

## **Foothill College Paramedic Program Criteria For Successful Completion of the Paramedic Program**

The Foothill College Paramedic Program is a rigorous and intensive curriculum in mobile intensive care. Students are expected to abide by all rules and regulations of Foothill College, and of any agency or institution to which they are assigned for clinical or field internship.

Following are the criteria the student must meet for successful completion of the Program:

- I. Attendance: Punctual attendance is mandatory for all assigned sessions in the classroom, clinical, and field phases of the Program, including any required tutorial and remedial sessions. Unauthorized absences or lack of punctuality may result in a student's immediate disqualification.

Absences will be authorized only for serious medical reasons or compelling personal emergencies. When appropriate, authorization for absences must be obtained prior to the scheduled session from the Primary Instructor or from one of the faculty members.

The student will make up excused absence time. Students may be required to provide a doctor's verification of illness. Attendance will be documented on daily sign-in sheets. Specific assignments will be given to the student to make up missed sessions. However, hours of make-up work cannot be accepted as hours of class attendance. More than three absences (24 hours) will result in disqualification from the Program.

**The attendance requirements during the clinical and field internship phases of the Program must be met as they are assigned. These clinical and field demands may require that the student reschedule employment and other commitments. The student is expected to anticipate and plan accordingly.**

- II. Appearance: Students are expected to maintain standards of appearance and grooming appropriate to the paramedical profession. Students will be notified of the dress codes for clinical and field internship.

- III. Honor Code: No un-permitted aid may be given or received on an examination or an assignment; violation will result in the student's immediate disqualification. Students are expected to do their share and take an active part in seeing that others, as well as themselves, uphold the spirit and letter of the Honor Code.
- IV. Maintenance of CPR card: Students are expected to maintain their CPR card throughout the duration of the program: didactic, clinical, and internship. CPR training is not included in the paramedic curriculum.
- V. Maintenance of EMT card: Students are expected to maintain their EMT card throughout the duration of the program. Students can receive continuing education credits/units for attending the paramedic program. 24 hours of continuing education will be issued on the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of school.
- VI. Obtain/Maintain DMV medical examiner's certificate: Student's are expected to obtain and maintain a DMV medical examiner's certificate. Certain medical conditions may preclude an applicant from obtaining the DMV medical examiner's certificate, such as: color blindness, hearing impairments, hypertension, etc.
- VII. Obtain and maintain immunizations: Students are expected to obtain and maintain the following immunizations:

\*Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR): immunization date must be less than 8 years old (or positive Titer)

\*Tetanus (DT, DPT, or TD): immunization date must be less than 10 years old)

\*Negative TB skin test (PPD): immunization date must be less than 6 months old upon entering Clinicals and internship (if your TB test is positive, you MUST have an x-ray.

\*Varicella: positive Titer

\*Hepatitis B vaccine series **and** positive Titer or just a positive Titer

(All immunizations must be maintained adhering to the required time specifications noted {i.e., less than 8 years old for MMR} throughout the duration of the entire program. The last day of the program is the last day of a student's internship)

- VIII. Dress code during didactic: Students are expected to wear the same uniform in the classroom as they plan to wear during the internship. This will either be a jumpsuit or pants and button-up shirt combo. The jumpsuit and pants must be blue and the shirt must be blue. Student should wear the standard field boots and a belt. Further, student will wear the nametag provided by Foothill College so as to identify them as students of the course. Regardless of the uniform choice, students may not have any identifying patches on their clothing, such as EMT patches, football team logos, or other items.

## **Requirements For Each Phase of the Program**

- I. Classroom Phase
- A. *Written Quizzes:* There will be frequent written quizzes. Students are expected to score 80% or better on quizzes. Make-up work may be assigned for unacceptable scores. However, make-up work cannot replace the score of the quiz. More than three unacceptable scores are grounds for disqualification from the Program. Students may not retake quizzes.
  - B. *Written Major (Module) Examinations:* The classroom phase of the Program consists of a series of modules with a major examination after each module. A score of at least 80% is the standard on each major (module) examination for the student to remain in the Program. Students may not retake a modular examination. An unacceptable score on an examination is grounds for immediate disqualification from the Program. The only exception to this rule is: a student may retake one modular examination if she/he has only scored less than 80% on one quiz. The student must score an 85% or better on the retake to remain in the Program.
  - C. *Written Comprehensive (Final) Examination:* There will be a comprehensive examination at the end of the classroom portion of the Program. A student must achieve a score of 80% or better on this examination to be eligible to proceed. Students may not retake the final examination.

