Bergen Community College
Division of Health Professions
Paramedic Science Program
Fall 2014

PAR 103-001 Paramedic Diagnostic Methods I

Meeting Times	Mondays and Thursday 1:00p - 5:00p
Location:	Meadowlands Campus P111
Instructor:	Professor McCarthy Professor Piccininni
Office Location:	P111
Phone:	201-301-1592
Office Hours:	Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30 – 11:30 and by appointment
Email Address:	jmccarthy@bergen.edu

Instructor:	Professor Piccininni
Office Location:	P111
Phone:	201-301-1590
Office Hours:	Monday and Thursday 10:30 – 12:00 and by appointment
Email Address:	jpiccininni@bergen.edu

Course Description
This course provides the student with the ability to gain paramedic skill competency for critically ill patients. Immersion in medical simulation will allow students to demonstrate the concepts and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a paramedic. Audio-visual recording will be utilized to promote patient safety. This course prepares students for clinical and field internship rotations. Lecture [1.00], Lab [4.00].

Prerequisite[s]: BIO-209, MAT Elective, PSY-201, SOC-101, [WRT-201 or WRT-202]
Co-requisite[s]: PAR-101, PAR-102, PAR-104

Paramedic Program Core Competencies:
A. Ethics and EMS Structure

A1. Exhibit a professional code of conduct with personal and professional integrity.
A1. Provide compassionate care to all populations while respecting cultural differences.
A3. Comply with all state and federal regulation/laws for an entry-level paramedic.

B. Patient Assessment and Skills

B1. Utilize a systematic assessment to determine appropriate modalities for medical and trauma patients of all ages while prioritizing interventions needed to improve patient outcomes.
B2. Demonstrate skill proficiency in all entry-level psychomotor skills, utilizing them when clinically appropriate and at the correct time to improve patient outcomes.
B3. Function as a member of the paramedic team by using effective communication and proper behavior that promotes customer service and efficient care.

C. Safety and Personal Wellness

C1. Correctly identifies potential hazards to promote a safe environment for self, co-workers, patients and bystanders.

C2. Uses critical thinking skills to properly manage and diffuse stressful environments.

C3. Identifies personal stress and utilizes stress management techniques to ensure physical and emotional health.

Student Learning Objectives:

As a result of meeting the requirements in this course, students will be able to:

Pharmacology

Integrate comprehensive knowledge of pharmacology to formulate a treatment plan intended to mitigate emergencies and improve the overall health of the patient.

Advanced Airway

Integrate complex knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology into the assessment to develop and implement a treatment plan with the goal of assuring a patent airway, adequate mechanical ventilation, and respiration for patients of all ages.

Venous Access and Medication Therapy

Integrate comprehensive knowledge of pharmacology to formulate a treatment plan intended to mitigate emergencies and improve the overall health of the patient.

Vital Signs and Monitoring Devices

Integrate scene and patient assessment findings with knowledge of epidemiology and pathophysiology to form a field impression. This includes developing a list of differential diagnoses through clinical reasoning to modify the assessment and formulate a treatment plan.

Cardiology

Integrate assessment findings with principles of epidemiology and pathophysiology to formulate a field impression and implement a comprehensive treatment/disposition plan for a patient with a medical complaint.

Chest Decompression

Integrate scene and patient assessment findings with knowledge of epidemiology and pathophysiology to form a field impression. This includes developing a list of differential diagnoses through clinical reasoning to modify the assessment and formulate a treatment plan.

Patient Assessment

Integrate scene and patient assessment findings with knowledge of epidemiology and pathophysiology to form a field impression. This includes developing a list of differential diagnoses through clinical reasoning to modify the assessment and formulate a treatment plan.

Instructional Resources
Available in the library and computer labs

Annals of Emergency Medicine
Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS)
Journal of Accident and Emergency Medicine
New England Journal of Medicine
Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Journal

Means of Assessment
In accordance with accreditation standards, students will be provided with ample feedback to allow them the ability to improve performance in cognitive, psychomotor and affective domains of learning.

Semester Skill Quizzes (10)	20%
Community Service Project	20%
Behavioral (Affective) Assessment	20%
Comprehensive Practical final	40%

Moodle Structure:
The delivery platform for this course is a hybrid format utilizing a Moodle program. Students must fully participate in both online and on campus components of the course to successfully complete the course. The Moodle structure will provide opportunities for discussion boards, email communication, class announcements, online patient cases, and completion of tests and quizzes.

