

**HACC Paramedic Program  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)**

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**EMS related questions:**

***Q: Do I need to be an EMT prior to taking paramedic?***

A: Yes. The Pennsylvania Department of Health requires a student entering a paramedic program be a Pennsylvania EMT-Basic.

***Q: How do I enroll in an EMT course?***

A: Non-credit courses are coordinated and administered through the HACC Public Safety Center – 717.780.2458 or 800.ABC.HACC extension 2458. Course dates and locations may be referenced at <http://hacc.edu/PublicSafetyCenter/EMS/index.cfm>

***Q: Do I need experience as an EMT prior to entering the paramedic program?***

A: Yes. Students applying for entry into the paramedic program benefit from patient care experience at the basic life support level. This equates to approximately 100 emergency patient contacts or more on an ambulance. Experience with patients with varied types of illness and injury is desired. You may contact your local EMS service for membership information, or the paramedic program for referral to high-volume EMS services in the region that will provide the necessary experience.

<http://ehsf.org/Utility/DbImageHandler.ashx?rowId=724&imageType=DocumentPDF>

***Q: Do I need to maintain my EMT while taking the paramedic course?***

A: Yes. It is a requirement of the Pennsylvania Department of Health that EMTs maintain their certification until graduating from the paramedic program and successfully passing the National Registry exam for paramedics.

***Q: Do I need to be a resident of Pennsylvania to take the paramedic course at HACC?***

A: No. But Pennsylvania EMT is required by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

***Q: What additional courses or continuing education could I take prior to taking paramedic to help prepare me for the program?***

A: Trauma related courses such as ITLS/PHTLS, which focus on refining patient assessment skills, is helpful. ACLS, PALS, PEPP, ALS assistant, hazardous materials, or any course that will enhance the EMT-Basic knowledge base, especially patient assessment is encouraged.

***Q: Will I need to have a background check and a physical exam/immunizations prior to taking the paramedic course?***

A: Yes. All students accepted into the clinical component of the program must undergo a drug and alcohol screen annually at the laboratory specified by the program on or before the stated deadline. This lab is used to protect the integrity of the results being reported. The test is at the cost of the student. No student will be admitted or retained in the program with a disqualifying result or failure to meet the specified deadline. All students accepted into the clinical component of the program must undergo a Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, FBI Check and State Police Criminal Record Check. No student will be admitted or retained in the program with a disqualifying criminal history or child abuse clearance.

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**Academic related questions:**

***Q: Where are the paramedic courses offered at HACC?***

A: At the Harrisburg campus. The traditional classroom offering meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:45 to 10:00 p.m. with testing on some Saturdays. We also offer a online / blended alternative which can be substituted for the traditional Tuesday/Thursday classroom/lab sessions. The clinical lab sessions are conducted Wednesday afternoons for the blended cohort. The hospital clinical rotations (ER, OB, Peds, psych, ICU, OR, etc.) and ALS field rotations are consistent for both groups - 250 hours each (hospital and ALS) with specific competencies are required.

***Q: What are the benefits and challenges of taking the online / blended education offering?***

A: Students will gain flexibility as to when to choose to complete their course work. They will not tend to save any time compared to the traditional classroom. Students will lose the ability to ask questions and receive immediate feedback. They will have the ability to send emails and receive feedback in approximately one day.

***Q: Who are good candidates for the online / distance education offering?***

A: The online paramedic program may be attempted by very motivated students with discipline and good study habits. Take the [Self-Assessment for Online Learning](#) or visit [www.hacc.edu/virtual](http://www.hacc.edu/virtual) to see if your learning style is conducive for taking online classes. Also, the **ability** to use your computer and the essential software for the course is necessary. "Web literacy" is required.

***Q: Where can I access the online / distance education offering?***

A: Didactic material is completed from any internet-connected PC to gain access to the courseware.

***Q: Is there any reason(s) I should not consider taking the Paramedic program by online / distance education?***

A: The online / blended approach is not suited for all students. It requires a disciplined learner with good reading comprehension and independent study skills. In addition, some students still prefer and benefit from being with peer learners in a traditional classroom environment.

***Q: How do I begin the application process for the Paramedic program?***

A: [Apply online](#) or contact the Admissions Office at any HACC campus to request application material. There is a one-time \$35 non-refundable application fee. Go to [www.hacc.edu](http://www.hacc.edu), click on the Admission's tab and then select the link- How to Apply for a step by step guide to the admission process. Apply for financial aid.

After submitting your application you will receive a letter indicating your next steps. You will schedule placement testing and an Advising and Registration Session (ARS) through your campus Test Center (unless prior college-level credit courses have been taken). Request your official high school and prior college transcripts. If you submit college transcripts, you will receive a letter telling you what courses transferred in. Complete the [paramedic clinical application](#) material and schedule a paramedic advising session with the [paramedic program director](#). Contact [Health Careers](#) if you need to request a hard copy. You may schedule the advising appointment any time after you have taken placement tests and/or had your official prior college transcripts evaluated.

**Contact the Admissions Offices:**

Gettysburg: [gettyadmit@hacc.edu](mailto:gettyadmit@hacc.edu) 717.337.3855 option 1

Harrisburg: [admit@hacc.edu](mailto:admit@hacc.edu) 717.780.2400

Lancaster: [lancadmit@hacc.edu](mailto:lancadmit@hacc.edu) 717.358.2966

Lebanon: [lebadmit@hacc.edu](mailto:lebadmit@hacc.edu) 717.270.6330

York: [yorkinfo@hacc.edu](mailto:yorkinfo@hacc.edu) 717.718.0328 ext. 3550

Health Careers: [healthcareers@hacc.edu](mailto:healthcareers@hacc.edu) 717.780.1988

***Q: What academic prerequisites will I need before entering the paramedic course?***

A: Prerequisites will be determined once you've completed the admission process (taken placement tests and/or submitted official high school and college transcripts) during the appointment with the paramedic program director (your advisor) to create an educational plan. It will depend upon past educational experiences and HACC's placement testing scores. A human-based anatomy and physiology course is required as a pre/ corequisite. Three options are available at HACC: Biology 111 and AH 150; or EMS 200; or Biology 121. All of these courses are available in the traditional classroom setting as well as online.

***Q: When should I schedule the advising session with the paramedic program director?***

A: Schedule your advising appointment with the paramedic program director after applying to the college and taking the placement tests (and having your prior college transcripts evaluated). Schedule your advising appointment with the program director prior to July 1 (clinical application deadline) of the year you plan to begin the program. Bring your completed paramedic clinical application to this meeting. This will allow time to develop your educational plan and schedule your classes. Refer to paramedic [admission criteria](#).

***Q: May I pursue the EMS Associate of Arts Associate Degree during or after I take the paramedic program?***

A: Yes. Students may take additional AA degree courses during the paramedic program, or return at any time after completion to pursue degree options at HACC. Credits earned in paramedic may be applied to two EMS associate degrees as well as other degree programs at HACC – paramedic and Health Sciences. Credits earned are also transferable to various Baccalaureate programs at various colleges and universities.

***Q: Are applicants ranked for admission to the program?***

A: Yes. Applicants may refer to the [admission criteria](#) and point system provided with paramedic application materials to evaluate their applicant status. [www.hacc.edu/healthcareers](http://www.hacc.edu/healthcareers) - select Admission Criteria - Paramedic

***Q: Should I buy my textbooks in advance?***

A: It is not suggested. Publishers tend to revise course texts rather frequently to include the most current patient care information. The most current editions of the various texts are available in the college bookstore prior to each semester. A listing of required texts are provided to students accepted into the program.