



AAS in Paramedic Science

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Thank you for your interest in the BCC Paramedic Science Program. At Bergen we have two goals in our program, high pass rates to the National/state licensing examination and high employment opportunities for our graduates. Our program began in 2014 and we are pleased to report an excellent track record in graduate success. Our program has yielded 100% achievement on both the testing and employment goals!

We attribute our success to the regimented structure of the program. The high demands we place on students, conditions them for success in this demanding profession. The leadership, mentoring by graduates and faculty, and state of the art simulation learning that is available for our students, sets our program apart and places our students on the path of success.

The information contained in this document is to help answer frequently asked questions. Please email if you require more information or personalized academic counseling.

Profession overview:

The Emergency Medical System (EMS) is a tiered system established to bring lifesaving treatments to patients outside of the hospital. New Jersey's EMS system was established in the mid-1950s and got its origin from a need of transporting the critically ill to definitive care. Since that time, EMS has evolved into a fully functioning extension of the emergency department providing lifesaving treatments at the roadside, bedside or anywhere necessary outside of the hospital. The current New Jersey EMS model consists of three levels: EMR – Emergency Medical Responder (police officers and firefighters), EMT – Emergency Medical Technician (providers from local towns or private companies), and Paramedic (all paramedics in NJ are hospital employees).

EMT's provide basic life support to patients in the pre-hospital environment. This would include CPR, automatic defibrillation, oxygen therapy, splinting, emergency childbirth and patient assisted medication administration. Paramedics provide advanced life support to patients in the pre-hospital environment. Paramedics are physician extenders that bring the Emergency Department to the field and provide the equivalent treatments that are offered in the first 20 minutes of care at an emergency department. Their skills and scope of practice include clinical assessment techniques, medication therapies, invasive skills and lifesaving skills. Paramedics and EMTs work cohesively to transport the critically ill from the pre-hospital environment to the most appropriate medical facility while stabilizing their condition during transport and transfer.

Paramedic Characteristics

A Paramedic is a person who must not only remain calm while working in difficult and stressful circumstances, but must be capable of staying focused while assuming the leadership role inherent in carrying out the functions of the position. Good judgment along with advanced knowledge and technical skills are essential in directing other team members to assist as needed. The Paramedic must be able to provide top quality care, concurrently handle high levels of stress, and be willing to take on the personal responsibility required of the position. The Paramedic must be able to deal with adverse and often

dangerous situations which include responding to calls in districts known to have high crime and mortality rates. Self-confidence is critical, as is a desire to work with people, solid emotional stability, a tolerance for high stress, and the ability to meet the physical, intellectual, and cognitive requirements demanded by this position. Aptitudes required for work of this nature are good physical stamina, endurance, and body condition that would not be adversely affected by frequently having to walk, stand, lift, carry, and balance at times, in excess of 125 pounds. Motor coordination is necessary because over uneven terrain, the patients, the Paramedics, and other workers wellbeing must not be jeopardized.

BCC Paramedic Program

The BCC Paramedic Science Program began in the fall 2014 semester at the Meadowlands campus located in Lyndhurst New Jersey. The curriculum follows a workforce development model meaning all general education courses are completed in year one and then paramedic core courses are completed in year two. Students will be accepted after all the required general education courses have been completed. The paramedic courses will be completed in 12 months allowing the student to obtain licensure within a compressed timeframe. This schedule will require the student to attend the program 4 days per week. There will be some flexibility with clinical assignments but lab/lecture days will follow a set schedule during the 12 months. All students will receive an AAS in Paramedic Science.

Bergen Community College is committed to high quality education. The Paramedic Program will accept 24 students annually, offering a small class size with adequate faculty - student ratios. Full time and part time track offerings are available. Students will be accepted in the third semester of the curriculum sequence. Students will apply to both Bergen Community College and the Paramedic Program.

A new cohort begins every fall. This cohort will consist of those students following a part time or full time curriculum. Applications for the program are available annually on or around October 15 and must be submitted by midnight, February 1. <https://bergen.edu/academics/forms/> Be sure to choose the correct form for Paramedic Science.

Once an application is received, it is the students' responsibility to complete the application process following the directions and deadlines assigned for acceptance. The steps necessary include completing the following screenings in order: a criminal background and driver license check, completing an EMT skill audit and obtaining clearance from a physician. Acceptance decisions will be made utilizing a rubric evaluation tool and will be sent to the student by April 15th.

The curriculum is intense both in knowledge content and quantity of information. Students who are willing to put in adequate time to study in addition to attending classroom assignments should be encouraged to pursue this field of study. The program is full-time or part-time and requires additional hours outside of the classroom, lab and clinical rotations to prepare and memorize information related to the program. Beyond the academic agility, applicants must possess personal traits that will facilitate their success in this demanding profession.

