Information Packet
September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023
(for Fall 2023 entrance)
Applications accepted until August 20, 2023

Paramedic Certificate Program

Paramedic Certificate Program
web.gcc.mass.edu/ems/
PARAMEDICS are the highest level pre-hospital emergency medical services (EMS) providers. In order to become a PARAMEDIC, you must first participate in a Department of Transportation (DOT) standard 150 hour training program and be certified as a Basic Emergency Medical Technician (BASIC EMT) or ADVANCED EMT. BASIC EMTs provide oxygen, bleeding and wound care, auto extrication, CPR, as well as spinal and fracture immobilization. They also use semi-automatic defibrillators on cardiac arrest patients and assist with emergency childbirth.

BASIC EMTs must be re-certified every two years through a combination of National Continued Competency Requirements (NCCR) and continuing education programs. All ambulance personnel are, at a minimum, BASIC EMTs. Any person entering a PARAMEDIC Program in Massachusetts must hold current EMT certification from any U.S. state, or National Registry EMT certification. EMTs must also have gained significant patient care experience (a minimum of 75 ambulance patient care contacts) prior to entering the GCC Program. This ensures that the Basic EMT has established a minimum skill proficiency and practical skill level. Real-world experiences also assist Basic EMTs in deciding if Paramedic medicine is the career path for them.

PARAMEDIC programs in the U.S., including all programs in Massachusetts, must be CoAEMSP accredited and follow a standard DOT National Curriculum, which sets minimum lecture and lab hours as well as minimum clinical and field experience. PARAMEDICS provide all of the care offered by Basic EMTs, plus enhanced trauma and medical-emergency care. PARAMEDICS perform many of the same life-saving and stabilization procedures “on-scene” as are also available in an Emergency Department, including advanced airway management, shock-trauma management, IV insertion, medication administration, cardiac dysrhythmia management and cardiac electrical therapy (defibrillation, cardioversion and external pacemaker). Paramedics are certified in Pre Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) as part of their curriculum, and must maintain ACLS certifications throughout their PARAMEDIC careers. Additionally, a rigorous NCCR and continuing education requirement exists to ensure that PARAMEDICS maintain their medical knowledge and proficiency levels.

PARAMEDICS face significant physical, emotional and cognitive challenges as part of their profession. They must maintain a high level of physical fitness which permits bending, kneeling, stair climbing, lifting heavy loads and carrying equipment. Excellent hand-eye coordination is essential for proper patient care techniques and ambulance operation. They must have excellent verbal and written communication skills and be able to effectively interact with people, including those of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, people with limited language skills and people undergoing significant stress. PARAMEDICS must develop and maintain a solid base of medical knowledge as well as critical thinking skills and rapid decision-making ability. They must be effective time managers and be able to multi-task. They must be emotionally stable and be able to accept constructive criticism.

Employment opportunities exist for PARAMEDICS as 911-emergency providers, critical care transport technicians, non-transport intercept providers, flight medics and other specialties. PARAMEDICS work for private, volunteer, fire, and hospital services.
What is the PMC Program?
This rigorous program prepares Emergency Medical Technicians for Massachusetts and National Registry Certification as Paramedics. It covers all aspects of advanced life support care and prepares its graduates to function as Paramedics in a variety of settings. The 17-24 month program meets two evenings per week plus an average of two Saturdays a month for 11 months, followed by 6-9 months of continued clinical and field internship experiences. The GCC Paramedic program does not accept prior learning assessment or transfer credit for advanced placement into the program.

INCLUDED IN OUR PROGRAM!
Cutting edge patient simulation using our clinical simulation helps our students to incorporate real life scenarios into their hands-on learning. GCC is also an NREMT ALS exam site so your psychomotor exam can be taken in a familiar setting.

Program Schedule:
Section 1: GCC: Tue/Thurs 5:00 – 9:30 p.m.
Section 2: NOHO: Mon/Wed 5:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Both sections will meet together on scheduled Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the GCC campus. Saturday sessions will consist of skills labs, seminar teaching and other specialty topics.

