

# 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 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.

### General Program Information

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

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

#### **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 (such as math or English) are completed before or during the program. Students who graduate with a diploma or certificate may complete the remaining courses later to earn the degree.

#### **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: What is the schedule for classes and clinicals?**

The paramedic program is designed to be shift-friendly. Classes are held two days per week during the first three semesters and one day per week during the final semester, typically from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Clinical experiences are scheduled separately from class days and offer flexibility. Students complete clinicals in a variety of settings, including ambulances, emergency departments, labor and delivery, intensive care units, and other medical environments.

**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: 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: Is there financial aid available for this program?**

Yes. Financial aid options may be available for eligible students. Applicants are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and contact the college's Financial Aid Office for information on available aid and scholarships.

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

Students must meet health and physical requirements necessary to perform essential job functions, such as lifting patients and performing CPR. 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: How can I get more information?**

Prospective students are encouraged to attend a virtual information session, where we provide an overview of the program, answer questions, and explain the application process. For additional information, contact Ryan Dehnert, Program Director, at [ryan.dehnert@chattahoocheetech.edu](mailto:ryan.dehnert@chattahoocheetech.edu). We look forward to connecting with you!