

***Mercyhealth Prehospital and Emergency Services Center-Rockford***

***Fall 2023 Paramedic Program  
Course Catalog  
Rockford Course 2023-2024- Cohort 38***

**Admission into the Mercyhealth Prehospital and Emergency Services Center – Rockford paramedic program (herein after referred to as; the Program) is highly competitive. The Program may not be able to accept all applicants that meet the minimum admission and technical standards.**

**Program description**

The Program (paramedic program at the Mercyhealth Prehospital and Emergency Services Center) is designed for individuals interested in career opportunities with ambulance services, fire departments, hospitals and rescue departments. Paramedic students learn to manage seriously ill and critically injured patients in the out-of-hospital setting.

Upon successful completion of the Program (Mercyhealth Prehospital and Emergency Services Center paramedic program), students are eligible to apply for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians-Paramedic (NREMT-P) exam.

The Program schedule will consist of two days a week (Tuesday and Thursday. \*An occasional Wednesday or Friday will be scheduled monthly as breakout sessions.) 8:00 am to 5:00 pm during the approximately 35 week didactic portion (to include: classroom, skill lab and simulation lab). Students will be given ample lead time on these additional scheduled sessions. Clinical I and Field I hours may be completed during the didactic portion on the non-scheduled classroom/lab days. Once the core content of the Program is complete the student will participate in the Clinical II and Field II portion of the course.

The 2023-2024 paramedic course will start on August 22, 2023. The course length is driven by the student’s availability and commitment to clinical and field time. The course length will vary from student to student lasting approximately 12 months. The students should complete the course between July and August of 2024.

## **Program Goals**

- To prepare competent entry-level Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedics in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains,” (with or without exit points at the Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate, and/or Emergency Medical Technician-Basic, and/or First Responder levels)
- Graduate paramedic students that are prepared to successfully pass the NREMT-P Exam.

## **Accreditation**

The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs ([www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for EMS Professionals (CoAEMSP).

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

25400 US Highway 19 N, Suite 158

Clearwater, FL 33763

(727) 210-2350

<http://www.caahep.org/>

Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for EMS Professionals

8301 Lakeview Pkwy., Ste. 111-312

Rowlett, TX 75088

(214) 703-8445

<http://www.coaemsp.org/>

## **Program Sponsor**

Mercyhealth is the sponsor of the Mercyhealth Prehospital and Emergency Services Center- paramedic program. Mercyhealth, legally known as Mercy Health System Corporation, holds current accreditation status with The Joint Commission As a non-credit based program, the Program has an articulation agreement with an accredited educational institutions that may provide college credits towards an Associate’s Degree. All processes included with gaining those credit hours and degree as the responsibility of the candidate and the college selected

## **Admission**

Admission/selection into the Program is competitive and non-discriminatory. To be considered in the selection process, a completed application packet must first be received. Students will then be ranked based on prescribed scoring system of their application, performance on a written and/or skills practical test, and a selection committee interview. Priority is given to applicants who are employed and sponsored by a local Illinois licensed paramedic ambulance service.

## **Application requirements/prerequisites**

1. Must be at least 18 years old.
2. Must be a graduate of a standard four-year high school program or have a general education development (GED) certificate. A copy of the high school diploma or GED certificate must be included with your application.
3. Must submit copies of all technical college and university transcripts.
4. Must hold a valid license as an emergency medical technician (EMT) or Advanced EMT issued by the State of Illinois. A photocopy of the license must be included with your application.
5. One (1) year of documented experience as an EMS provider is preferred.
6. Must submit three (3) references. Forms are provided in the application packet for this purpose.
7. Must demonstrate EMT knowledge and skills proficient at a level deemed appropriate by successfully completing entry examinations that include written and/or practical sessions.
8. Must submit to a personal interview by our selection committee.
9. Must hold a current BLS Healthcare Provider card issued by the American Heart Association (or American Red Cross equivalent).
10. Must submit an essay outlining your motivation or reasoning for attending the program.
11. Must be able to meet the requirements outlined in the *Mercyhealth Prehospital and Emergency Services Center-Rockford Program Technical Standards* document.

## **Curriculum**

The paramedic program provides paramedic education based on the National Standard Curriculum of the U.S. Department of Transportation and identified in Title 77, Part 515 of the Illinois Department of Public Health EMS Rule and Regulations.

### General Program objectives

Upon completion of the classroom lectures, demonstration/return demonstration labs, independent readings, hospital-based clinical rotations, supervised field internship, and the capstone session; the paramedic program graduate will be able to demonstrate competency and mastery in the terminal competencies.