- D. *Written Comprehensive Pharmacology Examination:* There will be a comprehensive pharmacology examination at the end of the classroom portion of the Program. A student must achieve a score of 80% or better on this examination to be eligible to proceed. Students may not retake the final examination.
- E. *Simulations (Lab):* Students must achieve a satisfactory level of performance in all components of simulations. There will be a "final" oral simulation examination. Students must pass this portion to be eligible to proceed. Students may not retake the final oral simulation/scenario examination.
- F. *Skills (Lab):* Students must achieve a satisfactory level of performance on designated basic and advanced skills. Skills will be evaluated according to the standards presented in class and will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Students will be allowed two retakes for each skill test. More than 10 skill retests of different lab skills are grounds for disqualification from the Program.
- G. *Overall Grade:* Students must receive at least a grade of "C" in each portion of didactic to proceed. Grades are based upon several criteria: quiz scores 30%, modular examination scores 40%, workbook assignments/homework 20%, and uniform points 10%.
- H. *Affective (attitude/behavior/professionalism):* Three "D"s or below "D" grades in the affective domain is grounds for dismissal from the paramedic program. All students must attain at least a "C" upon exit evaluation during the didactic.

- I. *Additional requirements:* Students must meet additional requirements before they can proceed. These requirements are independent of academic performance in the didactic phase.
  1. *Advanced Cardiac Life Support:* The student must meet the standards for this course as established by the American Heart Association. Student must meet this requirement before the end of the didactic phase and only one retest is acceptable.
  2. *Pediatric Advanced Life Support:* The student must meet the standards for this course as established by the American Heart Association. Or *Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals:* The student must meet the standards for this course as established by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Student must meet this requirement before the end of the didactic phase and only one retest is acceptable.
  3. *Basic Trauma Life Support:* The student must meet the standards for this course as established by the American College of Emergency Physicians. Or *Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support:* The student must meet the standards for this course established by Prehospital Trauma Life Support Committee of The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians in Cooperation with the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons. Student must meet this requirement before the end of the didactic phase and only one retest is acceptable.

II. *Hospital-Clinical Phase*

- A. *Experience:* Successful completion of a minimum of 144 hours of clinical placement in an approved emergency department and additional hours in selected clinical specialized areas (32 hours).
- B. *Evaluations:* Preceptor/instructor evaluations must indicate a student's clinical competency before he/she will be eligible to proceed to the field internship phase of the Program. A student's failure to achieve and demonstrate clinical competency will result in her/his disqualification.

- C. *Paperwork:* The clinical manual paperwork must be maintained and submitted to the coordinator in order for the student to progress to the internship phase.
- E. *Elapsed Time:* Students are expected to begin their clinical time during the classroom portion, or immediately following the didactic phase (summer quarter). Student may not spend more than one quarter completing the clinical phase. Violation of either of these requirements will result in disqualification from the program. (There may be exceptions made for cases of prolonged illness/injury or unusual circumstances.)

### III. Field Internship Phase

- A. *Experience:* Successful completion of a minimum of 480 hours of field internship is required (including 40 ALS contacts) - to a maximum of 720 hours.
- B. *Evaluations:* Preceptor and instructor evaluations must indicate a student's clinical competency and recommend him/her for final candidacy before the student is eligible to proceed to completion of the Program (this is indicated with a score of "3" in all categories). A student failing to demonstrate clinical competency during the field internship will be disqualified.
- C. *Paperwork:* Internship paperwork (California Paramedic Field Internship Daily Performance Records) must be maintained and submitted to the coordinator. Course completion (Diploma) will not be released to the student without completed paperwork submission.
- D. *Elapsed Time:* Students are expected to begin their internship immediately following didactic. Students must submit the internship application no later than the first day of the summer quarter (option A) or the first day of the fall quarter (option B). If there is a time lapse due to lack of preceptor availability, this is acceptable. Delays due to student inability to complete the internship application or pay for internship are unacceptable. Student may not spend more than 6 months completing the internship. Violation of either of these requirements will result in disqualification from

the program. (There may be exceptions made for cases of prolonged illness/injury or unusual circumstances.)