Core Course Schedule

There is a strict attendance policy for the Paramedic Science Program. One absence is allowed per semester without penalty to the final grade. Lecture and Lab classes, for all students, will be offered on Monday and Thursday each week at the Lyndhurst campus. Full time students will also complete 2 days of clinical/field rotations time each week. In addition to set lab times, open lab time will be available for students. There are a few times throughout the year that students are required to attend 4 days per week on campus. For the first 6 weeks of class, starting in September, all students will attend class on-campus 4 days, Monday thru Thursday.

Admission requirements

All BCC Paramedic students must have the following:

- A current New Jersey EMT certification and BLS for the healthcare provider CPR certification.
- Completion of basic skill coursework - 26 credits of General Education courses (see required course list)
- Program Change of Curriculum Application

Once applications are received, eligible students will be invited to participate in the following screenings:

- Criminal Back Check and Driver's License check
- EMT Skills Audit
- Physical Clearance by Physician or Nurse Practitioner

Tips for Success

New Jersey EMT certification information

- If a prospective student is not an EMT – contact the Bergen County EMS Academy at 201-343-3407 to obtain EMT course information. <https://emsregistration.bergen.org/>
- If a prospective student is an out of state EMT– contact the New Jersey Department of Health – Office of Emergency Medical Services at 609-633-7777 to obtain information about becoming a New Jersey EMT <http://www.state.nj.us/health/ems/>

Completion of basic skill coursework

- Every student must complete either basic skills testing or a basic skills waiver form
 - Testing Center contact information: phone: 201-447-7202 for current hours of operation. For any other inquiries email us at testingoffice@bergen.edu. Webpage: <http://www.bergen.edu/testing>
 - Basic skills waiver form <https://bergen.edu/testing/placement-test-waiver-information/>
- Students can be exempt from basic skills for the following reasons:
 - SAT scores of Math 530 and Reading 540 exempt a student from basic skills testing
 - College level (100 level or higher) English and Math coursework has been completed with a grade of “C” or higher.

General Education Courses

- Please refer to the Paramedic Program Curriculum grid for an exact list of the required general education courses. Students are required to obtain a “C” or better to transfer courses from another college or university. Only courses completed at an accredited institution can be transferred.
- Anatomy and Physiology Coursework
 - All Anatomy and Physiology courses must be completed in the past 5 years. Even if a student has a conferred degree, the science courses must be repeated in the past 5 years.

Program Application

- Program applications will be available via the www.Bergen.edu site each year from October 15 until February 1. Applications are only accepted electronically. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. It is the sole responsibility of the student to maintain the email address submitted on the program application. Notifications to students will be done via email about required actions to be taken which will have an assigned timeframe to be completed. Only students who respond within the assigned timeframes will move forward in the process.

Criminal History Background Check (CHBC) and Driver's License Abstract

- Once initial applications are screened for eligibility, students will be notified of the process to complete a HCBC and Driver's License Abstract if eligible. This requirement cannot be replaced with another form of CHBC. Applicants must complete the CHBC following the directions outlined in the email notification.

EMT Skills Audit

- Students who meet the general education requirements and have a GPA greater than 2.5, will be invited to take an EMT skills audit. The audit will consist of a written EMT test, two simulation scenarios where applicants will be assessed on their poise, EMT assessment skills, clinical judgment and ability to correctly manage the patient case as an EMT. The case may include an adult or pediatric patient suffering from a medical and/or trauma ailment. Students will also be offered an academic counseling session with the Director and Clinical Coordinator.
- The best way a student can prepare for the skills audit is to make the most of their EMT skills every time they have a patient interaction. This begins by reviewing information from a current EMT textbook. One reference suggested is *BLS Skills Review* ISBN: 978-0-7637-4684-1 published by Jones and Bartlett.
- In addition to preparing from a textbook, students are encouraged to make the most of their EMT patient interactions (emergent and non-emergent patient experiences). *All of this information should be done with a focus of maintaining confidentiality and adhering to federal HIPAA (Health Information Privacy) laws.* On every EMT patient interaction, students should obtain the following information:
 - Understand why the patient called 9-1-1 or required a transport.
 - Evaluate the patient's medical history. What medical history is associated with why the patient needed a transport?
 - Identify clinical signs and symptoms. After the call, research the signs and symptoms with the medical history – were their signs and symptoms expected/typical or rare for the condition? What correlations can you make about their medical history, signs and symptoms and reason that they needed a transport?
 - Identify prescribed medications. After the call, research these medications to better understand their effects and which medical history diagnosis they are associated. Become familiar with prescribed medications and the medical diagnoses that they are associated.