1. Prepare for incident response and EMS operations.
2. Integrate pathophysiological principles and assessment findings to provide appropriate patient care.
3. Demonstrate paramedic skills associated with established standards and procedures for a variety of patient encounters.
4. Communicate effectively with others.
5. Demonstrate professional behavior.
6. Meet state and national competencies listed for paramedic credentialing.
7. Perform a patient assessment, recognize alterations from health, establish patient care priorities, and coordinate their efforts with those of other agencies that may be involved in the care and transportation of the patient.
8. Establish rapport with the patient and significant others to decrease their state of anxiety and meet their emotional as well as physical needs.
9. Record and communicate data to the designated medical command authority.
10. Initiate and continue emergency care to the Basic Life Support and/or Advanced Life Support level as required by the written standards established by the Program Medical Director and under direction of approved physicians.
11. Direct the maintenance and preparation of emergency care equipment and supplies.

### Program Length and description

Didactic (Classroom, Skills Lab, Simulation, Capstone)	560 hours (min)
Clinical	316 hours (min)
Field	<u>312 hours (min)</u>
Total Hours	1188 hours *

\*Additional clinical and field hours may be warranted based on the performance and achievement of the candidate

### Didactic/skill lab/simulation

#### **Block 1: Paramedic Fundamentals:**

*This section provides the students with the basic knowledge of the EMS System, roles and responsibilities, well-being of the paramedic, illness and injury prevention, medical-legal aspects, ethics, general principles, anatomy/physiology, pathophysiology, therapeutic communications, history taking, physical exam*

*techniques, patient assessment, clinical decision making, verbal communication, medical terminology, life span development, documentation and a diversity work shop.*

**Block 2: Airway and Shock:**

*This section provides the student with the knowledge and skills to establish and/or maintain a patent airway, oxygenate, and ventilate a patient using various types of airway devices and techniques. The student will gain an understanding of the basic principles of shock management, acid base and the skills needed to care for a patient in shock. This section provides the student with the knowledge and skills required to safely and precisely access the circulatory system via blood draws, intravenous access, and intraosseous access.*

**Block 3: Pharmacology:**

*This section provides the opportunity for the student to develop the knowledge of basic pharmacodynamics. The student will gain the knowledge and skills required to safely and precisely, select, prepare, and administer appropriate medications used in the treatment of disorders of the major body systems.*

**Block 4: Cardiology:**

*This section will provide the student with the basic knowledge and skills to integrate pathophysiological principles and assessment findings, with ECG interpretation, in order to formulate a field impression and implement the treatment for the patient with cardiovascular disease including a patient with Acute Coronary Syndromes (ACS). The section includes Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification.*

**Block 5: Respiratory:**

*This section will provide the student with the knowledge to integrate pathophysiological principles and assessment findings to formulate a field impression and implement a treatment plan for patients experiencing respiratory system disorders including allergies and anaphylaxis.*

**Block 6: Pediatrics, Obstetrics, and Medical I (Endocrine, Abdominal, GI, GU):**

*This section will provide the student with the knowledge and skills to formulate a field impression and implement a treatment management plan for the patient experiencing a gynecology, obstetric, neonatal, or pediatric emergency. This section will provide the student with the knowledge and skills to integrate pathophysiological principles and assessment findings to formulate a field impression and implement a treatment plan for patients experiencing endocrine, gastroenterology, and renal/urology disorders. The section includes Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certification.*

**Block 7: Medical II (Special populations, behavioral health, neurology, toxicology and environmental):**

*This section will provide the student with the knowledge and skills to integrate pathophysiological principles and assessment findings to formulate a field impression and implement a treatment plan for patients experiencing neurology, toxicology, hematology, infectious/communicable diseases, and behavioral/psychiatric disorders, and conditions as they apply to the all ages including the geriatric patient. This section also covers the victim of abuse or assault, patients with special challenges and populations, and acute interventions in the home care patient.*

**Block 8: Trauma:**

*This section will provide the student with the knowledge to integrate the principles of kinematics to enhance the patient assessment and predict the likelihood of injuries based on the patient's mechanism of injury. This course includes: soft tissue trauma, burns, head and facial trauma, spinal trauma, abdominal trauma, thoracic trauma, and mechanism of injury trauma systems.*

**Block 9: Operations:**

*This section provides the student with the knowledge of ambulance operations, medical incident command, rescue awareness, crime scene management, hazardous material incidents, and weapons of mass destruction. This section concludes with an exercise rather than an exam.*

**CLINICAL:**

**Clinical I: CORE CONTENT:**

*Students are rotated through emergency departments, ICU, respiratory care, endoscopy, labor and delivery, laboratory, surgery, NICU, Cardiac Cath Lab, and Neurology/Stroke Team. Paramedic-patient interactions include but are not limited to blood samples, patient assessment, intravenous therapy, airway management, medication administration, assessment/management of respiratory emergencies in supervised clinical practice, and skill development in an acute care hospital. ..interpretation of electrocardiograms, assessment/management of cardiovascular, medical, trauma, pediatric, and obstetric emergencies in supervised clinical practice in an acute care hospital.*