Who Can Apply to the PMC Program?
If you:
• are a currently certified Basic or Advanced EMT with ambulance patient care experience (minimum 75 ambulance patient contacts)
• want to improve and upgrade your patient care knowledge, ability and confidence;
• are willing to make a serious commitment of time and energy to complete this demanding program
YOU should apply!

Minimum age requirement: Students must be 18 years of age to begin classes in the PMC program.

Application Requirements
The following information summarizes the requirements necessary to enter the Paramedic Certificate Program at Greenfield Community College.

Requirements:
1. Submit a GCC Application for Admission at web.gcc.mass.edu/admission/.

   Complete English and math requirements. All PMC students must place out of developmental math and English (MAT 090, ENG 090, ENG 094) by either taking a placement assessment or by submitting official transcripts of previous college coursework. To schedule placement assessments go to www.gcc.mass.edu/testing and click on “schedule a test”.

2. Schedule a meeting with the Paramedic Program Director (413-775-1761, josefski@gcc.mass.edu) to:
   a. submit proof of EMT certification
   b. submit Experience Verification Form

3. Submit your Paramedic Program Application at http://www.gcc.mass.edu/admissions/apply-online/paramedic/. Note: Program Applications are accepted throughout the year until the program is full, but not after August 20th of each year. If applications exceed program capacity, a waiting list will be established. The waiting list will roll over to the next academic year, but students must maintain currency in Math.

Health Requirements
All applicants who are accepted to the Paramedic Certificate Program must complete all health requirements as outlined on the deadline sheet and in this packet to be eligible to continue in the program. Obtain forms from the GCC website.
**Program Costs**

*Cost estimates are based on 2022-2023 academic year.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Tuition &amp; fees</th>
<th>Program fees</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1st yr (5 cr.)</td>
<td>$1,170</td>
<td>$495</td>
<td>$1,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 1st yr (10 cr.)</td>
<td>2,320</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 1st yr (8 cr.)</td>
<td>1,860</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>2,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2nd yr (4 cr.)</td>
<td>940</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>1,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2nd yr (2 cr.)</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,770</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,700</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,470</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Costs (approximate):**

- Malpractice Insurance (per year) $13^1
- Clinical and Field Uniforms $175
- Books and supplies $1,100
- ALS Practical testing fee to GCC $250
- NREMT Cognitive Exam fee $152^2
- MA Certification fee to OEMS $150^3
- Remediation fee (if needed) $200–300
- Health Insurance (optional thru GCC) $3,859^4

1 Required of all students. Fees are collected in the fall semester.
2 This fee is required of all students taking the National Registry exam. Fees are directly paid to the testing site and National Registry by students three weeks prior to exam.
3 After successful certification by NREMT this fee is required to practice in MA. Other state fees will vary.
4 All students must have proof of health insurance during the program. Students needing health insurance may purchase it through GCC.

**Financial Aid Information**

The GCC Paramedic Program is financial aid eligible, and also offers payment plans for students financing their own education. For more information, contact our Financial Aid Office at 413-775-1109 or web.gcc.mass.edu/financial-aid/. You may also qualify for a low-interest career loan. For information, go to www.detma.org/educationrewards/ or check with your employer for loan, cash advance or reimbursement opportunities.

**Did you know?**

Your Paramedic course credits may be transferable to degree programs at some 2 or 4-year colleges! For example, the GCC Liberal Arts Health will accept 22 EMS credits and the GCC Fire Science Technology A.S. degree will accept up to 6 EMS credits. The admissions and transfer offices at any 2- or 4-year college can advise you on using your credits towards your degree.

**Emergency Medical Technician Course (EMS 101 or EMH 310)**

This course provides training in the primary care of injuries, cardiac arrest care, acute illnesses, birth, and people in emergency situations. Students learn rescue extrication, transportation, communication, medical-legal aspects, and patient care training through lectures, demonstration, simulation and practice. Students successfully completing the course are able to sit for the NREMT Basic EMT examination. **Pre-requisite:** Placement into college level English, if taking the class for college credits.

This evening course is taught in fall, spring and summer semesters. This course may be taken for credit (EMS 101) or non-credit (EMH 310).

