

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER, OTAY MESA

Phone: 619-216-6760 (M-F, 8:30-4:00)

Web site: <http://www.swccd.edu/paramedic>

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PARAMEDIC PROGRAM – effective February, 2015

*PLEASE NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS FOR THE CLASSES STARTING AUGUST 2015  
AND IS SUBJECT TO REVISION WITHOUT NOTIFICATION.*

**Read carefully - Some requirements have changed in recent years!!**

We appreciate your interest in the Paramedic Program and hope the following information will help you determine whether you are currently qualified for admission to the program. If you feel you are qualified, you may obtain an application packet from the Paramedic Office (4105A) between the months of February and May, download it from our webpage (address is above) or via email from Karen Cook at [kcook@swccd.edu](mailto:kcook@swccd.edu) . Approximately 30 students are enrolled each year. Qualified applicants are admitted based primarily on the Selection Process described on Page 3 and secondarily on a “first come, first serve” (complete application) basis if there is a tie in ranking.

**Please note – we are at the Otay Mesa campus of SWC.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

The goal of the Southwestern College Paramedic Program is to prepare competent entry-level Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedics in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains. The Program provides advanced education and experience in pre-hospital care which will prepare qualified persons for beginning paramedic positions. Educational opportunities are provided to encourage development of those qualities which mark a responsible paramedic and citizen of the community. (See US DOT “Description of the Profession” packet.)

Application to the College or enrollment in general education courses is a separate process and does NOT constitute application or acceptance to the Paramedic Program.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

All applicants must be 18 years of age or over, and meet the following qualifications at time of application: (Proof of enrollment for # 4-8 below is sufficient until Spring grades are posted)

1. Graduation from U. S. high school or the equivalent or a passing score on the G.E.D. or other High School Equivalency test.
2. Hold a valid California EMT-1 (Basic) or AEMT certificate.
3. Current "Healthcare Provider" C. P. R. (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) certification.
4. Completion of a Human Anatomy & Physiology course with a grade of "C" or better.

\* On an individual basis, when there is evidence that the applicant has acquired equivalent learning but lacks college credit for BIO-190, the Director of the Paramedic Program, at his or her discretion, may agree to waive the requirement for this course providing the applicant demonstrates competency by passing a 50 question multiple choice test. (80% or better)

5. Completion of a 2 or 3 unit Medical Terminology course with a grade of "C" or better or successfully pass a challenge test on medical terminology provided by the Director of the Paramedic Program, to be taken at the Academic Success Center during the application period.

6. A grade of "C" or better in Reading 158, English 115, English 116 or higher level literature class (or equivalent course from another college), or reading proficiency as demonstrated on the reading assessment test, or a transcript indicating an earned associate or baccalaureate degree.
7. A grade of "C" or better in Math 45 or higher numbered math course or math proficiency as demonstrated on the Algebra Readiness test\*, or a transcript indicating an earned associate or baccalaureate degree.  
**NOTE:** Upon verification that all other qualifications are met, students must also pass a basic math/metric system exam to verify skills expected at the EMT level. (#3 below)
8. Successful completion of an approved Paramedic Preparation class is required; grade of "C" or better, or "pass" SWC's EMTP 115 or Palomar's EME 175 & 175L, or equivalent course. (EMSTA's paramedic prep class is NOT accepted.)
9. Two (2) letters of recommendation are required. Letters should be on company or agency letterhead. One must come from a higher level medical provider (paramedics, RN or MD's) or supervisor. The other can be from a peer. If company or agency letterhead is not available or inappropriate, then the writer's name and contact info should be at the top of the letter in letter-head format. The letters must be signed and dated originals.

**\*Assessment Tests:** Call the Assessment Office at 619-482-6385 (main campus) or 619-216-6750 x4403 (Otay Mesa) to schedule an appointment, and then include the results in your paramedic application. If you cannot schedule the tests prior to turning in your application, include a copy of your test appointment confirmation with your application as proof that you will be taking the tests.

**Official transcripts** must be on file at the Southwestern College Admissions office, with a copy in the Paramedic Program Office. Official transcripts must be sent to the paramedic program or admissions office. They cannot be "issued to student" or hand carried with your application.

Address: Southwestern Higher Ed. Center at Otay Mesa  
Attn: Paramedic Program  
8100 Gigantic St.  
San Diego CA 92154

**BY THE END OF THE APPLICATION PERIOD, APPLICANTS MUST HAVE:**

1. Letter from employer verifying minimum of one (1) year full-time work experience as an EMT-B in a pre-hospital setting, i.e., ambulance or two (2) years as a firefighter or lifeguard. Full-time means a minimum of 10 24-hour shifts (2,880 hours), or 15 12-hour shifts per month (2,160 hours). Those working other shifts must have at least 2,100 hours. (Double for firefighters and lifeguards.)
2. A score of 80% or higher on a written EMT knowledge verification test.
3. A score of 80% or higher on a math quiz (the above noted math/metric system test).
4. ICS 100, 200, 700, 800: Submit a copy of the individual course completion record documenting successful completion of each of the courses with five (5) years of the start-date for the upcoming paramedic class. (Aug. 2010) The classes are free and can be completed online through the FEMA training website.

