Information Packet
August 1, 2019 – July 31, 2020

Paramedic Certificate Program

web.gcc.mass.edu/ems/
Paramedic Certificate Program

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 20-month program meets two evenings per week plus approximately two Saturdays per month for 12 months, followed by seven months of intensive clinical and field internship experiences then NREMT exam prep and final program exams.

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 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Section 2: STCC: Mon/Wed 5:30 p.m. – 10:00 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.

Acceptance into the Paramedic Certificate Program at Greenfield Community College is very competitive. The program accepts students on a rolling basis pending completion of specific admission criteria. Acceptance is contingent upon space availability.

Application Requirements
The following information summarizes the requirements necessary to enter the Paramedic Certificate Program at Greenfield Community College. A PMC Program Application should be submitted after you submit a GCC Application for Admission. Visit the GCC website at web.gcc.mass.edu/admission/health-careers/ to download an application.

Requirements:
1. Submit a GCC Application for Admission from our website at web.gcc.mass.edu/admission/.
2. Complete English and math placement tests placing out of developmental English and math, or submit official transcripts of previous college coursework. All applicants must show college level proficiency in English and math. Applicants who have not taken equivalent courses at GCC or another college must take placement tests. Call 413-775-1821 to schedule an appointment.
3. 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,
4. Complete written EMT basic knowledge exam
5. Submit your completed and signed Paramedic Program Application to the Office of Admission.

Note: Program Applications are accepted throughout the year until the program is full. 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 to be eligible to continue in the program. Obtain forms from the GCC website or the PMC Program Director (413-775-1761).
Program Costs

Cost estimates are based on 2018-2019 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>$1,130</td>
<td>$495</td>
<td>$1625</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 1st yr (10 cr.)</td>
<td>2,240</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>2520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 1st yr (8 cr.)</td>
<td>1796</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2nd yr (4 cr.)</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>1353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2nd yr (2 cr.)</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>714</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,538</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,700</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,238</strong></td>
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Additional Costs (approximate):

- Malpractice Insurance (per year) $13¹
- Clinical and Field Uniforms 175
- Books and supplies 950
- Drug Testing Fee 60
- ALS Practical testing fee to GCC 200
- MA Certification fee to OEMS 150³
- Remediation fee (if needed) 200–300
- GCC Paramedic pin (optional) 40-140
- Health Insurance (optional, thru GCC) 2,390⁴

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 (CSW 310).

**Cost for EMS 101 (6 credits): $1477.00**
To register, call (413) 775-1339

**Cost for EMH 310 (non-credit): $1175.00**
To register call (413) 775-1661

CORI

All students entering the PMC Program will be required to have a CORI (Criminal Offenders Record Information) check. A student with a charge in the Lifetime Presumptive Disqualification Category is ineligible for placement in the GCC PMC Program. Any charges in the Discretionary Disqualification Category will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Some clinical facilities may run their own CORIs on students and may require a drug test screening. To discuss your CORI situation, please contact Laura Earl at (413) 775-1816.

CPR Certificate

All Paramedic students are required to submit a current AHA BLS Provider CPR certification card at their meeting with the Director. Students must maintain CPR currency while in the program.
Paramedic Certificate Program Technical Standards

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
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.

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<th>Requirement</th>
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<td><strong>CPR Certification:</strong> Students are required to maintain CPR certification (American Heart Association BLS) throughout the entire program. Certification must be valid and a copy of certification must be submitted. CPR Certification is available through GCC. Information can be found through Workforce Development at <a href="http://www.gcc.mass.edu/non-credit/">www.gcc.mass.edu/non-credit/</a></td>
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<td><strong>Confirmation Letter:</strong> Must complete form indicating acceptance of spot in the program.</td>
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<td><strong>Verification of Health Insurance:</strong> All students in the Paramedic Program must have health insurance. A copy of your card must be provided.</td>
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<td><strong>Authorization to Release Information to Clinical Facilities:</strong> Students must read and complete the Authorization to Release Information to Externship Sites Form.</td>
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| **Immunization Requirements:** Hepatitis B - three vaccinations AND Positive HBSAB titer results. If negative begin repeat series.  
  Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) - two live vaccinations or Positive IgG titers for each disease  
  Meningococcal – New full time (12 credits or more) students less than 22 years old, one dose of a MenACWY vaccine received on or after the 16th birthday or a signed waiver.  
  Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) vaccination within the past 10 years  
  Varicella (Chickenpox)- two vaccinations or Positive IgG titer results  
  **TITERS:** If a titer is drawn, the student is required to submit the lab report to Health Records. Any result that is indeterminate or equivocal will be considered a negative result and the student may be required to be revaccinated with the complete series of vaccinations according to current standards. **Note “PMC” on Immunization and titer documents submitted. All vaccine records and titers need to identify the medical office, and/or lab where they were issued to be valid.** |
| **Physical Exam:** Physical exam must have been completed no earlier than April 1, 2020. **Proof of exam will only be accepted via the GCC PNC Physical Attestation Form, which must be completed and signed by a Physician, PA, or NP.** |
| **Influenza (Flu):** One seasonal vaccination annually, or a signed declination |
| **Tuberculosis Screening:** Choose one of the following two methods: For First Year PMC students:  
  - Two Tuberculin Skin Tests [ Mantoux/PPD] | Plant & Read dates noted and a minimum of two weeks apart.  
    o One performed after April 1, 2020  
    o Second will be performed in February 2021 while in the program.  
    OR  
  - A single IGRA blood test (T-SPOT or Quantiferon Gold)  
    o Performed in February 2021.  
  A report of a chest x-ray performed since April 1, 2020 is required for students with positive TB test results.  
  **Annually thereafter:**  
  *Proof of PPD (tuberculosis screen) OR an IGRA-test (T-spot or Quantiferon Gold test) one year from previous test. Unless there is a history of a positive TB test. Then must answer a symptom questionnaire every year, and submit a CXR every 5 years.** |
| **Exceptions:**  
  1. There has been a break in clinical rotations during the year where the student went to a high risk facility (where biannual testing is required) or a homeless shelter.  
  2. Travel to an endemic area out of the country.  
  If 1 or 2 has occurred then another TB test is required prior to returning to clinical practicums.  
  **11-panel drug screening** performed in March, 2021. Information sheet will be provided shortly before testing time frame. |
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.
Information Contacts

Please contact the following people on the Main Campus 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laura Earl</td>
<td>• Transfer credit for health occupations</td>
<td>(413) 775-1816/C103C</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• CORI check questions</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Program application requirements and admission information</td>
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<tr>
<td>DJ Towne</td>
<td>• General college admission information</td>
<td>(413) 775-1802/C103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Program application requirements and admission information</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Annette Moise R.N.</td>
<td>• Health requirements information</td>
<td>(413) 775-1431/N348</td>
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Other important contact information:
- Bursar's Office ___________________________________________ (413) 775-1301
- Financial Aid Office ______________________________________ (413) 775-1109
- Veteran's Services Office _________________________________ (413) 775-1882 or (413) 775-1825

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*Greenfield Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, veteran status, genetic information, gender identity or sexual orientation in its programs and activities as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable statutes and college policies. The College prohibits sexual harassment, including sexual violence. Inquiries or complaints concerning discrimination, harassment, retaliation or sexual violence shall be referred to the College's Affirmative Action and/or Title IX Officer at 413-775-1312, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, or the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.*