**Cost for EMS 101 (6 credits):** $1400 (plus books)

*To register, go to gcc.mass.edu/admission/*

**Cost for EMH 310 (non-credit):** $1250 (plus books)

*To register, go to gcc.mass.edu/non-credit/*
Additional Requirements for Final Enrollment for Accepted Students

Enrollment in the PMC Program is conditional upon completion of the following items prior to the start of classes in September and during the fall semester. Specific deadlines and paperwork will be sent to students in their acceptance or waitlist letter to the program. All Paramedic Certificate (PMC) students must provide appropriate documentation of immunity as required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Greenfield Community College, and clinical practice sites, regardless of age or number of credits. The information below will help you to plan ahead for the timely completion of requirements in the event you are accepted. The deadlines posted in your acceptance packet are strictly enforced. Students who do not have these items completed by the posted dates will be replaced by students on the waiting list.

- **Confirmation Letter:** Must complete form indicating acceptance of spot in the program.
- **CastleBranch Account for Immunization & Health Requirements:** GCC has partnered with CastleBranch to manage the required documents for your program. A second CastleBranch account may be needed if drug testing is required by your assigned clinical agency. You will receive an email for each package from customerservice@castlebranch.com with the subject line “Greenfield Community College – Request for Order.” To start the process, click the Start Process link embedded in the email you received. You must do this before the expiration date stated in the email. You’ll need to create a secure password. It must be at least 8 characters long, include two numbers, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and one special character. Then follow the steps to create your MyCB account by entering your personal information. You will be redirected into your CastleBranch dashboard upon successful authorization. You will also receive an order confirmation email with directions on how to log in. Check your email to see if it was sent to the email address that was used when creating your account. Be sure to review your SPAM filters in your email account.

Direct all questions to CastleBranch Support. Service Desk is available at 888-723-4263 or email studentservices@castlebranch.com or via chat from the Need Help in the top right of your dashboard. Short video FAQ’s are also available. They range from 10 to 120 seconds. Monday – Thursday 8am – 8pm Friday 8am – 6:30pm Sunday 10am – 6:30pm

If you have an existing CastleBranch account for immunizations from another college, ask CastleBranch to help you transfer it to your GCC package code.

The following documents are to be uploaded to your CastleBranch account. Documentation must include your name, date of birth and the healthcare entity issuing the report, if applicable. See PMC Deadline Sheet for due dates:

- **Verification of Health Insurance:** All students in the Paramedic Program must have health insurance. A copy of your card must be uploaded.
- **Student Health Information Release Authorization for Health Occupation Students:** You must complete, sign, and date this form that allows the college to share your health records with clinical agencies if requested. Typically, they ask for dates of select immunizations.
- **Physical Exam:** Bring the Student Health History & Physical Exam Attestation form for your program to your healthcare provider to complete for a physical performed within a year of next February. The form must include the date of the exam and be signed by the provider.
- **COVID-19 vaccination** – one or two dose series AND a booster or as per current guidelines
- **Hepatitis B** – Completion of a 2-dose [HeplisavB] or 3-dose vaccination series *see table below
- Three vaccinations over 4 – 6 months (generally given at birth to age 1 year old) or two Heplisav-B vaccinations a month apart (available to those 18 years and older)
o Positive Hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs) blood titer – See Hepatitis B table below
o Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) – one vaccination within the past 10 years
o Meningococcal – Only if you are 21 years old or younger and taking at least 12 credits; one vaccination on or after turning 16 years old, OR a signed Massachusetts Department of Public Health Meningococcal Information and Waiver form.

o Influenza (Flu): One seasonal vaccination each September, or a signed standardized form noting a medical contraindication or religious objection.

o Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) - two vaccinations at least a month apart OR, if unable to find evidence of two vaccinations, then a positive IgG blood titer for each disease proves immunity

o Varicella (Chickenpox) - two vaccinations OR, if unable to find evidence of two vaccinations, then a positive IgG blood titer is proof of immunity

**TITERS:** Any result that is indeterminate or equivocal will be considered a negative result and you will need to be vaccinated with the complete series of vaccinations per current standards for Healthcare Personnel. **Titers are NOT recommended after two vaccinations of MMR or Varicella!**

