



TRAINING INSTITUTE

F R E S N O C I T Y C O L L E G E

PARAMEDIC PROGRAM Questions and Answers

Dear Applicant,

Read on to find answers to many of the most frequently asked questions regarding the application process for our Paramedic Program

* ELIGIBILITY

- **Do I have to be an EMT-B in order to apply to the Paramedic Program?**

Yes. Applicants are required to have current EMT-Basic or (EMT-1) certification and maintain it throughout the duration of the Program.

- **Do I need to have experience to apply to the Program?**

Yes. Applicants are required to have at least six (6) months of work experience as an EMT-1 in a prehospital setting. Work experience may include full-time, part-time or volunteer work.

- **I don't have 6 months of field experience but I've been working as e.g., an ER technician, lifeguard, etc. Do I still meet the work experience requirements?**

You do if you have been working utilizing your EMT certification and you are directly responsible for providing care to patients.

- **I started a paramedic program elsewhere but did not complete it. Do I have to start your Paramedic Program over from the beginning?**

Yes.

- **How do you select applicants for the Program?**
Successful candidates for the Paramedic Program must meet all of the following requirements:

- Meet the certification and work experience requirements
- Submit a complete program application and all supporting documents
- Receive a qualifying score on the EMT-B exam with a score of 80% or better.

- Receive a passing score on basic math and English assessment tests.
- Show a positive, appearance, motivation and attitude.
- Receive a qualifying score on the application review that may include a meeting with program faculty. An applicant's work experience, formal education, continuing education courses, and interpersonal skills are carefully evaluated.

***APPLYING**

- **When can I apply for the Program?**
Applications for the program are accepted any time up until the class starts, as long as there is room. For specific course dates and application deadlines, please refer to the course catalog. Applicants are strongly encouraged to turn applications early in the application period. This may allow time for an applicant to correct any possible mistakes/omissions. .
- **Can I apply on-line?**
The application packet can be viewed on-line at fcti.com. Please print the application, complete it and attach all supporting documents.
- **How do I turn in my application?**
Applications must be delivered in person at our office located at 1901 E. Shields #250, Fresno, CA 93726. Applications may also be mailed. Please note that the program is not responsible for mailed applications that are lost, delayed, or destroyed in transit. Applicants are

strongly encouraged to track and/or request proof of delivery from the courier/mail service they utilize.

- **If I don't get into the course I am applying for, do I have to re-apply? Do I have to take the entrance exam again?**
Your application and entrance scores are valid for 1 year from the date of completion. If you are interested in re-applying to an upcoming class, please review the list of available course dates and submit a written request to re-apply. You may also include any new or updated certifications, licenses, etc, that you want included with your application. Upon receiving your written request, we will notify you if fees or items are needed to update your application.
- **Is there a waiting list for the Program?**
No. All applicants that submit a complete application and meet all the requirements are eligible to take the entrance exam.
- **Is there a study guide available for the EMT-1 exam?**
Applicants are encouraged to review their EMT course textbook and/or review a refresher EMT textbook that include the following: Anatomy, Airway and Ventilation, Patient Assessment, General Pharmacology, Respiratory Emergencies, Cardiac Emergencies, Automatic External Defibrillation, Altered Mental Status: Seizures, Syncope, Diabetic,

Allergic Reactions, Obstetric and Gynecological Emergencies, Trauma, Bleeding/Shock.

- **If I have a college diploma, GRE or MSAT, do I still have to take the math and English assessment test?**

No. Provide documentation verification.

- **Are any accommodations made available to students with special needs?**

If you have a medical condition or learning disability that requires special accommodations for the entrance exam, please notify the Program Director in writing. Students will then be sent to the main campus to meet with a Disabled Student Program and Services staff member. DSP&S offers services beyond those provided to the mainstream Fresno City College programs and "enables" students with disabilities to successfully pursue their educational, vocational and personal goals. Your written request should be included with your application.

- **How do I register for the entrance exam?**

You may come into our office or register over the phone.

- **Is there a dress code for the entrance test?**

Students are asked to wear comfortable but professional clothing. Please do not wear t-shirts, sneakers, open-toed shoes, torn jeans.

* PREREQUISITES

- **Do I have to complete an Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) course before I apply to the Program? What about a college-level Math and/or English class before I apply to the Program?**

These courses are not required to apply to the program. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to complete these courses as these classes are required for further education.

- **Are there other prerequisites for the Program?**

All application requirements are listed in application packet. There are no other prerequisites besides the EMT-B certificate and Healthcare Provider CPR.

* APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- **Do I still have to submit a copy of my high school diploma, if I have a college degree?**

Yes. Separate documentation verifying your high school completion is required.

- **If I submit a copy of my college diploma, do I still need to provide you with my college transcripts?**

Yes. Transcripts provide us with verification of the college courses you completed.

- **I have an out of state EMT card - will you accept it?**
Yes. It must be current at the time of application and maintained current throughout the duration of the Program.
- **The instructions say I have to renew my EMT and CPR cards within the last 12 months. My EMT and/or CPR card(s) do not expire for another 13 months. Do I have to renew them now?**
You only have to renew your certifications if they will expire during your enrollment in the Program. Students are required to maintain current EMT and CPR certification throughout the duration of the entire Program. Current certifications are also required for the paramedic-licensing exam. Typically, the tremendous workload during paramedic training does not permit time to renew certifications.
- **I have a copy of previous work experience letter. Can I use that or do I have to get a new letter from my employer?**
Verification of your work experience must be in the form of an *original* letter(s) on letterhead from your former and current EMS employer, with original signature.
- **My EMS supervisor will not complete a recommendation form for me because it is against my job's company policy. What should I do?**
You can ask your supervisor to sign the recommendation form and include a statement

indicating their inability to complete the form due to company policy. Then submit the recommendation form to our office. Afterwards, you will receive any additional instructions from our Registration Coordinator.

- **Can I deliver my recommendation forms in person?**
Recommendation forms should be sent directly to the Program by the person completing the form. However, an applicant may deliver the form to the Program provided that the person completing the form seals the form in an envelope.

* COURSE INFORMATION

- **How many students are enrolled into each course?**
24
- **How long is the program?**
10-12 months in duration. Please Note - depending on the clinical and field sites, time may vary.
- **Do you offer housing?**
No. The Program has no facilities to house students. For additional information and available student services, please see page 7 of the application packet.

- **What is the dress code?**
Students are required to purchase red polo shirts from the Fresno City College Book store. Students must also wear navy blue pants and black shoes or boots. Please do not wear t-shirts, shorts, open-toe shoes, torn jeans, etc. Specific dress code guidelines are given to students as part of the Course Policy Manual distributed.

* **TUITION/FINANCIAL AID**

- **How much does it cost to attend the program?**
The cost of tuition, textbooks, and other fees are listed in the application packet.
- **Are all fees dues prior to the start of the Program?**
There is a down payment due prior to the start of the Program. There are payments required for the clinical and field sections of the program. The textbooks are required the first day of class.
- **Does the program offer financial aid?**
Students are encouraged to contact their own local credit union or bank and inquire about what private loan services they offer to members.

Applicants may receive information on available private lender resources later in the enrollment process.

- **Will the Program accept my GI Bill?**
If you are eligible to receive Veterans Benefits and would like information on processing your benefits please call the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) nationwide toll free number 1-800-827-1000.

* **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Can't find the answer to a question you have? Feel free to contact the Fresno City College Training Institute office at (559) 256-0188 or 800-934-3339.