Course Menu in Moodle:
- Online Syllabus
- Course Announcements
- Forums
- Assignments
- Email
- My grades

Recommended Practice
To effectively manage this course for successful completion, you should do the following:
- Read and follow the course syllabus by adhering to the assigned dates of completion
- Read the messages under "Course Announcements"
- Follow the course calendar in Moodle
- Timely complete and submit all assignments – late assignments will not be accepted!
- Use the email communication platform to communicate with other students and the instructor.
- Actively participate in class and in online discussions

Course Content
This course will offer students the ability to gain cognitive knowledge related to patient care principles. The majority of the class will require students to work individually. Occasional group assignments may be utilized. Students will obtain clinical skill knowledge and competency prior to entering a clinical rotation.

Special Features of the Course
Pass Rate:
The Paramedic Department pass rate is an 80%. Students are required to obtain a final average of an 80% in each core curriculum course. At the end of the semester, any student not achieving an 80% will be unable to continue in the program.

Final Exam Minimum Score:
In addition to the program pass rate, students are required to obtain a minimum grade of 77% on all final exams. Any student not obtaining a 77% on the final exam will be unable to continue in the program.

Squad Assignments
Students will be assigned to squads of no more than 6 students. The purpose of the squad is to promote teamwork, provide peer support and offer organization structure to the course. Students will take turns being the squad leader. The structure of squads will help instill comfort for the students prior to them being required to function in a clinical affiliate paramedic unit where teamwork and communication is paramount.

Skill Quizzes
Students will be assessed on each clinical skill and a quiz grade will be earned from the assessment. Students will earn points for each skill correctly performed. The percentage of points accrued, will correlate to a quiz grade.

In the event that a student performs any of the critical failure criteria areas outlined on a skill sheet, the student will receive zero “0” points for that skill quiz. Students will be remediated as to the reason that they did not successfully complete the skill and be required to correctly perform the skill.

All students will successfully complete the skill assessment before being allowed to enter into a clinical rotation where that skill is a learning objective.

Community Service Project:
Each student will be responsible for creating and participating in some type of uncompensated community service project. A rubric tool will be utilized for grading the Community Service Project.

Goal of project:
Improve the safety and overall wellbeing of potential EMS patients while raising awareness about the EMS system within the community.

Project Requirements:

- Participate in an activity for which the student receives **NO COMPENSATION**.
- Submit an outline summarizing your project – faculty approval must be obtained prior to starting the project.
- After the community service is completed, each student will submit a reflection paper. The paper format will follow a SWOT analysis – utilize headers for each section of the analysis – **S**trengths of the project – **W**eaknesses identified with the project – **O**pportunities for improvement in the future – **T**hings learned while completing the project.

Grading for CSP

Signed Outline	10%
Quality of SWOT Paper	50%
Storyboard	40%

Practical Exam
The practical final exam will consist of the clinical skills outlined in the semester skill booklet. Each student will earn points for each skill correctly performed. Grades will be calculated by adding all of the points earned through the final practical testing process. The percentage of points the student accrues, will correlate to a final exam grade.

In the event that a student performs any of the critical failure criteria areas outlined on a skill sheet, the student will receive zero "0" points for that skill. Students will be remediated as to the reason that they did not successfully complete the skill and be required to correctly perform the skill.

Students failing over 50% of the skills will not be retested on the same day; an alternate make-up session will be decided upon. The grade for any failed skill will remain a zero "0" even after remediation.

In addition to the program pass rate, students are required to obtain a minimum grade of 77% on all final exams. Any student not obtaining a 77% on the final exam will be unable to continue in the program.

Course Texts
Required Text:
American Heart Association. ***Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support Handbook***, April 2011, American Heart Association Incorporated (ISBN – 978-1-6166-9000-7)
Jones Bartlett ***Premier Bundle Package 2.0*** (ISBN: 9781284038316)
Jones Bartlett ***Bergen Medic Package*** (ISBN 9781284059342)

Optional Text:
Walls, Ron. Manual of Emergency Airway Management, 4th Edition, 2012, Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins. (ISBN 9781451144918)

Research, Writing and Examination Requirements
Students will be required to develop patient case studies that effectively depict a common medical emergency. Requirements will include appropriate description of signs, symptoms, patient presentation, pertinent medical history, medications and/or recent surgeries. Student will present their case to group. An affective behavior assessment will be included in the patient case study grade.

In addition to the program pass rate, students are required to obtain a minimum grade of 77% on all final exams. Any student not obtaining a 77% on the final exam will be unable to continue in the program.

Grading Scale

A	93-100
B+	89-92
B	85-88
C+	82-84
C	80-81
F	Below 80
N	Incomplete (course requirements not fulfilled)

Academic Conduct
The paramedic program faculty adheres to the policy statement governing academic conduct as outlined in the Bergen Community College catalog.

