

Description of the Profession Paramedic

Paramedics have fulfilled prescribed requirements by a credentialing agency to practice the art and science of out-of-hospital medicine in conjunction with medical direction. Through performance of assessments and providing medical care, their goal is to prevent and reduce mortality and morbidity due to illness and injury. Paramedics primarily provide care to emergency patients in an out-of-hospital setting. Paramedics possess the knowledge, skills and attitudes consistent with the expectations of the public and the profession. Paramedics recognize that they are an essential component of the continuum of care and serve as linkages among health resources. Paramedics strive to maintain high quality, reasonable cost health care by delivering patients directly to appropriate facilities. As an advocate for patients, paramedics seek to be proactive in affecting long term health care by working in conjunction with other provider agencies, networks, and organizations. The emerging roles and responsibilities of the Paramedic include public education, health promotion, and participation in injury and illness prevention programs. As the scope of service continues to expand, the Paramedic will function as a facilitator of access to care, as well as an initial treatment provider. Paramedics are responsible and accountable to medical direction, the public, and their peers. Paramedics recognize the importance of research and actively participate in the design, development, evaluation and publication of research. Paramedics seek to take part in life-long professional development, peer evaluation, and assume an active role in professional and community organizations.

Certificates of Accreditation

http://catalog.owens.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=11&poid=3472&hl=%22emm%22&returno=search

Issued by Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Medical Services, State Board of Emergency Medical Services through March 31, 2020. (Accreditation Number 344). For more information concerning the certificates of accreditation contact the Emergency Medical Services Division, Attention: EMS Accreditation, 1970 West Broad Street, P.O. Box 182073, Columbus, Ohio 43218-2073, web address www.publicsafety.ohio.gov).

The Owens Community College Paramedic Program is accredited through May, 2022 by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (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, 25400 U.S. Highway 19 North, Suite 158, Clearwater, FL 33763, 727-210-2350, www.caahep.org. To contact CoAEMSP, 8301 Lakeview Parkway Suite 111-312, Rowlett, TX 75088, 214-703-8445, FAX 214-703-8992, www.coaemsp.org.

Fire Charter is issued by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Medical Services. Charter Number 344, (Renewal site visit January 2018). For more information



concerning the fire charter contact the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Services, Charles D. Shipley Building, 1970 West Broad Street, P.O. Box 182073, Columbus, Ohio, 43218-2073, web address www.publicsafety.ohio.gov.

Paramedic Technical Standards – Functional Job Analysis

https://www.ems.gov/pdf/education/Emergency-Medical-Technician-Paramedic/Paramedic_1998.pdf

Paramedic Characteristics - The Paramedic must be a confident leader who can accept the challenge and high degree of responsibility entailed in the position. The Paramedic must have excellent judgement and be able to prioritize decisions and act quickly in the best interest of the patient, must be self disciplined, able to develop patient rapport, interview hostile patients, maintain safe distance, and recognize and utilize communication unique to diverse multicultural groups and ages within those groups. Must be able to function independently at optimum level in a non-structured environment that is constantly changing. Even though the Paramedic is generally part of a two- person team generally working with a lower skill and knowledge level Basic EMT, it is the Paramedic who is held responsible for safe and therapeutic administration of drugs including narcotics. Therefore, the Paramedic must not only be knowledgeable about medications but must be able to apply this knowledge in a practical sense. Knowledge and practical application of medications include thoroughly knowing and understanding the general properties of all types of drugs including analgesics, anesthetics, anti-anxiety drugs, sedatives and hypnotics, anti-convulsants, central nervous stimulants, psychotherapeutics which include antidepressants, and other anti-psychotics, anticholinergics, cholinergics, muscle relaxants, anti-dysrhythmics, anti-hypertensives, anticoagulants, diuretics, bronchodilators, ophthalmics, pituitary drugs, gastro-intestinal drugs, hormones, antibiotics, antifungals, antiinflammatories, serums, vaccines, anti-parasitics, and others. The Paramedic is personally responsible, legally, ethically, and morally for each drug administered, for using correct precautions and techniques, observing and documenting the effects of the drugs administered, keeping one's own pharmacological knowledge- base current as to changes and trends in administration and use, keeping abreast of all contraindications to administration of specific drugs to patients based on their constitutional make-up, and using drug reference literature.

