The Central Coast Paramedic Program

Are you thinking about a career as a paramedic?
The job opportunities in this field have never been better than they are today. The future is looking even better! Whether you aspire to be a professional paramedic, nurse, firefighter, physician assistant or physician in the emergency field, the advanced training and experience you gain in paramedic school will open all kinds of doors for you. Your ability to stay calm in a crisis and use critical thinking to solve problems will be called upon from the day you begin paramedic education. You will be exposed to people in all phases of life, from birth to death. If you feel a genuine calling to help others, there is not a more satisfying career than Emergency Medicine.

The Paramedic

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics provide on-the-scene, immediate medical care to patients in emergency situations such as an automobile accident or a heart attack. They then transport the sick or injured to a medical facility. EMTs / Paramedics are typically dispatched to the scene by a 911 operator and often work with a police or fire department. All Paramedics must know how to assess an emergency scene, control bleeding, apply splints, assist with childbirth, manage airway control, administer oxygen, perform cardiac care and other advanced life support skills.

Steps to Become a Paramedic

• **Step One - Earn a high school diploma:** The steps to becoming a paramedic are relatively standard across the United States, with slight variations from state to state. In California, aspiring paramedics must have a high school diploma and a California driver's license before they can begin their training.

• **Step Two - Complete EMT-I training:** To become a paramedic in California, one must first earn their EMT-I level training. This training program includes classroom study and training in real-life situations.

• **Step Three - Work in the field:** In California, the EMT-I qualification allows future paramedics to enter the work force as an EMT gaining practical, hands-on experience in emergency medicine. This will prepare candidates for Paramedic school to enter the next level which is paramedic training.

• **Step Four - Complete Paramedic Training:** Find a Paramedic School. Some Paramedic Schools require prerequisites such as English, Math, Medical Terminology, and Human Anatomy/Physiology. Paramedic training provides more advanced knowledge in emergency medicine at the level of a Paramedic. The Paramedic is the most advanced pre-hospital level in EMS.

• **Step Five - Test the National Registry of EMT-Paramedics:** This is the final testing process that you should be ready for after going through Paramedic School.

The Average Salary for a Paramedic

The average Salary for a Paramedic Ranges from $30,000 to $45,000 a year to start with a foreseeable incline of jobs in the near future. A paramedic could only work 10 days a month and be employed by agencies such as the local Fire Departments, CHP, Lifeguard, Ski Patrol, Private Ambulance Agencies, and others. To be a Paramedic is a highly rewarding job that has a lot of opportunities in many different settings everyday you come to work and start your shift. Paramedics work indoors and out, in all types of weather. This line of work requires considerable kneeling, bending and heavy lifting. There are some risk, including back injury from lifting patients, exposure to diseases, and being placed in potentially dangerous situations. There may also be exposure to violence from drug overdose victims, mentally unstable patients, or crime scenes, etc... The work is physically strenuous that requires you to be able to deal with emotionally stressful situations including encounters involving life-or-death situations and human suffering. Candidates for an Emergency Medical Technician career should be emotionally stable and have good dexterity, agility, physical coordination, with the ability to make quick life or death decisions.
The Central Coast Paramedic Program

**Paramedic Program Prerequisites**

Applications are available at the Nursing/Allied Department at Cuesta Community College. Or email dennis_rowley@cuesta.edu for information to be sent to you via email.

The following prerequisite courses must be completed with the grade of “C” or better, or documented equivalency of the courses.

- **Biology 212 (Human biology)** *
- **English 156 (College Reading and Writing)** **
- **Math 123 (Elementary Algebra)** **
- **High School Diploma or GED**
- **EMT Work Experience Verification ***

* Or completion of higher course, such as BIO 205 (Human Anatomy) Or BIO 206 (Human Physiology)

** Completion of the English and Mathematics Test with placement into a higher English or Math course will satisfy the above requirements. Contact Cuesta Assessment Services at (805) 546-3951 to schedule a test date, if needed.

*** Applicants must submit documentation from current and/or previous employer(s) verifying either:

1. six months full-time EMT experience with an emergency medical service provider or
2. 1000 hours of part-time and/or volunteer EMT experience with an emergency medical service provider.

In lieu of the experience, an applicant may submit proof of completion of a Community College Emergency Medical Services Academy. This documentation must be on official letterhead in a sealed envelope. This is not a letter of recommendation; it is a verification of work experience.

**Additional Requirements:**

Background check, drug screening and a physical exam are a final admission criteria.

Conviction of a felony or any offense substantially related to the qualification, functions and duties of a registered Paramedic may constitute grounds for denial of licensure.

To assure that the health and safety of the public is protected and that the student is able to perform paramedic duties, a certificate of health by a physician or designee is a part of the final selection criteria.

**General Program Information:**

The Central Coast Paramedic Program is a joint program offered between Cuesta College and Allan Hancock College. The program is held in San Luis Obispo on the campus of Cuesta College.

The Central Coast Paramedic Program (CCPP) is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The successful completion of CCPP will enable graduates to take the Paramedic National Registry Licensure examination (NREMT-P) leading to licensure as a Paramedic in California.

CCPP has a history of increased success upon graduation of the program. Our NREMT-P test passing percentages are well above the National statistics. Many of our past students are currently working in the field today as outstanding NREMT Paramedics.

**Program Length:**

The Central Coast Paramedic Program is three semesters in length. The program begins every August and last about a year. After the didactic section of the course our students then enter in both the clinical and internship segment of the program throughout areas like San Luis Obispo, Fresno, Kern, and Santa Barbara counties.

**Program Requirements:**

All screenings and checks must be completed and cleared before the student can begin the Central Coast Paramedic Program. Students must be able to lift 50 pounds repetitively unaided.

Important Note: The entry requirements and application process are subject to change from year to year. Please be aware that the applications process is subject to change.

**Approximate Cost For CCPP:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Semester –</td>
<td>Paramedic Prep Course EMS 105 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester –</td>
<td>School and Books Uniform and other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Half Spring Semester –</td>
<td>School and other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Half Spring/Summer Semester –</td>
<td>School and other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total School cost (approximate cost with $1,000 internship)</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paramedic Licensing fees National and State – (without travel cost)</td>
<td>$ 1,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (approximate total cost)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have any questions regarding the CCPP, please contact Dennis Rowley Paramedic Program Director at (805) 546-3100 ext 2455 or dennis_rowley@cuesta.edu.