### Hepatitis B Schedules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hepatitis B</th>
<th>0 Month</th>
<th>1 Month</th>
<th>2 Months</th>
<th>3 Months</th>
<th>4 Months</th>
<th>5 Months</th>
<th>6 Months</th>
<th>7 Months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vaccines</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>Titer</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Original 3-dose infant schedule</td>
<td></td>
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This original series is typically given between birth and the first birthday. No titers are drawn until required by a college, or employer, or medical necessity. Therefore, get a titer as soon as possible while you search for your records. If it is positive you may be all set or able to decline vaccination. If negative you will need to be vaccinated over the next two – six months with **ONE of the following:**

**Two dose series due to a negative titer**

- HeplisavB (HepB-CpG)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hepatitis B</th>
<th>0 Month</th>
<th>1 Month</th>
<th>2 Months</th>
<th>3 Months</th>
<th>4 Months</th>
<th>5 Months</th>
<th>6 Months</th>
<th>7 Months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vaccines</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
<td>Titer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeating a 3-dose vaccine series due to negative titer</td>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; dose</td>
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- EngerixB,
- RecombivaxHB
- PreHevbrio

If the titer is still negative after a second series of vaccinations you may be a non-responder. No further vaccinations are needed and you may continue in your program. Discuss the results with your healthcare provider to see if further testing is required and to be aware of your risk of exposure to hepatitis B and the precautions to follow in such an event.
**Annual Tuberculosis (TB) Screening:** Choose one of the following two methods:

- **One** negative IGRA blood test (T-SPOT or QuantiFERON Gold)

  **OR**

- **Two** negative skin tests (PPD / Mantoux) 1 – 3 weeks apart with documentation of the plant & read dates and induration reported in mm
  - Two skin tests are only needed if you have not been tested in the past year
  - For your second year of the program only a single test is needed

  ***If you are currently tested for work, continue on that schedule each year of your program.***

Students with a **new positive** TB test result must include a report of a negative chest x-ray performed in the past year and a tuberculosis symptom questionnaire. For those with a history of positive results, a chest x-ray is needed every five years.

*Another TB screening test is required for any break from your clinical program where you went to a high-risk facility or homeless shelter or traveled to an endemic area outside the United States.*
# Paramedic Program Curriculum

## Fall - first year

**EMS 105 - Prin. of Advanced Life Support (5 credits)**
Introduces the certified EMT to principles of Department of Transportation Advanced Life Support Curriculum. Students study roles and responsibilities, EMS systems, legal and ethical issues, patient assessment, fundamentals of respiration and advanced airway management. This course includes the fundamentals of perfusion and techniques of intravenous therapy.

## January - first year

**EMS 202 – Pharmacology (2 credits)**
Introduces pharmacology, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. The course includes a review of the metric system. Students calculate drug dosage concentrations and IV medication infusion rates. The course introduces basic concepts of pathophysiology.

## Spring - first year

**EMS 203 - Management of Medical and Shock-Trauma Emergencies (8 credits)**
Expands upon pharmacological interventions and integrates patient management skills with medical and trauma situations encountered by paramedics. This course includes the pathophysiology and management of disease processes and shock-trauma conditions. It provides special considerations of neonatology, pediatrics, geriatrics, medical incident command and rescue situations. Students begin limited clinical experiences. Students receive PreHospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) certification and Pediatric Education for PreHospital Professionals (PEPP-Advanced Life Support) certification upon successful course completion.

## Summer - first year

**EMS 204 - Management of Cardiovascular Emergencies (8 credits)**
A comprehensive approach to adult cardiac emergencies encountered by paramedics. The course includes cardiovascular pathophysiology, 3-lead and 12-lead dysrhythmia interpretation techniques, dysrhythmia management, electrical therapy and cardiac pharmacology. Students practice intensive patient management simulations. The student receives Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification upon successful course completion.

## Fall - second year

**EMS 210 - Paramedic Clinical (2 credits)**
Provides students with continued practice of invasive skills and patient management under the supervision and direction of licensed hospital staff. Students attend scheduled class meetings, integrate advanced patient management simulations and produce a research paper based on clinical experiences. Students attend Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) 2-day class.

