

# Attachment D

## Paramedic

# Course Overview

The current Paramedic program follows the official National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Paramedic National Curriculum.

## Initial Paramedic Course

The initial SC Emergency Paramedic course requires a minimum of 1000 contact hours in the following content areas:

Prerequisite: Anatomy and Physiology  
Preparatory  
Airway/Ventilation  
Patient Assessment  
Trauma  
Medical  
Special Patient Populations  
Operations  
Clinical

The class will be taught in content areas as listed above. The Course Instructor will decide how much time of the total hours in each content area is spent covering the objectives within that content area. **The first three (3) content areas after the pre-requisite A&P course must be successfully completed before the student can continue in the program.** Successful completion of a content area will be good for two (2) years.

A student may transfer to another Paramedic program or re-enter the Paramedic program, within two (2) years if no significant changes in the curriculum have taken place.

If a significant change in the curriculum has taken place, the student must test each content area before being allowed to enter the class. The student may exempt each content area successfully passed by written and/or practical examination. Only one testing attempt shall be allowed. The student must repeat any content area(s) which were not successfully passed by written and/or practical examination.

All prerequisites will still be in effect. If the student can not satisfy all prerequisites, that student will not be admitted to the course.

In addition to the above, each candidate will be expected to successfully complete the required clinical experiences. Clinical requirements are specified in more detail elsewhere in this manual.

Students must complete the course within two (2) years of their original start date. The program coordinator may extend to three (3) years under exceptional circumstances.

### **Refresher Paramedic Course**

The SC Paramedic Refresher course follows the National Registry recommendation of a minimum of 30 hours is a condensed review of all topics outlined in the SC Paramedic Initial (1000 hour) program except that there are no clinical requirements. These “minimum” hours are delineated by National Registry every four years. The most recent revision of the National Component was published in October 2016:

Topic	Hours
Airway, Respiration, & Ventilation	3.5
Cardiovascular	8.5
Medical	8.5
Trauma	3
Operations	6.5
Total	30

(Please refer to the National Registry of EMT’s website for a further breakdown of these topics.)

## Approved CPR Courses

Current BLS certification must be maintained for the duration of the program. Current BLS credentials accepted by the Department are:

- American Heart Association (AHA) ***BLS for the Healthcare Provider***
- American Red Cross (ARC) ***CPR for the Professional Rescuer***
- American Safety & Health Institute (ASHI) ***CPR Pro***

Any credential not listed above must be approved by DHEC and will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

# Clinical Requirements

Clinical requirements are performance-based and not hourly-based. This means, in addition to required classroom and lab, every student must have patient interactions in a clinical setting.

The Paramedic Program Coordinator and /or the SC Approved Paramedic Instructor should establish appropriate relationships with various SC licensed EMS services and hospitals to assure their students will have adequate contact with patients.

Students may begin their clinical experience after successful completion of the Patient Assessment portion of the curriculum.

All students are expected to complete the following clinical requirements:

## Psychomotor Skills:

- Medication Administrations
- Endotracheal intubations
- Venous Access
- Ventilations (unintubated)
- Airway Encounters

## Assessments:

- Adult patients
- Pediatric Patients (newborn, infant, toddler, preschool, school, adolescent)
- Geriatric Patients (65years of age or older)

## Pathologies:

- Obstetric Patients
- Psychiatric Patients

Complaints – students must demonstrate the ability to perform a comprehensive assessment, formulate and implement a treatment plan on:

- Chest Pain
- Trauma Patients
- Adult Patients with Dyspnea/Respiratory Distress
- Pediatric Patients with Dyspnea/Respiratory Distress
- Patients with syncope related symptoms
- Patients with abdominal complaints (abdominal pain, nausea/vomiting,

GI bleeding, gynecological complaints, etc.)  
Patients with altered mental status

Team Leader Skills:

The student must demonstrate the ability to serve as an active participant on prehospital emergencies.

Hospital Clinical Areas:

Anesthesia and OR  
Critical Care  
Emergency Department  
Trauma Center (Level I or II)  
Triage  
IV Team  
Autopsy  
Pediatric  
L & D or Ob/Gyn  
Psychiatric

Notes:

Critical Care includes Coronary Care Unit  
Emergency Department hours can be done at a Trauma Center  
Pediatric includes NICU, Pediatric ED

The instructor must review clinical experiences for compliance with clinical requirements and assure competent documentation with the minimum reportable data.

Students with unsuccessful clinical evaluations are to receive remediation and redirection. They should continue with their clinical requirements until they have successfully demonstrated, to the instructor's satisfaction, completion of all clinical requirements

**Important Note:** In accordance with HIPPA laws and regulations, students must not make note of, or record, any personal patient information such as names, ages, addresses or other personal identifying information. The purpose of the clinical experience is to assure proper skill performance, documentation and competency as entry level paramedics.

# Course Entrance Requirements

## **Initial Paramedic Course:**

All candidates entering the initial Paramedic course must meet the following requirements:

- ✓ High School Diploma or GED
- ✓ Must be 18 years of age by the start of the program
- ✓ Valid BLS card
- ✓ Be physically able to perform all the tasks required in the program
- ✓ Must maintain a current SC or National Registry EMT certification throughout the course
- ✓ Must satisfy pre-screening requirements in reading comprehension and math using a standardized test from either an agency that does pre-screening, or by the authorized SC EMT training institution using the prescreening examination of their choice (i.e. HOBET, ACET, COMPASS, Work keys etc) with a previously established passing score.
- ✓ Complete an approved Anatomy & Physiology course within the last 5 years prior to the start date of the program.