Physical Clearance by Physician or Nurse Practitioner

- Students are required to complete a physical screening and show proof of vaccine titer status, Mantoux PPD skin test, Flu vaccine declaration, COVID-19 vaccination proof, and urine drug screen. The expense of this screening is the responsibility of the student.

Ways to Succeed

- Follow directions and adhere to assigned deadlines
 - Only applicants that submit completed documents within the assigned timeframes will be considered.
- Make the most of every patient interaction as an EMT.
 - The Paramedic Science Program builds on the foundation of EMT knowledge. Reinforcing EMT knowledge serves as a strengthening exercise and assists students with confidence.

- Seek support from family and friends
 - During this program students often are working and going to school. This leaves little time for friends and family events while attending the program. Speaking to friends and family before the program begins, allows students to gain support which reduces stress during the program.

- Prepare Financially
 - Evaluate your financial situation and make a plan for paying for school.
 - Any students seeking Federal Financial Aid or any Veterans are highly encouraged to apply for financial aid early in the process. Applying as early as the semester prior to the start of the program will provide ample time to complete the required documentation.
 - Any student seeking tuition reimbursement from their employer should discuss the program curriculum ahead of time and adhere to all policies from their employer to ensure approval and reimbursement.
 - If time allows, work extra shifts during the year or two prior to the start of the paramedic core courses and save the money. Students work availability naturally decreases while enrolled in the program and this will allow for reduced stress while in the program.
 - The NJ Volunteer Stipend is not eligible for the Paramedic Science core courses due to the registration dates associated with it and the strict attendance policies required for New Jersey State and National accreditation.

- Mentorship
 - Prospective students are encouraged to seek mentorship from an actively working paramedic or an Emergency Department Nurse, Physician or Physician Assistant. This can be established while volunteering or working as an EMT. *It is preferred that the mentor not be related to or share residence with the student.* A mentor should be accessible, friendly, and have a willingness to help support the prospective student during their education process.
 - Network with graduates and current students of the program.
 - Be proud of your decision to advance your education. Choose someone who wants to share in your excitement and is committed to assisting you to succeed in the process in becoming a paramedic.

Other information

Hospital Sponsorship

- The BCC program will not utilize hospital sponsorship. Paramedic students will be placed in clinical and field rotations by the BCC Clinical Coordinator that offer a dynamic learning environment to achieve the skills required for the rotation. The majority of clinical affiliates will be in Bergen County but students should be prepared to travel outside of the county. This travel is at the student's expense.

**Program: Health Professions – Paramedic
 Science Degree: Associate in Applied Science
 Code: AAS.HP.PAR**

Program Length: 24 months

Preadmissions: Program Admissions Exam and EMT skills screening, Active NJ

EMT License GPA for admissions eligibility: 2.50

Required General Education prerequisite courses: BIO109, BIO209, MAT-100 elective, PSY101, PSY201, SOC101, WRT101, WRT201 or WRT202.

Application Deadline: February 1

Program Admits: Fall Semester

Note: This regional program utilizes clinical education sites throughout the state of NJ. Students will be required to travel to distant sites and provide their own transportation

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS		20	RECOMMENDED SEMESTER SEQUENCE- FULL TIME		
Communication		6	First Semester		
WRT101 English Composition I		3	BIO109 Anatomy & Physiology I		4
WRT... WRT201 English Composition II or WRT202 Technical Writing		3	MAT... Mathematics Elective*		3
			PSY101 General Psychology		3
			WRT101 English Composition I		3
					13
Humanities and Social Sciences		6	Second Semester		
PSY101 General Psychology		3	BIO209 Anatomy & Physiology II		4
SOC101 Sociology		3	PSY201 Child Psychology		3
			SOC101 Sociology		3
			WRT... WRT201 English Composition II or WRT202 Technical Writing		3
					13
Mathematics, Natural Sciences, & Technology		8	Third Semester		
BIO109 Anatomy & Physiology I		4	PAR101 Principles of Paramedic Science I		4
BIO209 Anatomy & Physiology II		4	PAR102 Paramedic Patient Care Techniques I		4
			PAR103 Paramedic Diagnostic Methods I		3
			PAR104 Paramedic Clinical Concepts I		3
					14
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS		40	Winter Term		
PAR101 Principles of Paramedic Science I		4	PAR200 Paramedic Cardiac & Trauma Care		2
PAR102 Paramedic Patient Care Techniques I		4			2
PAR103 Paramedic Diagnostic Methods I		3	Fourth Semester		
PAR104 Paramedic Clinical Concepts I		3	PAR201 Principles of Paramedic Science II		4
PAR200 Paramedic Cardiac & Trauma Care		2	PAR202 Paramedic Patient Care Techniques II		4
PAR201 Principles of Paramedic Science II		4	PAR203 Paramedic Diagnostic Methods II		3
PAR202 Paramedic Patient Care Techniques II		4	PAR204 Paramedic Clinical Concepts II		3
PAR203 Paramedic Diagnostic Methods II		3			14
PAR204 Paramedic Clinical Concepts II		3	Summer Session		
PAR206 Paramedic Field Externship I		4	PAR206 Paramedic Field Externship I		4
PAR205 Paramedic Clinical Concepts III		4	PAR205 Paramedic Clinical Concepts III		4
PAR207 Paramedic Field Externship II		2	PAR207 Paramedic Field Externship II		2
					10
PROGRAM SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS		6			
MAT... Mathematics Elective*		3			
PSY201 Child Psychology		3			
TOTAL CREDITS		66			

