

# 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 12 months to complete. Terms are Fall, Spring, and Summer followed by the final Fall internship/capstone course.

## WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR APPLICATION/ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM?

The WHCL Paramedic Program begins accepting applications in the early March 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)
- Minimum 2.0 GPA** (verified by transcripts)
- Current EMT certification with the State of California** (with no current disciplinary action) (validated by copy of current local or state EMT card, 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 preliminary acceptance to the program:**

1. You will need to submit documentation related to immunizations, criminal background checks, and any prerequisites that were in progress during the application period. ALL vaccinations are required to receive full acceptance to the program.

**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.
- **COVID** – Documentation of initial and any boosters.
- **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 third week of August. With an mandatory orientation usually in June.

## WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR GRADUATION?

1. Graduation from the core paramedic course (40.5 credits), which allows you to sit for the NREMT Exam, requires successfully passing EMT 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 with a 77% or better.
2. Completion of the AS degree will vary with the student's ability to complete General Education (GE) requirements.
3. To Exit the core paramedic program, students must pass EMT 15, the Capstone Field Internship. In order to do so, all of the following must be completed.
  - a. Complete a minimum of 480 hours of internship
  - b. Receive endorsement of field preceptor and faculty
  - c. Receive endorsement of Program Director
  - d. Receive endorsement of Medical Director
  - e. Pass all quizzes/exams with a minimum score of 77%
  - f. Pass Comprehensive Adaptive Final via EMS Testing with one of the following:
    - 5 scored as "GOOD"
    - 3 scored as "GOOD" and 1 "EXCEPTIONAL"
    - 2 scored as "EXCEPTIONAL"
    - Of these attempts, one attempt must be passed in the presence of Instructor.
4. Once all this has been met, the program will consider the student as having completed the program. Their status with the NREMT will be immediately changed to "Successfully Completed Course", thereby allowing them to apply for the NREMT Exam.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

***What does it take to be a Paramedic? What characteristics and abilities matter most?***

[Technical Standards](#)

[Functional Abilities](#)

***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 Spring immediately after first semester. Students are allowed to bid their clinical days. Order of bid is determined by class rank in didactic. Clinical rotations are currently held at: Kaweah Delta, Adventist Medical Center – Hanford, and Valley Children’s Hospital

Field internships are full time commitments and based on preceptor schedules and other demands. These occur beginning in Summer semester immediately following Spring Didactic/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, Pistoresi 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 12 months.

***What is the cost and is there financial aid?***

It costs approximately \$5,200 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 \$3,665; 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.westhillscollege.com/lemoore/admissions/financial-aid> or call 559-925-2310



**WEST HILLS COLLEGE LEMOORE  
PARAMEDIC PROGRAM  
FEE SCHEDULE 2023**

|                              |  |          |
|------------------------------|--|----------|
| <b>FIRST SEMESTER (FALL)</b> | First Semester, 13.5 Units @ \$46.00 per unit (August – December)  | \$621.00 |
|                              | Health Examination and Related Immunizations and Titters (approx. potential cost for non-sponsored students) | \$400.00 |
|                              | Student Uniforms and Accessories   | \$300.00 |
|                              | Fingerprinting and Background Check  | \$225.00 |
|                              | Books and Electronic Resources (cost includes: main book, Platinum Education, LC Ready accounts)             | \$600.00 |

**FIRST SEMESTER TOTAL: \$2,446.00**

|                                 |  |          |
|---------------------------------|--|----------|
| <b>SECOND SEMESTER (SPRING)</b> | Second Semester, 17.5 Units @ \$46.00 per unit (spring, January – May) | \$805.00 |
|---------------------------------|--|----------|

**SECOND SEMESTER TOTAL: \$805.00**

|                                |   |           |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------|
| <b>THIRD SEMESTER (SUMMER)</b> | Third Semester, 9 Units @ \$46.00 per unit (summer, May – August)   | \$414.00  |
| <b>HH</b>                      | Internship Fees (Typically waived for sponsored students. Non- sponsored students will negotiate payment schedule with interning company and should be prepared to pay up to \$1,500 for internship.) | \$1500.00 |

