



**Health Sciences Division
Emergency Medical Services**

PARAMEDIC PROGRAM

Thank you for your interest in the Emergency Medical Services program at Gulf Coast State College. The Emergency Medical Services programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org), by the American Medical Association, and by the Florida Department of Health. Graduates of either the EMT program or the Paramedic program are eligible to apply for the state and/or national board examinations.

The Paramedic program is the higher level on the EMS career ladder. Paramedics are licensed EMTs who then receive training in advanced life support measures, including venipuncture, intravenous therapy, endotracheal intubation, medication administration, dysrhythmia interpretation, cardioversion, and defibrillation.

The Paramedic program begins once each year and consists of three consecutive semesters including Fall, Spring, and Summer-A terms. The application deadline for Paramedic is June 1st each year. Applications will be considered after this date provided space is available.

Paramedic courses are held on Mondays from 1:30-6:20 p.m., and Wednesdays from 4:00-6:20 p.m. CST. The Paramedic program is 42-credit hours.

An Associate in Science Degree in Emergency Medical Services is also available. This option expands the Paramedic program to 73-credit hours which includes General Education courses.

We are grateful that you are considering Gulf Coast State College for your educational needs. If you have any questions please call Craig Wise at (850) 913-3311 or 800-311-3685, ext. 3311.

Sincerely,

A. Scott Williams, B.S., REMT-P
Coordinator
EMS Programs

rev. 11/11

It is the Applicant's responsibility to make sure their application folder is complete prior to the deadline.

The EMS Coordinator will review applications in June for the Fall semester classes. **Applications must be complete with all of the previous information before June 1st.** Applications will be considered after the deadline date provided openings are still available in the class. It should be understood that the satisfaction of the minimum requirements does not automatically guarantee admission into the Paramedic program.

If you have any questions regarding the Paramedic program, please contact:

Mr. Craig Wise at (850) 913-3311 or 800-311-3685 ext. 3311 or
Mr. Scott Williams (850) 769-1551 ext. 6103 or 800-311-3685 ext. 6103
Gulf Coast State College
Health Sciences - Paramedic Program
5230 West U.S. Highway 98
Panama City, FL 32401-1058

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Gulf Coast State College (GCSC) students who are granted conditional acceptance into a Health Sciences program must receive a satisfactory criminal background check prior to final acceptance into the program. The background check will be scheduled and performed at the discretion of the Health Sciences Division at GCSC. Information and instructions on how to complete the background check will be sent by the program coordinator. Criminal background checks performed through other agencies will not be accepted. The student must also be aware that clinical agencies may require an additional background check prior to clinical access. It is possible to graduate from a program at GCSC but be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable background check. An applicant must consider how his / her personal history may affect the ability to meet clinical requirements, sit for various licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment. Most healthcare boards in the State of Florida make decisions about licensure on an individual basis. You may visit the Florida Department of Health website at www.doh.state.fl.us for more information regarding licensure. We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision regarding your future.

Please read the following information carefully:

Any student who has been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere, or guilty to, any offense under the provision of 456.0635 (see below) may be **disqualified** from admission to any Health Sciences program. In addition to these specific convictions, there are other crimes which may disqualify applicants from entering into the Health Sciences programs and / or clinical rotations.

456.0635 (2) Medicaid fraud; disqualification for license, certificate, or registration

Each board within the jurisdiction of the department, or the department if there is no board, shall refuse to admit a candidate to any examination and refuse to issue or renew a license, certificate, or registration to any applicant if the candidate or applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant, has been:

- (a) Convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, chapter 893, 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or pleas ended more than 15 years prior to the date of the application;
- (b) Terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years;
- (c) Terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state or Federal Government, from any other state Medicaid program or the federal Medicare program, unless the applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program or the federal Medicare program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years prior to the date of the application.

NARCOTIC / MENTAL STATEMENT

I, _____ proclaim that I am free from addiction to any narcotics or controlled substance. I am free of any physical or mental defect or disease that might impair my ability to function as a Paramedic. In compliance with clinical requirements, I understand that I may be subject to drug screening.

Signature

Date

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PAST

Applicants to the Paramedic program in the Health Sciences Division of Gulf Coast State College work very hard to meet the entry requirements for selection. Our program makes every effort to accept as many academically qualified students as possible. However, in addition to meeting basic entry requirements, applicants must also consider how their personal history may affect their ability to meet clinical requirements, sit for various licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment.

Some of our Health Sciences programs will require students to visit certain clinical sites that may require background checks in order for students to work with their patients. Students who cannot produce a favorable background check may not be able to meet their program's clinical obligations, which would jeopardize their ability to successfully complete that program.

Students who graduate from the Paramedic program must also pass licensure exams in order to be employable. The various entities that provide testing and licenses for health professionals oftentimes require background checks prior to sitting for the exams and applying for licensure. It is possible to successfully graduate from a Health Sciences program, but be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable background check.

Employers of licensed health professionals can also have a variety of requirements that must be met prior to granting employment. These can include background checks of varying depths and drug screenings. It is possible to graduate from a Health Sciences program and obtain a health professional license, but be denied some employment options due to an unfavorable background check or drug screen. In compliance with clinical requirements, I understand that I may be subject to drug screening.

We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision when applying to one of our Health Sciences programs.