Specific Program Notes

*Mathematics Elective: select MAT130 Contemporary Mathematics, MAT150 Statistics I, or MAT155 Finite Mathematics.

Students enrolled in this program ARE REQUIRED to successfully complete a course in basic algebra if indicated by Placement Testing.

Program: Health Professions - Paramedic Science**Degree: Associate in Applied Science****Code: AAS.HP.PAR**

Program Length: 24 months

Preadmissions: Program Admissions Exam and EMT skills screening, Active NJ

EMT License GPA for admissions eligibility: 2.50

Required General Education prerequisite courses: BIO109, BIO209, MAT-100 elective, PSY101, PSY201, SOC101. WRT101. WRT201 or WRT202.

Application Deadline: February 1

Program Admits: Fall Semester

Note; This regional program utilizes clinical education sites throughout the slate of NJ. Students will be required to travel to distant sites and provide their own transportation.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS		20	RECOMMENDED SEMESTER SEQUENCE PART-TIME		
Communication		6	First Semester		
WRT101 English Composition I		3	BIO109 Anatomy & Physiology I		4
WRT... WRT201 English Composition II or WRT202 Technical Writing		3	MAT... Mathematics Elective*		3
			PSY101 General Psychology		3
			WRT101 English Composition I		3
					13
Humanities and Social Sciences		6	Second Semester		
PSY101 General Psychology		3	BIO209 Anatomy & Physiology II		4
SOC101 Sociology		3	PSY201 Child Psychology		3
			SOC101 Sociology		3
			WRT... WRT201 English Composition II or WRT202 Technical Writing		3
					13
Mathematics, Natural Sciences, & Technology		8	Third Semester (Fall 2022)		
BIO109 Anatomy & Physiology I		4	PAR101 Principles of Paramedic Science I		4
BIO209 Anatomy & Physiology II		4	PAR102 Paramedic Patient Care Techniques I		4
			PAR103 Paramedic Diagnostic Methods I		3
					11
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS		40	Winter Term (Winter 2023)		
PAR101 Principles of Paramedic Science I		4	PAR200 Paramedic Cardiac & Trauma Care		2
PAR102 Paramedic Patient Care Techniques I		4			2
PAR103 Paramedic Diagnostic Methods I		3	Fourth Semester (Spring 2023)		
PAR104 Paramedic Clinical Concepts I		3	PAR201 Principles of Paramedic Science II		4
PAR200 Paramedic Cardiac & Trauma Care		2	PAR202 Paramedic Patient Care Techniques II		4
PAR201 Principles of Paramedic Science II		4	PAR203 Paramedic Diagnostic Methods II		3
PAR202 Paramedic Patient Care Techniques II		4			11
PAR203 Paramedic Diagnostic Methods II		3	Summer Session (Summer U 2023)		
PAR204 Paramedic Clinical Concepts II		3	PAR104 Paramedic Clinical Concepts I		3
PAR206 Paramedic Field Externship I		4	PAR 204 Paramedic Clinical Concepts II		3
PAR205 Paramedic Clinical Concepts III		4			6
PAR207 Paramedic Field Externship II		2	Fifth Semester (Fall 2023)		
			PAR206 Paramedic Field Externship I		4
					4
			Sixth Semester (Spring 2024)		
			PAR205 Paramedic Clinical Concepts III		4
			PAR207 Paramedic Field Externship II		2
					6
TOTAL CREDITS		66			

Specific Program Notes

*Mathematics Elective: select MAT130 Contemporary Mathematics, MAT150 Statistics I, or MAT155 Finite Mathematics.

Students enrolled in this program ARE REQUIRED to successfully complete a course in basic algebra if indicated by Placement Testing.