedic course of study. Additionally the participant will remain continuously enrolled in college throughout their education which maintains their eligibility for financial aid, the ability to remain on their parents medical insurance, and other such benefits of being enrolled in college full time.

If you have any additional questions, or need further information, please feel free to contact me at any time. I look forward to working with you as you begin the journey toward your goal of becoming a Paramedic.

Sincerely,

Robert Vroman, M.Ed., BS NRP  
Professor of EMS  
EMS Program Director  
Chair, Emergency and Public Safety  
Red Rocks Community College  
303-914-6552  
Robert.Vroman@rrcc.edu