**THIRD SEMESTER TOTAL: \$414.00**

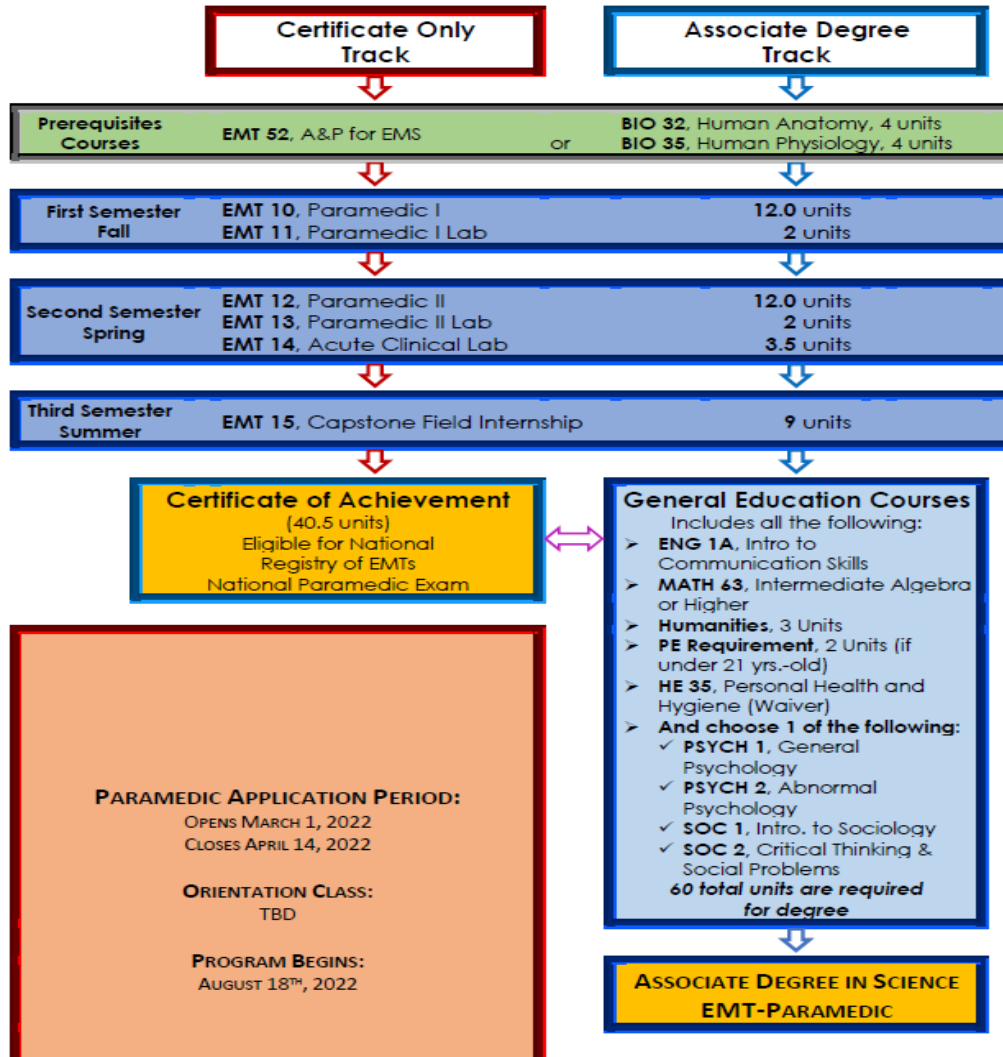
**TOTAL PROGRAM COST WITHOUT INTERNSHIP FEES: \$3,665.00**

## EMS PROGRAMS

***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:

## PARAMEDIC PROGRAM CORE PATHWAYS



### *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.

***Does the program offer Advanced Placement for higher level providers?***

Currently, our program does not offer Advanced Placement for Nurses, PA/FNP's, or Doctor's that might choose to become paramedics. Any choosing to attend the program must do so in its entirety.

***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](http://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](http://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](http://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, 2020: 78.9%
- Retention rate (percentage of students graduating from the program), 2020: 92%
- Positive placement (percentage of students who are employed as paramedics), 2020: 95.7 %

For further questions, please contact:

**Lester Costa**

*Paramedic Program Director*

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559.925.3143

Or call

Health Careers Office

559.925.3490