
PARAMEDIC TECHNICAL STANDARDS

NAME _____ **MIDDLE** _____ **LAST** _____

PURPOSE: To provide the applicant/student with a clear understanding of the physical demands required of the program based on the tasks performed by paramedics in the EMS field.

Description of Work Environment and Activities:

The Paramedic is a healthcare assistant with essential duties. To be successful in the field, the graduate must be a confident leader who can accept the challenge and high degree of responsibility entailed in the position. The Paramedic must have excellent judgment and be able to prioritize decisions and act quickly in the best interest of the patient, must be self-disciplined, able to develop patient rapport, interview hostile patients, maintain a safe distance, and recognize and utilize communication unique to diverse, multicultural groups and ages within those groups. The Paramedic must function independently at an optimum level in a non-structured environment that is constantly changing. Topics covered in paramedic courses include anatomy and physiology, cardiology, medications, and medical procedures. Paramedic courses build on EMT education and teach skills such as administering medications, starting intravenous lines, providing advanced airway management, EKG Interpretation for patients and learning to provide emergency care to patients with life-threatening medical or traumatic emergencies. Caring for the victims of a motor vehicle crash, interpreting the EKG of a heart attack patient, or delivering a baby; are all patients a paramedic must be prepared to assist during their shift.

Procedures for Applicant / Student:

1. Receives technical standards / verbal explanation of the technical standards by applicable Instructor/Dept. Chair.
2. Completes self-appraisal form of his/her ability to perform procedures, submit to the appropriate admissions office.
3. When appropriate, discuss concerns with Student Disabilities Service.
4. Potential students must meet with Department Chair prior to enrollment.
5. Must be a current South Carolina or National Registered EMT (or higher) to enroll.

Paramedic Education Program Technical Standards

Clear academic and technical standards assure that decisions concerning entrance for all students are based upon non-discriminatory criteria. Federal law requires the provision of reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities who possess “the academic and technical (non-academic) standards” for admission or participation in the EMS programs and courses. In courses where enrollment is limited and based on selective criteria, having spelled out academic and technical standards assures the absence of discrimination against qualified persons with disabilities who have succeeded with reasonable accommodations. Having technical standards available also assists potential applicants with or without disabilities in assessing their ability to succeed in the program and the EMS profession. Technical standards for admission are all non-academic criteria that are essential to participating in the EMS program. These technical standards include personal and professional attributes, skills, knowledge, physical, medical, safety, and other requirements that an individual must meet to be eligible for admission to and retention in the EMS program.

Students admitted to the EMS program are expected to complete curriculum requirements that include physical, cognitive, and affective core competencies that are essential to the functions of the entry-level EMS provider. These

core competencies are considered the minimum and basic skills necessary to protect the public. These abilities are encountered in unique combinations in the provision of safe and effective EMS care. Progression in the program may be denied if a student is unable to demonstrate the technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations.

York Technical College Workforce and Economic Development (WED) is obliged to provide reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities, which may include academic adjustments, auxiliary aids, and/or program modifications. Accommodations that fundamentally alter the nature of the academic program could jeopardize the health and safety of others or cause an undue burden to the program are not considered reasonable accommodations.

General Knowledge and Skills Required of All EMS Personnel

- Ability to communicate verbally via telephone and radio equipment
- Ability to lift, carry, and balance up to 125 pounds (250 pounds with assistance)
- Ability to interpret written, oral, and diagnostic information
- Ability to use good judgment and remain calm in high-stress situations
- Ability to work effectively in an environment with loud noises and flashing lights
- Ability to function efficiently throughout an entire work shift
- Ability to calculate weight and volume ratios and read small print under both life-threatening and time constraints
- Ability to read and understand English language manuals and GPS/road maps
- Ability to accurately discern street signs and address numbers
- Ability to interview patients, family members, and bystanders
- Ability to document, in writing, all relevant scene and patient information

Cognitive:

- Recall, collect, analyze, synthesize, and integrate information from a variety of sources
- Measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize data
- Problem-solve and think critically to apply knowledge and skill
- Communicate verbally and through reading and writing with individuals from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual background
- Relay information in oral and written form effectively, accurately, reliably, and intelligibly to individuals and groups, using the English language

Examples of Learning Activities Found in the EMS Curriculum and Related to Industry Standards:

- Process information thoroughly and quickly to prioritize and implement EMS care
- Sequence or cluster data to determine patient needs
- Develop and implement an EMS plan of care for patients in the pre-hospital setting

- Discriminate fine/subtle differences in medical word endings
- Report verbally and in writing patient data to members of the health care team
- Perform math computations for medication dosage calculations both with and without a calculator.

Physical:

- Coordinate fine and gross motor movements
- Coordinate hand/eye movements
- Maintain balance from any position
- Negotiate level surfaces, ramps, and stairs
- Function with both hands-free for performing psychomotor tasks
- Maneuver in small, confined areas
- Attend to cognitive and psychomotor tasks for up to 48 hours

Examples of Learning Activities Found in the EMS Curriculum and Related to Industry Standards:

- Transfer patients in and out of bed from stretchers and wheelchairs
- Control a fall by slowly lowering the patient to the floor
- Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- Lift or move (turn, position) patient or objects, pull or push objects weighing up to 50 pounds
- Reach to shoulder or higher level to place or access equipment such as intravenous fluid bags, bend or squat to access equipment
- Carry equipment and supplies to the patient location
- Manipulate small equipment and containers, such as syringes, vials, ampules, and medication packages, to administer medications
- Dispose of needles in a sharps container
- Complete assigned periods of practice (24 to 48-hour shifts, days, evenings, or nights)

Sensory:

- Acquire information from demonstrations and experiences, including but not limited to information conveyed through online coursework, lecture, small group activities, demonstrations, and application experiences
- Collect data through observation, listening, touching, and smelling
- Use and interpret information from diagnostic maneuvers

Examples of Learning Activities Found in the EMS Curriculum and Related to Industry Standards:

- Detect changes in skin color or condition (pale, ashen, grey, or bluish)
- Draw up a prescribed quantity of medication into a syringe

- Detect sounds related to bodily functions using a stethoscope
- Observe and collect data from recording equipment and measurement devices used in patient care
- Communicate with patients and members of the health care team in person and over the phone/radio in a variety of settings
- Detect foul odors of bodily fluids, the environment, and spoiled foods
- Detect changes in skin temperature
- Detect unsafe temperature levels in heat-producing devices used in patient care
- Detect anatomical abnormalities, such as subcutaneous crepitus, edema, or infiltrated intravenous fluids
- Feel sensations such as an arterial pulse

Behavioral:

- Demonstrate emotional stability to function effectively under stress and adapt to changing environments
- Maintain effective, mature, and sensitive relationships with others
- Examine and modify one’s behavior when it interferes with others or the learning environment
- Possess attributes that include compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, honesty, responsibility, and tolerance

Examples of Learning Activities Found in the EMS Curriculum and Related to Industry Standards:

- Exercise judgments meet acceptable timeframes for patient care delivery (acceptable timeframes are reflected by the ability to carry out the usual patient care assignment for a particular point in the program within the allotted clinical time), work effectively under stress, and adapt to rapidly changing patient care environments
- Accept accountability for actions that resulted in patient care errors
- Deal effectively with interpersonal conflict if it arises; maintain effective and harmonious relationships with members of the health care team

I, the undersigned, do hereby testify that I have read and understand the Technical Standards for Admission to the Paramedic Program. In signing this form, I confirm that I can perform the above standards and will contact a Student Disabilities Services Counselor if I become unable to perform or maintain these technical standards.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Applicant’s Signature	Student ID Number	Phone Number	Date

For more information concerning the Paramedic Program, please contact:

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