**Clinical II: NON CORE CONTENT:**

*Students are rotated through emergency departments while participating in the Field II – Internship. The goal is to continue to hone assessment and patient care skills while placing emphasis on the continuation of care from the field to the hospital base disposition.*

### **FIELD:**

**Field I: CORE CONTENT:** *A period of supervised experience on an ALS vehicle offers the student a progression of increasing patient care responsibilities that proceed from observing to functioning as a team member. This level allows the student to learn how an ambulance crew performs and gives them an opportunity to act as a team member. Field 1 typically consists of a total of six shifts at various departments. The goal is to provide a well-rounded understanding of paramedic level emergency response and allows the student to gain self-confidence so they can better perform in the Field 2 portion of the program.*

**Field II: Capstone Field Internship:** *A period of supervised experience on an ALS vehicle offers the student the opportunity to function in the role of team leader. Typically a student will be assigned to a specific preceptor (or shift schedule) to allow a relationship to grow between the preceptor(s) and the student. This relationship will foster a sense of trust and make it easier for the student to feel safe and willing to lead the crew.*

### **Final or Summative Exit Point Testing:**

*After the conclusion of Clinical II and the Capstone Field Internship each student will complete a Summative Testing session. This session will include evaluation in all learning domains (cognitive, psychomotor and affective). Successful exit point testing qualifies the student for graduation.*

### **Course Completion**

To successfully complete the Program, the student must fulfill all didactic, lab, simulation, clinical, and field internship hours, requirements and complete the skill and patient contact minimums. In addition the student must meet the minimum acceptable standards of mastery/competency in the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective domains as measured by written, verbal, and practical examinations and performance appraisals.

### **Program cost**

Tuition for The Program is \$3,500.00. This includes: student textbooks, uniforms and the Program's National Registry (NREMT) Practical Exam fee. A non-refundable \$250.00 down payment is required at the time of the "Course Commitment" form submission. The down payment will be applied toward the total cost of tuition. Partial payment, in the amount of one half of the remaining tuition (\$1,625.00), is due the first day of class or the student may pay in full. A payment plan may be established if requested by the student. The Program does not qualify to offer financial aid. Tuition is nonrefundable. Cost of future

programs is subject to change without advanced notice. The student is responsible for the cost of transportation, food, lodging and/or other miscellaneous expenses.

### **Required Course Materials**

The student will need to provide a portable device (laptop or tablet) to access to the web for e-mail, the Jones and Bartlett learning management system and FISDAP. The device will need to accompany the student to class and lab sessions as well as field and clinical rotations. The student will need a stethoscope, wristwatch and extreme weather gear needed for clinical and field rotations and additional clothing to support the dress code.

### **Withdrawal and Refund**

The down payment of \$250.00 and the first \$1625.00 of the course tuition is non-refundable. For a student who has paid in full the tuition on the first day of class and who withdraws from The Program for personal reasons, is dismissed for disciplinary reasons or insufficient grades may be eligible for a partial refund of the total program tuition fee based on a pro-rated scale.

### **Health insurance**

The student is required to be covered by health insurance during their time enrollment in the Program. Any fees incurred by the student for illness or injury during the program are the responsibility of the student. In addition, proof of required inoculations is required

### **Technical standards**

The student candidate must meet the technical standards of observation, communication, motor, intellectual and behavioral/social attributes, as listed in the *Mercyhealth Prehospital and Emergency Services Center - Paramedic Program Technical Standards* document.

### **Advanced placement/transfer of credits/credit for experiential learning**

The policy of The Program is to **not** offer advanced placement, accept any transfer of any credits from another institution, or provide credit for experiential learning for any paramedic applicant or student.

### **Career information**

Mercyhealth Prehospital and Emergency Services Center has career planning and information services available through Mercy Health System Human Resources and local EMS Leadership Professionals. Resources include career interest and personality interviewing as well as occupational descriptions, employment outlook, and earnings.

### **FISDAP**

The Program will use FISDAP, a Web-based, on line tool, which provides for tracking of the





skills performed and the patient types encountered throughout the program. Scheduling of the clinical and field rotations will be completed through Fisdap.

## Program Contact Information

### Mercyhealth Prehospital and Emergency Services Center –Rockford

Phone: (815) 971-6262

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**WEBSITE:** <https://www.mercyhealthsystem.org/education-programs/emergency-medical-services/ems-classes-and-training-programs/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/MercyhealthPrehospitalREACT/>

### Faculty

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### Administrative Staff



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