The Paramedic training institution may impose any additional requirements or pre-requisites as deemed necessary by the institution. For all ADA (Americans with Disabilities) concerns, please refer the National Registry Website: [www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)

## **Refresher Paramedic Course:**

All candidates entering the refresher Paramedic course must meet one (1) of the following requirements:

- ❑ Current or former Paramedic certification in any U.S. State or territory or National Registry Paramedic Certification (\*see note)
- ❑ Former SC or NR Paramedic Initial student who has failed the NR CBT exam three (3) times

\* Follows NREMT re-entry requirements as written on [nremt.org](http://nremt.org). Also, all candidates for NREMT's National EMS Certification at the Paramedic level whose Paramedic program began on or after January 1, 2013 must have successfully completed Paramedic education from an accredited program sponsored by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or one who held a valid Letter of Review (LOR) issued by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP).

## Course Attendance Requirements

Candidates in a Paramedic course should make every effort to attend all class sessions. A candidate may miss up to ten percent (10%) of the content area contact hours. However, all work missed must be made up to the satisfaction of the course instructor. Even though the work must be made up, the hours missed are not erased.

**Note:** Under special, extreme circumstances, the Paramedic Program Coordinator may allow a candidate an additional ten percent (10%) – not to exceed a total of twenty percent (20%) of the total contact hours of the content area. Any candidate who misses 20% of any content area must repeat that content area.

Instructors are responsible for maintaining accurate attendance records. These records (as well as any records pertaining to the course) may be requested by and inspected by DHEC at any time.

Arriving to class late as well as leaving class early counts toward the total number of allotted hours. Any candidate that exceeds the total allotted hours of absences will not be allowed to continue in the course and will not be approved to take the National Registry examination.

## Skills Verification

In addition to all skills taught in the Emergency Medical Technician course and skills taught in the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician course, each student must be taught each of the following skill areas.

- Chest Decompression – needle
- Chest Tube Placement – assist only – Monitoring and Management
- Cricothyrotomy – needle
- Cricothyrotomy – percutaneous
- Gastric decompression – NG tube and OG tube
- Intubation – Nasotracheal and orotracheal
- Obstruction – direct laryngoscopy
- PEEP – therapeutic
- Suctioning – tracheobronchial
- Ventilator – Portable transport Endotracheal tube
- Cardiac Monitoring – single and multiple
- Cardioversion – electrical
- Carotid massage
- Internal cardiac pacing – monitoring only
- Transcutaneous pacing – manual
- Endotracheal tube
- Intravenous piggyback
- Transdermal Medication Administration
- Ophthalmic Medication Administration
- Access indwelling catheters and implanted central IV ports
- Central Line – monitoring
- Intravenous – maintenance of medicated IV fluids
- Maintenance of Blood Products
- Eye irrigation - Morgan lens
- Thrombolytic therapy – initiation and monitoring
- Blood chemistry analysis

Skill sheets for some of the items listed above may be downloaded from the National Registry website:

<https://www.nremt.org/rwd/public/document/psychomotor-exam>

***Caution:*** Be sure you download (and frequently re-check) for the most current skill sheet, as the practical examination will use the most current sheet. As new skill check sheets are developed by the National Registry. These skills will be added to the *Skills Verification* list and will also be incorporated into the Practical Examination.

# COURSE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

## COURSE PRE-REQUISITE /OUTLINE /CLASS STRUCTURE

The **paramedic course** is taught from the NHTSAs current paramedic curriculum. All candidates must successfully complete an approved Anatomy & Physiology course in order to continue in the program

### Anatomy & Physiology

The Anatomy & Physiology Course is a pre-requisite to the Paramedic course. All of the objectives in the National Standard Curriculum will be met. The training institution is encouraged to contract with an institution of higher learning to provide this course. Any A&P course taught by these institutions that meets or exceeds the above objectives is acceptable.

#### A) Instructor Requirements

If the EMS training agency teaches the A&P course without contracting with an institution of higher learning, the instructor must possess a minimum of:

- Bachelors Degree
- Relevant teaching experience (as defined by the agency)

#### B) Testing

If the EMS training agency teaches the A&P course without contracting with an institution of higher learning, the students must successfully pass a final comprehensive examination that ensures the student has mastered the required objectives. The test will be created and administered by the training agency.

#### C) Textbooks

The individual training agency is responsible for the choice of textbooks for the A&P course. The textbook must include all objectives of the National Standard Curriculum.

D) Exempting the A&P Course

Any candidate that has a passing score in an A&P course which meets or exceeds the objectives of the National Standard Curriculum, taught at a Technical School, College or University may exempt this prerequisite.

NOTE: If the student completed the class more than 5 years prior to the start date of the paramedic course, the student must pass a comprehensive final exam to exempt the Anatomy and Physiology prerequisite. Only one attempt will be allowed.

## Verification of Course Completion

In order for candidates to successfully complete the course and to qualify for permission to take the National Registry EMT examination, each candidate must satisfy all of the following requirements:

- Verification by the school that all program requirements have been met.
- Have a valid CPR credential
- Have a valid ACLS credential
- A current, updated profile in CIS (SC's Credentialing Information System).
- Have a completed profile and application on the National Registry website.