



## **Paramedic FAQs**

### **DO I NEED WORK EXPERIENCE BEFORE I TAKE MY PARAMEDIC CORE COURSES?**

You do not have to complete any specific requirements in terms of work experience to register for paramedic courses. However, keep in mind that historically those who come into the paramedic core courses with some experience generally perform better than those who do not. There is no replacement for experience when it comes to conducting patient assessments, so it is highly suggested.

### **DO I HAVE TO TAKE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) BEFORE I START THE PARAMEDIC TECHNICIAN GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES?**

No, you may take EMT while you are taking other general education classes that are associated with the Paramedic Technician program.

### **DO I NEED TO TAKE EMT BEFORE I START THE PARAMEDIC CORE COURSES?**

Yes, you must submit a current Wisconsin EMT license to student services to be eligible to register for core courses. Failure to present a current license will result in you not being matriculated (fully accepted) into the paramedic program. A National Registry of EMTs certification card does not satisfy this requirement.

### **WHEN CAN I REGISTER?**

Once you are matriculated you will be able to register for the core paramedic courses, provided it is on or after the first day of class registration for the semester in which you will be starting.

### **WHY DO I NEED TO HAVE AN EMT LICENSE ISSUED BEFORE I CAN REGISTER FOR CORE COURSES?**

A current Wisconsin license is required because it is needed for entry into a clinical setting. Requiring it up front eliminates the possibility that a problem arising during your licensing phase will result in removal from the program. This process also provides a fair way for people to be matriculated into the program on a first come - first served basis following the completion of all requirements for program entry.

## **WILL THERE BE OTHER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM THAT ARE NOT COVERED WITHIN MY TUITION AND FEES?**

You will be required to purchase textbooks for the paramedic program. A list of the books required is available through the bookstore. You will also have testing fees that will need to be paid if you intend to take the National Registry exam at the end of class. The National Registry fee for paramedic is currently \$175.00, payable each time that you take the written exam. There will likely be costs associated with clinical health work requirements. You may need immunizations, TB skin tests, or titers to be eligible for clinical experiences. Any costs associated with these clinical requirements are the responsibility of the student. Traveling to clinical sites and back and forth to class can get quite expensive. Please plan accordingly and understand that the price of fuel, etc. is your responsibility and is not a reason to be excused from class.

## **WILL I BE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE UNIFORMS FOR CLASS?**

Yes, uniforms are required as a part of the paramedic program. Mid-State screen-printed t-shirts and polo shirts are ordered on the first day of class. You will also be supplied with other uniform guidelines on the first day of class. Generally, the uniform will consist of navy-blue EMS pants, a black belt, and black boots. The T-shirt is sometimes specified on certain days of the week or for certain clinical rotations. You can expect that a single set of uniforms will cost around \$100.00, not including your belt and boots.

## **WHEN IS ORIENTATION FOR THE PARAMEDIC PROGRAM?**

A program orientation is scheduled during the two weeks prior to the courses starting. At that orientation we cover general information that is designed to make sure that you have chosen a career path that fits your goals. We will also provide information designed to assist you in your success. During the first day of class you will complete program specific orientation that relates to clinical requirements and other items associated with the program.

## **WHAT WILL MY WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE LOOK LIKE?**

During the first couple of days of class, you will be assigned to a platoon. One platoon generally meets all day on Monday and Wednesday, the other on Tuesday and Thursday. The two days that you are not in class are still class days and are the time that you should be using to complete your online work in Blackboard.

## **WHAT WILL MY WEEKLY CLINICAL SCHEDULE LOOK LIKE?**

Your weekly clinical schedule will be somewhat dependent upon your scheduling habits. You will be responsible for scheduling all clinical hours OUTSIDE of designated class time. You must remember that this program is a full-time program, making employment a very difficult undertaking. Please take your time commitment for class, clinical, family, work, and any other obligations into consideration before making a commitment to this program. There is little room for absence from class or clinical periods.

## **WILL MY CRIMINAL OR DRIVING HISTORY AFFECT MY OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYABILITY?**

Consider the following educational and occupational requirements and expectations before you commit your time and money into a program, which might not be suitable for you. Mid-State Technical College is looking for students who are prepared to meet the academic rigors of the paramedic program and who know the time and effort it takes to be successful in the classroom. We are also looking for students who have made wise decisions in their life experiences and who have not had to suffer the consequences of poor decision making. Your prior decision making may lead to a situation where your clinical possibilities are severely limited or non-existent. All clinical sites have the ability to deny a student the ability to perform clinical experiences at their facility or department. The same decisions may impair your ability to find gainful employment in this field as well. Talk to your advisor or your instructor immediately if you question whether your background may be a hindrance to your success.

## **HOW FAR DO I HAVE TO DRIVE FOR MY CLINICAL OR FIELD EXPERIENCES?**

Hospital clinical experiences are generally completed at hospitals in Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, and Stevens Point. There are a couple of other hospitals with which we have clinical agreements; however, they are not often utilized. Most common field sites are in Wisconsin Rapids, Marshfield, Stevens Point, Portage, Wisconsin Dells, Baraboo, Tomah, Rib Mountain, Adams, and Wautoma. There are various other sites with current agreements; however, they are not often utilized.

## **WILL MID-STATE ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER FACILITIES OR FIELD SITES TO LESSEN MY DRIVING TIME?**

The clinical agreements that Mid-State Technical College has in place represent a snapshot of those facilities with which we were able to secure agreements. Most other agencies are affiliated with other technical colleges, making it difficult to impossible to secure an agreement. We will not make special agreements with other clinical sites at this time.