

College of Emergency Services (CES) – Frequently Asked Questions

This document provides answers to common questions about the CES Paramedic Program. It includes information on program structure, requirements, application procedures, financial aid, and career opportunities.

What courses are required in the CES Paramedic education program?

The CES Paramedic Program consists of eight main components:

- Anatomy and Physiology: BIO 135 (Certificate track) or BIO 235 and 236 (Degree track)
- HS 271 and 273 Didactic/Classroom Instruction: Student-centered learning
- HS 272 and 274 Laboratory Sessions: Skill practice, patient care scenarios, and simulations
- HS 275 Clinical Experience: Patient assessment, history taking, and exposure to various conditions and treatments
- HS 276 and 277 Field Experience and Capstone Field Internship: Team leadership and clinical competency development

I have already completed an Anatomy and Physiology course. Do I need to retake it for the Paramedic Certificate Program?

If an equivalent BIO 135 has been completed, please submit the transcript for review.

Are Anatomy and Physiology courses part of the Associate of Applied Science Paramedic Degree?

Yes. BIO 235 and BIO 236 are required for the Degree.

Can I transfer previously completed Anatomy and Physiology credits to the Associate Degree Program?

Yes, if the following conditions are met:

- Eight semester credits at the 200-level or higher
- Coursework equivalent to BIO 235 and BIO 236
- Courses completed within the last five years
- Credits awarded by a USDE or CHEA-recognized college
- Official transcript required

If approved, students begin the program at didactic.

Can I enroll in the Associate Degree Program if I have not completed the required general education credits?

It is recommended to complete all general education courses prior to starting the Associate Degree Program. If you are currently enrolled in general education courses, all coursework must be completed by the end of the Clinical and/or Field phase of the program. It is advised that students have no more than (2) general education courses remaining prior to enrollment.

What additional courses are required for the associate degree?

- 6.5 semester credits: Emergency Medical Technician
- 6 semester credits: English (100-level or higher)
- 3 semester credits: Mathematics (100-level or higher)
- 3 semester credits: Anthropology, Sociology, or Psychology (100-level or higher)

Can I use borrowed or used textbooks?

No. All textbooks must be purchased new, as they include required access codes. You will receive a list of required textbooks upon enrollment.

What equipment is required?

Required Equipment: to be supplied by the student.

- Safety glasses
- Stethoscope
- Penlight
- Pen
- Notepad
- Watch
- Laptop or smart device with a camera
- Reflective Safety Vest

How do I apply?

Visit <https://collegeofems.com> and follow the provided instructions.

Is entrance testing required?

Yes. Applicants must complete an entrance exam and interview at the CES campus.

Does CES accept College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) credit?

CLEP credits may be accepted for general education courses equivalent to those required for the AAS degree.

Is a payment plan, financial aid or veteran financial benefits available?

CES does not offer federal financial aid and is not approved for VA education benefits. Please contact the Business Office for information, (888) 609-6284.

Do I need current NREMT certification to enroll in the Paramedic Program?

No. Applicants must hold a current Oregon EMT, EMT-I, or AEMT license.

What are the prerequisites for the Program?

Refer to the CES Catalog for detailed information: <https://collegeofems.com>

Prerequisites:

- At least 18 years of age
- Possess a high school diploma, official transcripts, or equivalency

- A College of Emergency Services anatomy & physiology course or an approved anatomy & physiology course within the last five years
- American Heart Association Healthcare Provider BLS card
- Applicants must hold Oregon EMT or AEMT certification throughout the duration of the Paramedic program
- Completed application packet
- Valid email address: students will be required to correspond via email and will be notified via email of acceptance.
- Proof of personal healthcare coverage
- Background check, including a negative drug screen, is required prior to admission. (A drug screen result of *dilute* requires retesting within 7 days)
- Immunization requirements: proof of immunity or vaccination:
 - Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR): two shot series or positive titer
 - Tetanus/diphtheria: Tdap: within the last ten years
 - Hepatitis B: three shot series or positive titer
 - Chicken pox (varicella): two shot series or positive titer
 - Meningitis: documented shot as a teen or adult
 - Influenza vaccination: during flu season prior to beginning clinical rotations (for the clinical/field phases)
- TB testing is required prior to attending clinical or field internship rotations. Testing options include:
 - TB/PPD (skin) test, a two-step process
 - QuantiFERON Gold (blood) test
 - If you test positive for tuberculosis, you must present a negative chest x-ray
 - Requirements for timing and repeat testing vary by clinical site and information is provided by the Clinical Coordinator.

What is the schedule for the Paramedic Program?

- HS 271-272 and 273-274 Didactic and Laboratory: Two 8-hour days per week (16 hours/week), completed in 28 weeks
- BIO 135 (Certificate): Two 8-hour days per week (16 hours/week Completed in 3 weeks
- BIO 235 and 236 (Degree): Two 8-hour days per week (16 hours/week completed in 12 weeks
- HS 275 Clinical Experience: 24 hours/week, completed in 13 weeks
- HS 276 and 277 Field Experience and Capstone Field Internship: 36 hours/week, completed in 15 weeks

Is it feasible to work full time during the program?

Full-time employment during clinical and internship phases is not recommended.

Can I take time off during the Program?

No. The Paramedic Program is continuous and requires uninterrupted attendance.

Can I attend clinical and field internship sites near where I live?

CES staff will discuss preferred locations and schedules. Placement is limited to contracted sites, and students cannot refuse or delay the start of clinical and field assignments.

Can I complete my field internship at my workplace?

If your EMS agency has a current contract with CES, placement may be considered. Your preceptor must not be a friend, relative, or current supervisor to ensure unbiased evaluation.

What career opportunities are available after completing the program?

Graduates can pursue careers in EMS, healthcare, fire & rescue, and related fields.

Employment opportunities are available at:

- <https://careers.gmr.net/gmr/>
- <https://www.oregon.gov/jobs/pages/index.aspx>

What is the typical starting salary for a paramedic?

Refer to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for median salary information:

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/ems-and-paramedics.htm>

How do I obtain licensure or certification as a Paramedic?

1. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to take the National Registry of EMT (NREMT) Paramedic exam. NREMT certification is required in most states, including Oregon and Washington. More information: <https://www.nremt.org/rwd/public/document/paramedic>
2. Licensing in the state of Oregon
 - a. After successfully completing the paramedic program, apply online at the Oregon Health Authority website. More information: [Oregon Health Authority : EMS Provider Licensing : Emergency Medical Services Program : State of Oregon](#)
3. Licensing in the state of Washington
 - a. After successfully completing the paramedic program, apply online at the Washington Health Authority website. More information: [EMS Apply for a Certification | Washington State Department of Health](#)