- Faculty may not post exam grades publicly due to privacy laws.
- Scholastic dishonesty including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, and collusion will not be tolerated. Any student who has demonstrated any of these behaviors will be disciplined according to the Policy and Procedure Manual of the program.

Attendance Policy
Please refer to the Paramedic Policy Manual for exact absence policy information.

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) requires that students meet a minimum number of didactic/lab, clinical and field internship hours. Therefore students are expected to attend all class sessions.

No make-up quizzes, tests or exams will be given. Any student who is absent for a quiz, test, or exam will receive a grade of “0”.

Students will be allowed one excused absence per semester for all four PAR courses. An absence is considered excused when a student notifies the professor prior to the start of class that they will be absent. Any additional absences will negatively affect the student's grade. For each unexcused absence the final grade will reduce by 1 point. For each excused absence the final grade will reduce by 0.5 point.

Tardiness will not be tolerated. In accordance with New Jersey state regulation, an attendance sheet will be available at the beginning of the class. If a student is tardy 3 times it will be calculated as an unexcused absence.

Other College, School and/or Departmental Policy Statements

The Paramedic Program is accredited by two agencies, The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and the New Jersey Department of Health and Human Service – Office of Emergency Medical Services.

The Bergen Community College Paramedic Science Program has been issued a Letter of Review by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). This letter is NOT a CAAHEP accreditation status, it is a status signifying that a program seeking initial accreditation has demonstrated sufficient compliance with the accreditation Standards through the Letter of Review Self Study Report (LSSR) and other documentation. Letter of Review is recognized by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) for eligibility to take the NREMT's Paramedic credentialing examination(s). However, it is NOT a guarantee of eventual accreditation.

To contact CoAEMSP:
8301 Lakeview Parkway Suite 111-312
Rowlett, TX 75088
214-703-8445
FAX 214-703-8992
www.coaemsp.org

The Paramedic Department Policy and Procedure Manual has been reviewed at orientation. The purpose of the manual is to clearly outline the role and responsibility of each stakeholder in the education process; the student, the patient, the faculty, the clinical affiliate and the college. Students and faculty are expected to adhere to the policies of the program.

Student and Faculty Services

Students are encouraged to seek assistance from peers and/or faculty members whenever they are having difficulties with the program curriculum. The Paramedic Science Program is structured to ensure the needs of the paramedic student will be met. There will be open skill labs and simulation sessions available to allow students to access adjunct faculty for support with any learning difficulties. Peer tutors will be utilized to facilitate further success in the program.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Students who require accommodations in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) can request these services form the Office of Specialized Services. To learn more about the services offered at Bergen Community College, visit them at www.bergen.edu/oss.

Course calendar:

Week	Day	Topic	Assignment/Events
1	Thursday	Course Orientation: Public Health; Work Force Safety & Wellness, Patient Safety	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 2 and 3
2	Monday	Orientation to Medical Simulation, Review of BLS Skills, Therapeutic Communications Techniques	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 5
	Thursday	Introduction to Pharmacology	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 10
3	Monday	Emergency Pharmacology Quiz #1	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 12
	Thursday	Medication Calculations	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 11
4	Monday	Medications and Math	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 8
	Thursday	Airway management and devices Quiz #2	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 11 and 12
5	Monday	Airway management and devices	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 15
	Thursday	Venous Access Quiz #3	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 11
6	Monday	Medication Administration	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 11
	Thursday	Venous and Medication administration	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 11
7	Monday	Differentiated Respiratory Assessment Quiz #4	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 16
	Thursday	Respiratory Simulation	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 16
8	Monday	Defibrillation/CPR	*AHA ACLS Textbook* *Core Cases*
	Thursday	Rhythm Interpretation Quiz #5	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 27
9	Monday	Rhythm Interpretation	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 17
	Thursday	Differentiated Cardiac Assessment	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 17
10	Monday	Patient Assessment Quiz #6	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 12 -15
	Thursday	Patient Assessment	*Emergency Care in the Streets*

			Chapter 13
11	Monday	Mega Code	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 40 *AHA ACLS Textbook* *Core Cases*
	Thursday	Mega Code	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 40 *AHA ACLS Textbook* *Core Cases*
12	Monday	Differentiated Medical Assessment Quiz #7	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 40
	Thursday	OFF Holiday	
13	Monday	Trauma Assessment	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 13 and 17
	Thursday	Trauma Assessment Quiz #8	*Emergency Care in the Streets* Chapter 13 and 29
14	Monday	Trauma skills Quiz #9	
	Thursday	Trauma skills Quiz #10	
15	Monday	Community Service Presentations Final Review	
	Thursday	Final Exam	

All syllabus and course calendars are subject to change.