**EMS 211 - Paramedic Fieldwork Internship I (2 credits)**
Provides assignments with certified Paramedics. Students perform pre-hospital treatment under supervision.

## January - second year

**EMS 212 - Paramedic Field Internship II (2 credits)**
Continuation and completion of fieldwork assignments with certified Paramedics, Final Capstone psychomotor simulation scenarios and cognitive exam.
Successful completion of the Paramedic Certificate Program requires proficiency in the performance of a variety of skills. Our admission requirements determine minimal standards for the cognitive learning domain. These technical standards clarify minimum standards for the affective and psychomotor learning domains. To that end, students must:

1. Be ambulatory and able to lift, carry and balance up to 100 pounds. Examples of activities include but are not limited to:
   - Carry and manipulate equipment
   - Carry, lift, support and position patient(s), including patients incapable of independent movement/ambulation
2. Be in sufficient physical condition so as to be able to bend, stoop, balance and crawl on even and uneven terrain; have the ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, extreme cold and moisture, at times under prolonged conditions. Examples of activities include but are not limited to:
   - Gain access to and extricate patients from a variety of mechanical, environmental and physical settings
   - Perform tasks and duties in inclement weather and during natural and manmade disaster situations
   - Perform duties in conditions of extreme or sustained noise
3. Possess fine motor coordination and hand/eye/foot coordination required to perform technical and precise skills. Motor coordination may be defined as the ability to make a movement or response quickly and accurately. Examples of activities include but are not limited to:
   - Preparation and administration of medications
   - Insertion of intravenous catheter
   - Insertion of endotracheal tube
   - Perform CPR and manual electrical therapy
   - Balance while lifting/moving/positioning patients and/or equipment
   - Drive, steer and brake emergency response vehicle in a variety of environmental conditions during day and night settings
4. Possess the visual acuity necessary to perform technical skills and to make precise discriminations. Examples of activities include but are not limited to:
   - Accurately discern street signs and address numbers
   - Accurately read medication/prescription labels and directions for usage
   - Accurately determine precise amounts of medication
   - Discern deviations in eye/skin coloration due to patient’s condition and treatment provided
   - Discern anomalies in patient appearance during physical assessment
5. Have sufficient verbal ability and auditory perception to be able to perform comprehensive patient assessment, management and transport. Examples of activities include but are not limited to:
   - Ability to interpret and respond to written and oral instructions or descriptions
   - Ability to converse via phone, radio or in person with health care providers and EMS personnel
   - Ability to communicate verbally with patients and bystanders in diverse cultural and age groups
   - Ability to effectively use a stethoscope and other diagnostic equipment requiring visual and/or auditory interpretation
6. Be able to effectively communicate with patients, bystanders and other health care providers. Communication involves speech, reading, writing, and awareness of emotional messages included in body language, tone and presentation. Activities include but are not limited to;
• Clear and rapid communication with medical personnel, non-medically trained professionals, patients and family members, including the ability to elicit as well as convey information
• Awareness of the emotional messages conveyed by patients, self and others
• Precise and legible medical/legal documentation of all aspects of patient care

7. Have the emotional stability and maturity to exercise sound judgment while effectively completing patient care activities. Examples of attributes include but are not limited to:
• ability to remain calm in high-stress situations
• ability to assume the role of team leader
• confidence and ability to work independently without defined structure
• ability to practice effective time-management
• ability for stable reasoning
• ability to draw valid conclusions expediently, often with limited information
• ability to self-reflect
• ability to accept constructive criticism

Information Contacts

Please contact the following for questions about admission to the college and the application process for the Paramedic Certificate Program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact for</th>
<th>Phone/room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laura Earl</td>
<td>Program application requirements and admission information</td>
<td>(413) 775-1816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transfer credit for health occupations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CORI check questions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danielle VerPlanck</td>
<td>General college admission information</td>
<td>(413) 775-1802/C103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Wroblewski</td>
<td>Health requirements information</td>
<td>(413) 775-1431/N348</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other important contact information:
| Student Financial Services (includes Financial Aid and Bursar) | sfs@gcc.mass.edu | (413) 775-1109 |
| Veteran’s Office                                                | (413) 775-1885  |

GCC is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodation, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services at (413) 775-1812.