The responsibility of the Paramedic includes obtaining a comprehensive drug history from the patient that includes names of drugs, strength, daily usage and dosage. The Paramedic must take into consideration that many factors, in relation to the history given, can affect the type medication to be given. For example, some patients may be taking several medications prescribed by several different doctors and some may lose track of what they have or have not taken. Some may be using nonprescription/over the counter drugs. Awareness of drug reactions and the synergistic effects of drugs combined with other medicines and in some instances, food, is imperative. The Paramedic must also take into consideration the possible risks of medication administered to a pregnant mother and the fetus, keeping in mind that drugs may cross the



placenta. The Paramedic must be cognizant of the impact of medications on pediatric patients based on size and weight, special concerns related to newborns, geriatric patients and the physiological effects of aging such as the way skin can tear in the geriatric population with relatively little to no pressure. There must be an awareness of the high abuse potential of controlled substances and the potential for addiction, therefore, the Paramedic must be thorough in report writing and able to justify why a particular narcotic was used and why a particular amount was given. The ability to measure and remeasure drip rates for controlled substances/medications is essential. Once medication is stopped or not used, the Paramedic must send back unused portions to proper inventory arena. The Paramedic must be able to apply basic principles of mathematics to the calculation of problems associated with medication dosages, perform conversion problems, differentiate temperature reading between centigrade and Fahrenheit scales, be able to use proper advanced life support equipment and supplies (i.e. proper size of intravenous needles) based on patient's age and condition of veins, and be able to locate sites for obtaining blood samples and perform this task, administer medication intravenously, administer medications by gastric tube, administer oral medications, administer rectal medications, and comply with universal pre-cautions and body substance isolation, disposing of contaminated items and equipment properly. The Paramedic must be able to apply knowledge and skills to assist overdosed patients to overcome trauma through antidotes, and have knowledge of poisons and be able to administer treatment. The Paramedic must be knowledgeable as to the stages drugs/medications go through once they have entered the patient's system and be cognizant that route of administration is critical in relation to patient's needs and the effect that occurs.

The Paramedic must also be capable of providing advanced life support emergency medical services to patients including conducting of and interpreting electrocardiograms (EKGs), electrical interventions to support the cardiac functions, performing advanced endotracheal intubations in airway management and relief of pneumothorax and administering of appropriate intravenous fluids and drugs under direction of off-site designated physician.

The Paramedic is a person who must not only remain calm while working in difficult and stressful circumstances, but must be capable of staying focused while assuming the leadership role inherent in carrying out the functions of the position. Good judgement along with advanced knowledge and technical skills are essential in directing other team members to assist as needed. The Paramedic must be able to provide top quality care, concurrently handle high levels of stress, and be willing to take on the personal responsibility required of the position. This includes not only all legal ramifications for precise documentation, but also the responsibility for using the knowledge and skills acquired in real life threatening emergency situations.

The Paramedic must be able to deal with adverse and often dangerous situations which include responding to calls in districts known to have high crime and mortality rates. Self-confidence is critical, as is a desire to work with people, solid emotional stability, a tolerance for



high stress, and the ability to meet the physical, intellectual, and cognitive requirements demanded by this position.

Physical Demands Aptitudes required for work of this nature are good physical stamina, endurance, and body condition that would not be adversely affected by frequently having to walk, stand, lift, carry, and balance at times, in excess of 125 pounds. Motor coordination is necessary because over uneven terrain, the patient's, the Paramedic's, and other workers' well-being must not be jeopardized.

The Paramedic provides the most extensive pre-hospital care and may work for fire departments, private ambulance services, police departments or hospitals. Response times for nature of work are dependent upon nature of call. For example, a Paramedic working for a private ambulance service that transports the elderly from nursing homes to routine medical appointments and check-ups may endure somewhat less stressful circumstances than the Paramedic who works primarily with 911 calls in a districts known to have high crime rates. Thus, the particular stresses inherent in the role of the Paramedic can vary, depending on place and type of employment. However, in general, in the analyst's opinion, the Paramedic must be flexible to meet the demands of the ever-changing emergency scene. When emergencies exists, the situation can be complex and care of the patient must be started immediately. In essence, the Paramedic in the EMS system uses advanced training and equipment to extend emergency physician services to the ambulance.

The Paramedic must be able to make accurate independent judgements while following oral directives. The ability to perform duties in a timely manner is essential, as it could mean the difference between 2 life and death for the patient. Use of the telephone or radio dispatch for coordination of prompt emergency services is required, as is a pager, depending on place of employment. Accurately discerning street names through map reading, and correctly distinguishing house numbers or business addresses are essential to task completion in the most expedient manner. Concisely and accurately describing orally to dispatcher and other concerned staff, one's impression of patient's condition, is critical as the Paramedic works in emergency conditions where there may not be time for deliberation. The Paramedic must also be able to accurately report orally and in writing, all relevant patient data. At times, reporting may require a detailed narrative on extenuating circumstances or conditions that go beyond what is required on a prescribed form. In some instances, the Paramedic must enter data on computer from a laptop in ambulance. Verbal skills and reasoning skills are used extensively.



