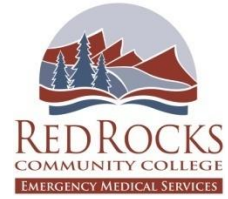




RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
PARAMEDIC PREPARATION PROGRAM  
INFORMATION LETTER



Thank you for your interest in the Paramedic Preparation Program at Red Rocks Community College.

The Paramedic Preparation Program is combined with the AEMT curriculum, and is designed to prepare graduates to earn an Associates of General Studies, and enter a Paramedic course of study. Additionally, upon completion of a Paramedic course of study an Associate Degree in Paramedicine may be an option for individuals desiring an opportunity for career enhancement. 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.

Most students in the Paramedic Preparation Program are employed in the EMS field at the time of their acceptance into the program, or gain employment while enrolled in the program. Employment while enrolled in the program is encouraged as it enhances the educational process and allows immediate application of the knowledge and skills gained in the program. 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
- 8 semester hours of 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

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

- English – 3 hours
- Math – 3 hours
- Arts, Humanities, or Social Sciences – 3 hours
- Anatomy and Physiology – 8 hours
- Paramedic classes – 45 hours

Sub – Total – 62 hours

- However, the biology discipline group of the Colorado Community College system has made General Biology a pre-requisite to Anatomy and Physiology which adds an additional 5 hours of credits.

Sub – Total – 67 hours

- Additionally pre-requisites for Paramedic programs include an IV therapy class (2 hours) and an EKG interpretation class (2 hours)

Total – 71 hours

We have developed the Paramedic Preparation program at RRCC 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 applications 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 both HealthONE EMS and St. Anthony's Hospital.

The program begins each semester and applications are accepted on a continual basis. Interviews are conducted in late November or early December for a spring start, and mid-April for a fall start.

Below are two suggested course sequences, one which includes earning an Associate's Degree, and one that does not.

### Paramedic Preparation Program Course Sequence (No Associate's Degree)

#### Spring Start

#### Fall Start

<b>Spring Semester I – 14 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 129 – AEMT Pharmacology</li> <li>○ EMS 130 – EMT Intravenous Therapy</li> <li>○ EMS 131 – AEMT Fundamentals</li> <li>○ EMS 135 – AEMT Trauma Emergencies</li> <li>○ EMS 138 – Basic EMS Simulation Lab</li> <li>○ BIO 106 – Basic Anatomy and Physiology</li> </ul>	<b>Fall Semester I – 14 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 129 – AEMT Pharmacology</li> <li>○ EMS 130 – EMT Intravenous Therapy</li> <li>○ EMS 131 – AEMT Fundamentals</li> <li>○ EMS 135 – AEMT Trauma Emergencies</li> <li>○ EMS 138 – Basic EMS Simulation Lab</li> <li>○ BIO 106 – Basic Anatomy and Physiology</li> </ul>
<b>Summer Semester I – 3 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 180 – EMS Internship I</li> </ul>	<b>Spring Semester I – 12 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 127 – AEMT Special Considerations</li> <li>○ EMT 133 – AEMT Medical Emergencies</li> <li>○ EMS 140 – Advanced EMS Simulations</li> <li>○ EMS 180 – EMS Internship I</li> <li>○ HPR 190 – Basic EKG Interpretation</li> </ul>
<b>Fall Semester I – 9 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 127 – AEMT Special Considerations</li> <li>○ EMT 133 – AEMT Medical Emergencies</li> <li>○ EMS 140 – Advanced EMS Simulations</li> <li>○ HPR 190 – Basic EKG Interpretation</li> </ul>	<b>Summer Semester I – 2 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 171 – AEMT Clinical</li> </ul>
<b>Spring Semester II – 8 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 181 – EMS Internship II</li> <li>○ EMS 182 – EMS Internship III</li> <li>○ EMS 171 – AEMT Clinical</li> </ul>	<b>Fall Semester II – 6 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 181 – EMS Internship II</li> <li>○ EMS 182 – EMS Internship III</li> </ul>

