

Chattahoochee Technical College

Paramedic Program: Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions About Paramedicine

Q: What is a paramedic?

A paramedic is a highly trained healthcare professional who provides advanced care during medical emergencies. Paramedics perform skills beyond the EMT level, including administering medications, managing airways, interpreting EKGs, and delivering advanced life support (ALS). They work as part of a healthcare team to assess, treat, and transport patients to medical facilities.

Q: Where do paramedics work?

Paramedics work in a variety of settings where emergency medical care is needed. Most commonly, they work on ambulances responding to emergency calls and transporting patients. Paramedics may also work in hospitals, urgent care centers, fire departments, at large events, or as part of disaster response and search-and-rescue teams.

Q: How much do paramedics earn?

Paramedic pay varies based on location, experience, and employer. In general, paramedics in the United States earn approximately \$45,000 to \$75,000 per year, with higher earnings common in urban areas, fire departments, and specialized roles. With experience, additional certifications, or advancement into leadership or management positions, paramedics may further increase their earning potential.

Q: Are there physical or other demands I should consider before pursuing paramedicine?

Paramedicine can be physically and mentally demanding. The work requires lifting and moving patients, performing precise medical skills, communicating clearly, recognizing important sensory cues, and making decisions under pressure. Review the linked [Essential Functions for Paramedics](#) document to better understand these expectations.

Q: What kind of schedule do paramedics typically work?

Paramedic schedules vary by employer. Many work 12- or 24-hour shifts, including nights, weekends, and holidays. Fire-based EMS agencies often use rotating schedules, such as working 24 hours followed by 48 hours off, while ambulance services and hospitals may use other shift patterns.

Questions About the Paramedicine Program at Chattahoochee Technical College

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

Applicants must already be certified as an EMT. If you are not yet an EMT, please visit our [EMT program webpage](#) for more information.

There are no required college courses or academic prerequisites to enroll in the paramedic program.

Q: Is admission competitive, and is there a waiting list?

The paramedic program does not use a competitive points process or maintain a waiting list. Qualified students are enrolled on a first-come, first-served basis as seats are available. A seat is secured only after the student receives registration approval and registers for all required first-semester paramedic courses. Watch the informational video on the paramedic webpage for more details.

Q: How long is the paramedic program?

The paramedic program is completed over four semesters. Depending on the campus and start term, students progress through consecutive semesters with scheduled breaks throughout the program.

Q: Can the paramedic program be completed online?

No. The program includes in-person classroom instruction, laboratory practice, clinical rotations, and ambulance field experiences.

Q: Where is the program located?

The paramedic program is offered on two campuses:

- North Metro (Acworth): Spring semester start
- Appalachian (Jasper): Fall semester start

Q: What is the schedule for classes?

Paramedic cohorts follow a shift-friendly schedule, with classes held from 0830 to 1700 on Monday, Wednesday, and/or Friday. Depending on the course, students attend one or two days per week. Each cohort is aligned with one of the three rotating shifts commonly used by fire and EMS agencies, where personnel work 24 hours followed by 48 hours off. Use the following links to view the detailed schedule for the next cohorts at each campus location.

- [North Metro \(Acworth\) Paramedic Detailed Schedule](#)
- [Appalachian \(Jasper\) Paramedic Detailed Schedule](#)

Q: What is the schedule for clinical and field experience?

Clinical and field requirements are completed separately and in addition to the classroom schedule. Students will complete approximately 540 hours in a variety of settings, including ambulances, emergency departments, labor and delivery, intensive care units, and other medical environments.

Q: Is there a dress code or uniform requirement?

Yes. A uniform is required for both class and clinical experiences to support a professional learning environment. The uniform includes boots, pants, a shirt, a vest, and a belt. Detailed information about uniform requirements and purchasing options is provided prior to the start of the program.

Q: What costs should I expect, and is financial aid available?

The estimated total cost of the four-semester program is approximately **\$8,000**, including tuition, fees, books, uniforms, required screenings, and other program-related expenses. Tuition and fees are charged by semester, while other expenses occur at different points before and during the program. Actual costs may vary and are subject to change.

Financial aid may be available to eligible students. Applicants are encouraged to complete the FAFSA and contact the [Financial Aid Office](#) with specific questions about available aid.

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

Students must meet health and physical requirements necessary to perform the [Essential Functions for Paramedics](#). In addition, students must comply with the vaccination and health screening requirements of the clinical sites where rotations are completed. Specific requirements and documentation details will be provided prior to the start of the program.

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

Some students earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Paramedicine, while others earn a diploma or certificate. This depends on whether required general education courses are completed in addition to the occupations courses. Reference the Paramedic Admission Guide for more details.

Q: How can I get more information?

Visit the [paramedic webpage](#) and view the information video. It contains details about the program, the instructors, and how to register for courses. For other questions, please contact Ryan Dehnert, Program Director, at ryan.dehnert@chattahoocheetech.edu.

We look forward to connecting with you!