

Intermediate to Paramedic Bridge

Career Studies Certificate

Program Director: Bill Akers, Jr., MS, NRP, Program Director • bill.akers@sw.edu • 276-964-7729

Length: Three semesters

Offered in cooperation with Southwest Virginia Community College. Career Studies Certificate awarded by Virginia Highlands Community College.

Purpose: The purpose of this curriculum is to produce competent entry-level Paramedics who can provide the highest level of out-of-hospital care. Upon completion of the program, students will be eligible for National Registry testing and certification. This credential leads to Paramedic licensure or certification in Virginia and most other states. Employment opportunities for Paramedics are available with ambulance; fire and rescue services; hospitals; local, state and federal government agencies.

Program Goals: At the completion of the program the graduate will be able to demonstrate:

1. The Ability to comprehend, apply, and evaluate the clinical information relative to his role as an entry-level paramedic;
2. Technical proficiency in all skills necessary to fulfill the role of an entry-level paramedic; and
3. Personal behaviors consistent with professional and employer expectations for the entry-level paramedic.

Accreditation: This program is accredited nationally by the Committee on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP), 25400 U.S. Highway 19 North, Suite 158, Clearwater FL, 33763, phone 727-210-2350.

Admission Requirements: Prior to the starting program courses, the applicant must:

1. Meet eligibility requirements as stipulated by the Virginia Office of EMS; and
2. Meet the college's general admission requirements.
3. Be certified as an EMT-Intermediate and have three years' experience at or above that level.

Selection Process: To be eligible for selection to the program, interested person should complete the following process by May 15:

1. Submit a college admission application.
2. Submit an application to the program (separate document) with required attachments.
3. Have transcripts of previous college courses sent to the college.

At that time the first round of students will be selected. Should openings still be available, persons who apply or meet requirements after May 15 will be considered.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

Physical Requirements: An EMS provider is faced with many physical and psychological challenges. Please refer to the Office of Emergency Medical Services web site for a more detailed functional job description <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/>.

Academic Requirements: Students must make a "C" or better in all program cores courses. Any student receiving a grade less than "C" will be placed on programmatic academic probation. That course shall be remediated. Remediated course must be completed with a final grade of "C" or better.

Clinical and Behavioral Requirements: Selected and supervised student experience is required by the program and will be accomplished at selected, regional health care facilities. The student is responsible for transportation to these facilities, as well as to any scheduled field trips.

Program preceptors will observe and evaluate the student's suitability for the profession. If the student does not exhibit those documented behaviors required of the EMS professional, the student might be asked to withdraw from the program.

Other Requirements: Applicants accepted to the program are required to submit a health certificate signed by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or RNP and should include documentation of measles, mumps, Rubella (MMR) and chicken pox exposure or inoculations; documentation of Hepatitis B inoculation; Tuberculosis testing; and overall general health of the applicant. A criminal background check and drug screening is also done to confirm compliance with state regulations. See <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/>.

The purchase of items such as uniforms, liability insurance and other accessories is the financial responsibility of the individual student. Students who elect to take support courses recommended by the Program Director prior to formal acceptance into the program will find this activity to be advantageous in subsequent course scheduling.

Course Number	Course Title	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Credits
First Semester (Summer)				
EMS 123	EMS Clinical Preparation	0	2	1
EMS 213	Paramedic Skills Review	0	4	2
BIO 145	Human Anatomy & Physiology	3	3	4
Total		39	9	7
Second Semester (Fall)				
EMS 202	Paramedic Pharmacology	2	0	2
EMS 203	Advanced Patient Care	2	0	2
EMS 204	Advanced Patient Care Lab	0	2	2
EMS 206	Pathophysiology for Health Professions	3	0	3
EMS 247	Paramedic Clinical Experience II	0	3	1
EMS 248	Paramedic Comprehensive Field Experience	0	6	2
Total		7	11	12
Third Semester (Spring)				
EMS 210	EMS Operations	0	2	1
EMS 212	Leadership and Professional Development	1	0	1
EMS 165	Advanced Cardiac Life Support	1	0	1
EMS 163	Prehospital Trauma Life Support	1	0	1
EMS 167	Emergency Pediatric Care	1	0	1
EMS 164	Advanced Medical Life Support	1	0	1
EMS 216	Paramedic Review	0	2	1
EMS 249	Paramedic Capstone Internship	0	6	2
Total		5	10	9
Total Credits for Career Studies Certificate				28

Footnotes:

¹EMS 213 MUST be passed to receive credit for 1st year courses.

²Students should take BIO 141 and 142 or BIO 145. It is recommended that students who are planning to transfer to another medically related program complete BIO 141-142.

Please refer to Course Listings in back of catalog for all prerequisites and corequisites.