## Paramedic Preparation Program Course Sequence (With Associate's Degree)

Spring Start

Fall Start

<b>Spring Semester I – 15 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 129 – AEMT Pharmacology</li> <li>○ EMS 130 – EMT Intravenous Therapy</li> <li>○ EMS 131 – AEMT Fundamentals</li> <li>○ EMS 135 – AEMT Trauma Emergencies</li> <li>○ EMS 138 – Basic EMS Simulation Lab</li> <li>○ BIO 111 – General Biology</li> </ul>	<b>Fall Semester I – 15 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 129 – AEMT Pharmacology</li> <li>○ EMS 130 – EMT Intravenous Therapy</li> <li>○ EMS 131 – AEMT Fundamentals</li> <li>○ EMS 135 – AEMT Trauma Emergencies</li> <li>○ EMS 138 – Basic EMS Simulation Lab</li> <li>○ BIO 111 – General Biology</li> </ul>
<b>Summer Semester I – 6 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 180 – EMS Internship I</li> <li>○ PSY 249 – Abnormal Psychology*</li> </ul>	<b>Spring Semester I – 16 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 127 – AEMT Special Considerations</li> <li>○ EMT 133 – AEMT Medical Emergencies</li> <li>○ EMS 140 – Advanced EMS Simulations</li> <li>○ EMS 180 – EMS Internship I</li> <li>○ HPR 190 – Basic EKG Interpretation</li> <li>○ BIO 201 – Anatomy and Physiology I</li> </ul>
<b>Fall Semester I – 16 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 127 – AEMT Special Considerations</li> <li>○ EMT 133 – AEMT Medical Emergencies</li> <li>○ EMS 140 – Advanced EMS Simulations</li> <li>○ HPR 190 – Basic EKG Interpretation</li> <li>○ BIO 201 – Anatomy and Physiology I</li> <li>○ ENG 121 – English Composition</li> </ul>	<b>Summer Semester I – 8 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Paramedic Prep Courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 171 – AEMT Clinical</li> <li>○ PSY 249 – Abnormal Psychology*</li> <li>○ ENG 121 – English Composition*</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Spring Semester II – 16 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Paramedic Prep Courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 181 – EMS Internship II</li> <li>○ EMS 171 – AEMT Clinical</li> <li>○ BIO 202 – Anatomy and Physiology II</li> <li>○ MAT 121 – College Algebra</li> <li>○ PSY 235 – Human Growth and Development</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Fall Semester II – 14 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Paramedic Prep Courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 181 – EMS Internship II</li> <li>○ BIO 202 – Anatomy and Physiology II</li> <li>○ MAT 121 – College Algebra</li> <li>○ PSY 235 – Human Growth and Development</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Summer Semester II – 7 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 182 – EMS Internship III **</li> <li>○ 4 hours of gen ed, 100 level or higher, including at least 3 hours of applicable arts and humanities***</li> </ul>	<b>Spring Semester II – 7 hours</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Paramedic Prep Courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMS 182 – EMS Internship III**</li> <li>○ 4 hours of gen ed, 100 level or higher, including at least 3 hours of applicable arts and humanities***</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

\*These may be moved to the last semester to maintain full time status and lighten the summer load

\*\* EMS 182 can be taken in conjunction with EMS 181. Instructor permission is required

\*\*\* These may be taken earlier in the program so you can be finished in time for a June or December start in a Paramedic program as applicable.

Both of these sequences illustrate the method by which you will earn all your pre-requisites for a Paramedic program and requirements for an Associate's degree, begin your Advanced Life Support education, gain 500 hours of internship time in the back of an ambulance, 125 hours in various departments of the hospital, 120 hours of simulation time, and create a professional portfolio detailing all your patient contacts, what you learned from each one, and how the knowledge gained applies to your future as a Paramedic. This portfolio can 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.

I highly recommend including the general education courses required to obtain an AGS degree. Not only will this make you a full time student at RRCC and therefore eligible for various financial aid programs, but it will also increase your competitiveness when applying for a Paramedic program, and is 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. Finally, if the Paramedic program you choose to attend offers a degree in Paramedicine these credits can be transferred to that institution and used to earn that degree as well.

There are several advantages to this program. First 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 during internship rotations, 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.

Although minor, there are a few things that must be considered before entering this course of study. There are additional college classes within this program which does equate to a greater overall educational expense. As mentioned above the Paramedic degree can be obtained with 71 semester hours of credit. The entire preparation program adds additional semester hours of which 15 hours are associated with internship and simulation classes, and 11 are associated with gaining the Advanced EMT certification (which provides the strong academic background needed to be successful in a Paramedic course of study).

Because each Paramedic program makes their own program decisions, how they view these hours may vary. In a best case scenario the program would accept your Advanced EMT education as part of your Paramedic education classes. This would reduce the amount of time you would spend in your Paramedic classes and the overall amount semester hours you attend. Programs that are most likely to do this are those strongly affiliated with a Community College. In a worst case scenario the view of the Paramedic program may be that the hours gained in a preparatory program are just that, preparatory, and the program may still require the full 45 hours of Paramedic courses.

Unfortunately it cannot be predicted as to how each program will view the hours gained in the preparatory program; however these potentials need to be made clear. As a result it is strongly recommended that you contact the Paramedic program you are interested in attending to determine how they may, or may not, incorporate these hours. You might also consider asking if they are affiliated with a college, if their students are considered to be enrolled in a collegiate based program, their student's eligibility for financial aid, and other such questions. This should assist you in making the best educational decisions to reach your career goal of becoming a Paramedic.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Vroman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Vroman, M.Ed., BS NREMT-P  
Associate Professor of EMS  
EMS Program Director  
Red Rocks Community College  
303-914-6552  
Robert.Vroman@rrcc.edu