

Paramedic Program

Frequently Asked Questions

General Information about paramedicine:

Q: What is a paramedic?

A paramedic is a highly trained healthcare professional who provides advanced pre-hospital care to patients experiencing medical emergencies. Paramedics have more advanced training and skills than EMTs, including the ability to perform complex medical procedures such as administering medications, performing advanced airway management, interpreting EKGs, and providing advanced life support (ALS). Paramedics work in partnership with EMTs and other healthcare providers to assess, treat, and transport patients to medical facilities for further care.

Q: Where do paramedics work?

Paramedics work in a variety of settings where emergency medical care is needed. The most common place is in an ambulance, responding to emergency calls and transporting patients to hospitals. Paramedics can also work in hospitals, urgent care centers, or even at large events like concerts and sports games, providing on-site medical care in case of injuries. Some paramedics are employed by fire departments or search-and-rescue teams, and may also be involved in disaster response. These diverse environments offer paramedics the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives, no matter where they work.

Q: How much do paramedics earn?

The income for paramedics can vary based on factors like location, experience, and the type of employer. On average, paramedics in the United States earn between \$40,000 and \$70,000 per year, with those in urban areas or working for private ambulance companies often earning more. Paramedics who work for fire departments or in specialized fields may receive additional benefits or higher pay. With experience, advanced certifications, or moving into supervisory or management roles, paramedics can increase their earning potential.

General Program Information

Q: What are the prerequisites to join the paramedic program?

The great news is that our paramedic program doesn't require any prior college courses or specific academic prerequisites to enroll! As long as you're already an EMT, you're eligible to begin the program. If you are not yet an EMT, visit our EMT webpage for more information.

Q: Will I earn an associate degree if I complete the paramedic program?

Some students will earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree in Paramedicine, while others will earn a diploma or certificate. This depends on additional courses (like math, English, etc.) completed

before or during the program. Students who graduate with a certificate or diploma can still earn the degree later by completing any remaining required courses.

Q: How long is the paramedic program?

The paramedic program takes four semesters to complete: Spring, Summer, Fall, and the following Spring. It starts every January and finishes the following April, with breaks in between each semester.

Q: What is the schedule for classes and clinicals?

The paramedic program is designed to be shift-friendly, with classes held two days a week for the first three semesters, and one day a week during the final semester. Classes are from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Clinicals are scheduled separately from class days, offering flexibility. Students will complete clinicals in various settings, including on the ambulance, in the ER, L&D, ICU, and other medical environments.

Q: Where is the program located?

The paramedic program is offered on the North Metro campus in Acworth.

Q: Is there a dress code or uniform requirement?

Uniforms are required for both class and clinicals, ensuring a professional appearance and readiness for hands-on training. The uniform includes boots, pants, a shirt, a vest, and a belt, with the total cost typically around \$200, though it may vary. Detailed information about uniform requirements and where to purchase them will be provided before the start of the program to help you prepare.

Q: Is there financial aid available for this program?

Chattahoochee Technical College offers several financial aid options to help make the paramedic program more accessible. Students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Information on financial aid options, as well as other scholarships, can be obtained through the financial aid office for the college.

Q: What health screenings or vaccinations are required for the program?

Students in the paramedic program are required to meet certain health and physical fitness standards to ensure they can perform essential functions of the job, such as lifting patients and performing CPR. Additionally, you will need to comply with the vaccination requirements of the clinical sites where you'll complete your rotations. While these requirements can vary between clinical sites, there may be flexibility depending on the situation. Specific details regarding health screenings, vaccinations, and any required documentation will be provided before the start of the program to help you prepare.

Q: How can I get more information?

For more information about the paramedic program, students are encouraged to attend the virtual information session, where we'll provide an overview of the program, answer your questions, and guide you through the registration process. If you have additional questions or need more details, feel free to reach out directly to Ryan Dehnert, the program director, at ryan.dehnert@chattahoocheetech.edu. We look forward to working with you!