The criteria listed above must be met for acceptance. Eligibility may be restricted by:

- a. Previous withdrawal from or unsatisfactory performance in a Paramedic Training course
- b. Any information which might be deemed to seriously limit an individual's potential for success in pre-hospital care
- c. Providing false or incomplete information
- d. Being on academic probation the first day of class

**NOTE:** Clinical sites may exclude students and the State may refuse to license individuals who have been convicted of crimes and/or certain misdemeanors. If you have concerns about this, you may contact San Diego County EMS at 619-285-6429, or the EMSA's Enforcement Unit at 916-322-4336. (See EMS Authority's Licensure Denial Policy at <http://www.emsa.ca.gov/paramedic/faq.asp> )

#### PARAMEDIC PROGRAM SELECTION PROCESS (SCENARIO AND INTERVIEW)

After the above items are met, selection into the paramedic training program will be determined based on an assessment of your cognitive, psychomotor and affective abilities. This will include:

1. A static patient care scenario based on NREMT (BLS) standards, using different cases to measure your ability to assess, treat and identify potential life-threats, while establishing a working differential diagnosis list. The student will verbally assess and discuss the patient scenario with the evaluators. (35%)
2. A BLS skill will be randomly selected using the NREMT (BLS) final skills scoring sheet. The applicant will be expected to properly identify the need for the skill, select the proper equipment and correctly and safely apply the skill to a simulated patient. (35%)
3. All applicants will be interviewed to assess their qualifications and to identify those applicants who have demonstrated a passion for success in EMS. We actively seek those applicants who have a history of being respectful, personable, are effective communicators, have exhibited leadership traits and consistently conduct themselves with integrity. (30%)

#### THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET BY THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS:

1. A record of updated:
  - Tetanus immunization
  - Negative tuberculosis screening (skin test or x-ray)
  - Evidence of Rubella/Rubeola immunity (positive titre or 2 immunizations at least 1 month apart)
  - Evidence of Varicella (chicken pox) immunity (positive titre or immunization)
  - The series of vaccinations for Hepatitis B or verified immunity.
  - Prior to clinical rotation, you must provide proof of seasonal flu shot (Oct./Nov.)
2. Current California DMV medical examiner's certificate or report of physical exam.

#### APPROXIMATE COST

The total cost of the Paramedic Program is currently estimated to be about \$3,500. The greatest direct expense comes at the beginning of the first semester. Textbooks\*, instructional supplies and enrollment fees are the major cost items. Students are also required to maintain continuous malpractice insurance throughout their enrollment in the program at an additional cost of \$13 per student per year. Living expenses and costs of transportation to clinical agencies (the responsibility of the student) are not included in the estimate.

**\* Note: we are changing textbooks for Fall 2015.** More information to follow ...

Some financial assistance is available through the Financial Aid Office. Application for assistance should

be made early, in March, if possible. (Contact Laura Arana at our San Ysidro campus at 619-216-6790 x4904) Veterans should contact Veterans Services in the student center on the Chula Vista Campus (Office S104, 619-482-6324).

If the student must work, employment on more than a part-time basis is not realistic.

NON-RESIDENT TUITION is charged to those who do not meet the residency requirement. The general rule is that a student must have been a California resident for at least one year immediately preceding the residence determination date set for academic term (generally the day before classes begin - see Southwestern College Catalog or contact the Admissions Office for further details).

**COURSE OF STUDIES (Courses must be taken in sequence) *Change in number of units, eff. Fall 2014***

Course Number and Title	UNITS	HOURS PER WEEK		Month
		LECTURE	LAB	
EMTP 200 Adv. Life Support Paramedic Theory I (18 week course)	12	12	0	Aug. – Dec.
EMTP 200L ALS Paramedic Theory I - Lab	3	0	8	Aug. – Dec.
EMTP 202 EMS Community Experience I (ride-alongs)	1.5	0	varies	Aug – Dec.
EMTP 201 Adv. Life Support Paramedic Theory II (18 week course)	12	12	0	Jan. – May
EMTP 201L ALS Paramedic Theory II – Lab (18 week course)	3	0	8	Jan. - May
EMTP 202 EMS Community Experience II (ride-alongs)	1.5	0	varies	Jan. - May
EMTP 225 Hospital Clinical Experience (5-6 weeks, 160 hrs.)	3	0	varies	May-June
EMTP 230 Field Training I (9-10 weeks, 480+ hrs.)	8	0	52-60	July-Oct
EMTP 231 Field Training II (3-15 weeks)	1	0	24	Aug–Oct.

**NOTE: *Additional content may be added for Fall 2015 & Spring 2016.***

A minimum grade of "C" is required in each course for progression and satisfactory completion of the Paramedic Program. Courses must be taken in sequence.

Upon completion of the requirements, the student will receive a certificate from Southwestern College and be eligible to take the National Registry examination for national certification and California licensure.

**ASSOCIATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

Students who wish to earn an Associate Degree in the discipline may do so by completing the following course requirements in addition to the major courses:

English 115 or 116

Comm 104 or 174

Psych 101

Recommended Elective: Soc 135

General Education requirements of the college for the Associate Degree.

It is recommended that students see a counselor to plan for meeting all degree requirements.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING TO START PARAMEDIC SCHOOL:

- Make sure you know your EMT protocols and skills.
- Get as much ALS ambulance experience as possible.
- Take or audit an ACLS, PEPP/PALS and PHTLS class. Start learning about heart rhythms and EKG mega codes ahead of time.
- Develop good communication and people skills. Learn to interact with all age groups on an appropriate level. Develop good patient rapport.
- Develop leadership skills. Learn to delegate and give direction to others in a decisive, confident manner (without being too abrupt).
- Get your finances in order. You should not be working full time during paramedic school, so make sure you have enough money to see you through the year. Have some money in savings as a buffer in case you have unforeseen expenses (i.e. vehicle repairs).
- Paramedic school is a huge time commitment and can be hard on personal relationships. Make sure you are ready to commit the time, energy and money to the program. Don't fall behind.
- Find a study regimen that works for you and stick with it.
- Be dedicated; have becoming a paramedic as your #1 goal.

The Southwestern College Paramedic Training Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs ([www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP).

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs  
1361 Park Street  
Clearwater, FL 33756  
727-210-2350    [www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)

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