## **General Information**

### **I. Examination Content**

The quizzes and examinations throughout the Program will include both theory and practice. Students are responsible for mastering both the concepts and their applications.

### **II. Disciplinary Policy**

Grounds for Discipline: Conduct which is unprofessional or significantly detrimental to the order of the class or Program may result in the student's immediate disqualification, irrespective of the student's academic standing.

### **III. Student Cooperation**

Students are expected to provide their hospital-clinical and internship schedule to the course coordinator. The course coordinator is not expected to solicit this information from the student. The student shall provide this schedule well in advance of attendance of hospital-clinical and internship. Students shall provide a phone number and address that they can be reached at. Failure to return phone calls from the school in a reasonable amount of time can result in suspension from the Program.

### **IV. Paramedic Licensure, Ambulance Driver's License, and DMV Medical Examiner's Certificate**

Students should be aware that felony convictions, drug or alcohol offenses, sexual misconduct, traffic violations, and DUIs may prohibit them from obtaining a paramedic license, and/or ambulance driver's license, and/or DMV Medical Examiner's Certificate. The paramedic license, ambulance driver's license and DMV Medical Examiner's Certificate are required by most employers for a paramedic to work in the out-of-hospital setting.

### **V. Physical Demands**

Students should be aware that if they plan to work as a paramedic in the out-of-hospital setting that most employers expect paramedics to pass a physical ability test. If a student plans to work in the out-of-hospital setting they should be aware of the physical demands of the job, such as: lifting the gurney, carrying the patient down stairs, carrying equipment, walking rapidly up and down

stairs, or through wilderness terrain. Chronic back problems, physical limitations, and other medical conditions that could be worsened or prevent a student from functioning as a paramedic should be considered before starting the Program.

VI. Psychological Demands

Student should be aware that paramedic work is not suitable for many individuals. The classroom, clinical, and internship demands are time consuming and stressful. Successful paramedics tend to be those who flourish in chaos and stress. Paramedic education and work is very psychologically demanding. Suitable students must work well under high stress and scrutinizing observation/evaluation of their personal performance. They must be able to receive constructive criticism without becoming defensive and work well with many kinds of people. A successful student is usually one who is very tolerant, non-judgmental, quick to respond to demands, and verbally adept.

VII. Additional Costs

It is the student's responsibility to purchase the following items: clinical scrubs, internship attire, county protocols, National Registry registration fee, site fee for National Registry examination, state licensure fee, background investigation fee, live scan fee, and county accreditation fee.

VIII. Course Design

Student should be aware that the Program is designed for the courses to be taken in sequential order with no break in between components. Student will not be allowed to "take a break" between the classroom phase and the clinical or between the clinical and the internship. Students are expected to begin the ER clinical during the winter quarter (option A) or during the summer quarter (option B). Students are expected to begin internship during the summer quarter (option A) or the fall quarter (option B). There will be no exceptions to this rule.

**Foothill College Paramedic Program  
Declaration of Registrant**

In accordance with, and in consideration of Foothill College Paramedic Program acceptance of my participation in its Program, I, the undersigned, fully understand and agree as follows:

1.     *Description of Program:* The program involves three phases of instruction: classroom, hospital-clinical, and field internship training - spanning approximately twelve to eighteen months. The three phases in all respects meet or exceed the requirements of California law for paramedic education.
  
2.     *Rules and Regulations:* Each student registered in the Paramedic Program must abide by the rules and regulations of Foothill College as well as those of any agency with which the student is placed. Violation of any such rules or regulations may result in dismissal from the Program.
  
3.     *Completion of Program:* In order to successfully complete the Program the student must meet all academic, clinical, field competency, and attendance requirements. These requirements are set forth in the document entitled "Criteria for Successful Completion Of the Paramedic Program" which precedes this document.
  
4.     *Paramedic Licensure & Accreditation by State and Counties:* Successful completion of the Foothill College Paramedic Program does not guarantee that the student will be licensed as a paramedic in any county or jurisdiction of the state of California or other state. Adhering to the procedures stated in paramedic laws and regulations may only confer such licensure. Separate tests will be required as part of the conditions for licensure.

Having read the above and fully understanding the contents thereof, I agree to be bound by the conditions specified.

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Signature

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Print Name

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Date