

Emergency Medical Services (425)

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

About Our Program

This program is designed for students interested in pre-hospital health care, including local ambulance personnel and firefighters requiring additional EMS training. The program also seeks to meet emerging needs in our region for emergency medical technicians and to augment required paramedic training required by local fire districts. Upon successful completion of the AAS in EMS, graduates will be well prepared to take certification state licensure exams in this health care specialty.

Program Outcomes

- Students will apply basic paramedic skills
- Students will demonstrate basic paramedic clinical decision-making skills
- Students will interpret clinical application of theory and skills
- Students will link knowledge of patient care across the life span with the clinical decision-making practices of a paramedic
- Students will display advanced knowledge of Pathophysiology and body systems
- Students will interpret protocol and best practice to determine safe patient care
- Students will distinguish between accident/injury and neglect/ abuse and appropriately document and report the nature of all patient care through an independent, objective written voice.

Nature of Work and Employment

In any emergency, EMTs and paramedics are typically dispatched by a 911 operator to a scene, where they often work with police and firefighters. Once they arrive, EMTs and paramedics assess the nature of the patient's condition while trying to determine whether the patient has any preexisting medical condition(s). Following medical protocols and guidelines, they provide appropriate emergency care and, when necessary, transport the patient. Some paramedics are trained to treat patients with minor injuries on the scene of an accident or they may treat them at their home without transporting them to a medical facility. Emergency treatment is carried out under the medical direction of physicians.

Special Considerations

Students entering the health care professions (i.e. nursing, medical assistant, emergency medical services) must have a positive attitude about the importance of the work that they are being prepared to do. In part, a professional attitude involves personal integrity, the use of positive communication techniques, flexibility in regards to clinical assignments, and taking on a leadership role when necessary.

Physical Demands

The physical demands described below are representative of those that must be met by the paramedic or student paramedic to successfully perform the essential functions of both the job requirements of a paramedic and the required clinical experiences of a student paramedic. While performing the duties of the paramedic program/job, the student paramedic is regularly required to stand; walk; use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools or controls; talk; and hear. The student paramedic is frequently required to sit, reach with hands and arms, stoop, kneel, crouch, and/or crawl. The student paramedic must regularly move and/or lift up to 100 pounds or more.

Program Contacts

Call Highland at 815-235-6121 for the following program contacts:

- Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, 815-599-3688
- Richard Robinson, EMS System Coordinator, Swedish American Health System, 815-489-6081
- Brian Murphy, EMS Educator II, Swedish American Health System, 815-489-6084
- Beth Groshans, Student Advisor, 815-599-3483

To be considered for the Program, Students must have:

1. A GED certificate or high school diploma and an official, final high school transcript must be on file in the HCC Admissions Office.
2. The student's Grade Point Average (GPA) must be 2.0 overall. The EMT-B course must be completed with a "C" or better prior to admission. Course may be in progress at time of application. A current EMT-B certificate must be on file in the Nursing/Allied Health Department prior to the start of the core curriculum.
3. HCC placement test results indicating that the applicant does not need any reading development course, does not need any math course below MATH 158, and does not need any English communication course below ENGL 121. Successful completion of appropriate courses will satisfy any deficiencies identified by placement tests.
4. Official transcripts from all colleges attended must be submitted to the Admissions Department and an unofficial copy to the Nursing/Allied Health Department.
5. Complete program entrance exam.
6. Submit application & other admission requirements to the Coordinator of Nursing & Allied Health by June 1.

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Admission Requirements

The admission process is designed to admit students who are most likely to be successful in the academically challenging paramedic curriculum and to do so in an impartial manner. The process includes prerequisite requirements and an admission procedure. It is strongly recommended that all students see their student advisor to develop a personal academic plan for completing prerequisite course requirements.

1. A Request for Admittance into the Paramedic Program must be received by the deadline by the Nursing/Allied Health Coordinator requesting to be considered for admission to the paramedic program.
2. Submission of three appropriate letters of recommendation.
3. Successfully completed prerequisite course and a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.
4. When the student file is complete the selection committee will make the decision regarding admission. The applicant will be notified of the committee's decision by U.S. Mail. Incomplete folders will not be reviewed.
 - Fall semester deadline: June 1
5. All individuals are welcome to apply for the Highland Community College Paramedic Program, but we accept all in-district students who qualify and meet our criteria first. If there is space available, out-of-district applicants will be reviewed for admittance into the program. In district is defined as "students who meet the residency requirements and/or work 20 or more hours a week in our district."

Program Prerequisite Courses

6 Credit Hours

NURS	196	Emergency Medical Training	6
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Program Support Courses

17 Credit Hours

BIOL	120	Foundations of Anatomy and Physiology	5
ITHC	101	Medical Terminology I	1
ITHC	102	Medical Terminology II	1
ITHC	103	Medical Terminology III	1
PSY	161	Introduction to Psychology	3
SPCH	191	Fundamentals of Speech Communication	3
ENGL	121	Rhetoric & Composition	
	-or-		
COMM	101	Technical Communications	
	-or-		3
BUSN	141	Business Communications	

Core Curriculum

43 Credit Hours

NURS	112	Paramedic I	11
NURS	113	Paramedic II	11
NURS	114	Paramedic III	8
NURS	115	Paramedic IV	11
NURS	116	Paramedic Clinical	2

Total Credit Hours:

66

* Course has a prerequisite. See course description.

Previously Licensed Paramedics

Currently licensed paramedics may be eligible to receive prior learning credit for the core paramedic courses. The following minimum criteria must be met in order to be eligible for prior learning credit:

1. A current Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) or National Registry Paramedic License.
2. Letter of good standing from the local EMS system coordinator.

The student must also meet the minimum graduation requirements to earn the Associate Degree:

1. Overall cumulative grade-point average of 2.00 or higher
2. Have enrolled at Highland for the last 15 approved semester hours applied to a degree preceding graduation or earning at least 30 approved semester hours of credit at Highland

The student must meet with the Dean of Nursing and Allied Health to review their individual situation and develop a course plan to meet graduation requirements. An administrative fee and/or per credit hour tuition fee may apply.