

## **PURPOSE AND GOALS**

*The program is designed to prepare students for employment as paramedics working for various EMS agencies, such as ambulance services, fire agencies, fixed & rotary wing operations, and hospital emergency departments. Students who complete the program in a satisfactory manner are qualified to apply for state paramedic licensure.*

## **CURRICULUM**

The curriculum exceeds state law requirements by providing instruction based upon the United States Department of Transportation Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic National Standard Curriculum, Title 22, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals, Basic Trauma Life Support, Prehospital Trauma Life Support, National Registry of EMTs paramedic examinations, studies of current nation-wide protocols and expanded practices.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The paramedic program is a rigorous 12 to 15-month sequence of instruction, with entry in the fall quarter only. The course work is intense with very detailed and difficult information covered over a brief period of time. It is highly recommended that students arrange their finances, work schedules and personal commitments with careful consideration. The course is demanding and time consuming, requiring a great deal of sacrifice. The ability to multitask, work well in chaos, deal with stress, communicate well, perform tasks quickly, and work well with others is paramount to success. This course is designed for students who have worked as EMTs for at least 6 months at full-time capacity. The first three quarters consist of didactic (classroom) instruction. The final two quarters are the Clinicals (hospital experience), and the Ambulance Field Internship. Students are required to work part-time as EMTs and enroll in CO-OP Work Experience during the first and third quarters of didactic. Students may opt to enroll in Clinicals during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of didactic. This will exempt them from CO-OP Work Experience for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter only, and will, additionally, shorten the overall time spent for program completion. During the second quarter of didactic students will attend 32 hours of specialty clinical rotations, e.g., respiratory therapy, OR, ICU, etc. Students are not required to enroll in CO-OP Work Experience during this quarter. Students should be prepared to alter their work schedules to attend didactic two days per week and specialty rotations for at least one day per week

until all 32 hours of specialty rotations are completed. The paramedic program curriculum is intense and demanding. Students study for at least 2 hours every day of the week and most students find it very difficult to be successful if they work full-time while attending the program. Students are advised to consider their work schedules carefully and plan their finances accordingly before committing to the program. We suggest that students work no more than 2 – 3 days per week while enrolled in the program.

1. Didactic (fall, winter, spring quarters). This phase of the program includes 544 hours of lecture, skill laboratories and simulated 911-call practice. Students meet for 1-eight hour day twice a week for nine consecutive months. Those accepted to the program will be notified by mail as to which days of the week the class will be held and meeting days will remain the same throughout didactic. Foothill College Paramedic Program is unique in many aspects. Stanford physicians lecture during the didactic portion and paramedic students visit the Stanford campus to attend procedural and gross anatomy cadaver laboratories. Paramedic laboratory skills and simulations are specific and of high quality.

2. Clinicals (winter, spring, or summer quarter). There are two types of clinical rotations: specialty and emergency room. All students will attend 32 hours of specialty rotations during the winter quarter. Emergency room clinical rotations can be taken during the didactic (spring quarter) to accelerate program completion or student can enroll during the summer. The student spends a minimum of 144 hours in an approved emergency department. The hospital time gives the student an opportunity to take the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom and apply them to live patients in a controlled setting. The clinical assignment will include weekends, nights, 8, 10, 12 hour or variable shifts. Student must attend emergency room clinicals for at least 16 hours per week and must complete the experience within the 12-week quarter. For this section of the course, students are advised to pay close attention to their work schedule & finances and plan accordingly, especially if they intend to enroll in clinicals during the didactic phase.

3. Field Internship (summer or fall quarter). During the final phase of the program the student will spend 480 to 720 hours on assignment with an approved 911-ambulance service provider agency under the supervision of a paramedic preceptor. The internship has the reputation of being the most challenging portion of paramedic education. Students are required to take the theoretical knowledge from the classroom, the laboratory simulations on

manikins, the hospital-clinical experience on live patients and combine these components to function as an intern responding on an ambulance to ill and injured patients while being instructed and evaluated by a field preceptor. The student has the daunting task of initiating, providing, and directing entire patient care while in a sometimes chaotic, uncontrolled environment. The field assignment will include weekends, holidays, nights, and variable hours. There is a critical demand for limited internship resources in northern California and delays may be possible. When the student is assigned to the Internship she/he must attend on a full-time basis - matching the preceptor's work schedule exactly. Students may be placed in Internship immediately or with little wait if they opt to attend in counties that are outside the immediate Bay Area, such as Stanislaus, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, and Shasta. For this section of the course, students are advised to pay the greatest attention to detail in planning their work schedule and finances accordingly.

### **CREDIT HOURS**

Successful completion of the program earns 60.5 quarter units.

### **DEGREE PROGRAM**

There is a course of study available through Foothill College which can lead to an AS degree when taken in addition to the paramedic program. Call (650) 949-6959 for more information.

### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

1. High school diploma or GED.
2. Possess a current EMT-IA certificate or EMT-1 with transport module or equivalent.
3. Current BLS (CPR) certification.
4. MATH 101 or equivalent college level course or a score of 25 or higher on the elementary algebra proficiency test. (Contact testing office 650/949-6958.)
5. EMS capacity EMT experience: 6 months full-time or equivalent. (960 hours)
6. Eligible for ESL 25 or ENGL 110. (Contact testing office 650/949-6958.)
7. Meet technical standards.

### **STARTING DATES**

This course is offered once each academic year, beginning in September.

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

#### **Registration Fees:**

Basic Fee \$ 16.00 - \$27.50

#### **Enrollment Fees:**

\$17.00 per unit

#### **Non-resident Tuition:**

Out-of-state \$99.00 per unit

Foreign citizen \$116.00

International Student Health Insurance  
\$240.00

Additional program expenses are approximated as follows and are subject to change without prior notification:

Allied Health Insurance \$62.00

Student Material Fees \$170.00

Books \$350.00

Certification Fees \$3,400.00

Miscellaneous Fees \$1,000.00

### **STUDENT LOANS**

Foothill College offers student loans through its Financial Aid Office (650) 949-7245 or (650) 949-6987. Loan applications are not processed until a student is officially enrolled in the college, thus money is not available until several weeks after class begins. Students are responsible for the fees that are due by the second week of class.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

To apply, complete the enclosed application. All required documentation and the completed application must be received by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005 at

Foothill College Middlefield Campus  
Paramedic Program  
Attn: Charlie McKellar  
4000 Middlefield Road, Suite I  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
650-949-6955

Students who have been accepted to the program will be notified by mail prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Academic Year 2005-2006