Admissions policies and practices

Policy: https://www.owens.edu/trustees/board_policies/11-2-01.pdf

Practices: <https://www.owens.edu/admissions/>

Policies on advanced placement

<https://www.owens.edu/trustees/procedures/proc3358-11-2-60.pdf>

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) allows a student the opportunity to demonstrate meeting a course's student learning outcomes and to earn college credit for learning done outside the classroom. PLA must be assessed by qualified faculty and/or evaluators. Course credit can be obtained in the following ways:

Credit by Exam: Advanced Placement (AP) – The College Board's AP Program offers a student the ability to earn college credit by exam for multiple courses while in high school. A student with an AP exam score of 3 or above will be awarded the aligned course credit. A student who wishes to obtain AP credit should request scores be sent to Owens Community College using school code 1643. A student can request this through the College Board website at <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/home> or by calling 888-225-5427. AP test scores may also be submitted on an official high school transcript.

Transfer of credits

<https://www.owens.edu/records/transfer-credit/>

Transfer credit will be granted using the following guidelines:

The credits have been earned at an institution that is accredited by a regional association such as the North Central Association. A grade of "D" or higher will be accepted if received in Fall 2005 or more recent. Credit will not be granted for courses that are defined as pre-college level by the institution where they were earned.

Students will be notified via their Owens student email account. To receive credit, students must have official sealed transcripts evaluated at the Records Office. The process is easy:

- Have an official transcript mailed to:
 - Owens Community College Records Office
 - PO Box 10,000
 - Toledo, OH 43699
- Or, bring your transcript(s) to Oserve in a sealed envelope.
- Students will be notified via their Owens email account if transfer credit is awarded.
- If you have any questions about transfer credit evaluation contact transfer@owens.edu.



Credits for experiential learning

<https://www.owens.edu/trustees/procedures/proc3358-11-2-60.pdf>

Work Experience Credit A student has the opportunity to obtain credit through work experience. To request credit, a student must meet with the appropriate department chair to discuss work history and what documentation will be required to evaluate for credit. The faculty and academic administration will determine if any course credit can be awarded. There is a 12 credit hour maximum that may be waived for work experience. Fees for work experience waivers may vary. Credit will be reflected on the transcript as a "CR" for each course. This credit can fulfill degree requirements but may not be transferable to other colleges.

Credits required for completion of program

Emergency Services Technology, AAS -

http://catalog.owens.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=11&poid=3195&hl=%22emm%22&returno=search

Paramedic Certificate -

http://catalog.owens.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=11&poid=3472&hl=%22emm%22&returno=search

Tuition/fees/other expenses

<https://www.owens.edu/student-accounts/index.html>

The College reserves the right to make adjustments in tuition and fees, specifically, instructional fees, general fees, laboratory fees and other mandatory and optional fees, when deemed necessary and without advance notice. **In addition, any expense that the College incurred in pursuit of collecting any outstanding balance will be assessed to the student account.** Tuition rates include both instructional and general fees.

Policy/process for withdrawal

<https://www.owens.edu/trustees/procedures/proc3358-11-2-14.pdf>

https://www.owens.edu/financial_aid/enrollment/



Refund of tuition/fees

<https://www.owens.edu/student-accounts/deferred.html>

Refunds

Owens Community College has partnered with BankMobile Disbursements, a financial services company, for refund disbursement for students. Financial aid and tuition refunds will be disbursed to students via BankMobile.

For more information about BankMobile, visit this link: <http://bankmobiledisbursements.com/>

To review the contract between BankMobile Disbursements and Owens Community College, please go to <https://www.vibeaccount.com/swc/doc/landing/m3mxgjl9mkidp2xlc7c>.

*Students under the age of 18 who are expecting a refund will receive a paper check mailed to the address the College has on file. Should a student under the age of 18 like to set up a refund preference through BankMobile Disbursements, this request will need to be made through Oserve.

Refund Dates

Lack of attendance does not constitute eligibility to receive refunds, or guarantee the waiver of College fees. To be eligible for a refund, students must follow the official withdrawal procedures that can be found at the [Registration \(Add/Drop Class\) Instructions](#) webpage. The date of withdrawal processed through the Records Office is the date used to determine the amount of tuition and fees that are refunded.

https://cdn.owens.edu/records/refund_201860.pdf





Owens Community College

I, _____ was given the “Paramedic Applicant/Student Fair Practices Document”. I understand that I can ask questions pertaining to this document at any time. I understand that it is my responsibility to read and understand all information.

Date: _____

Student signature: _____

Owens representative printed name: _____

Owens representative signature: _____

