



Emergency Medical Services Professional Program

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Thank you for expressing an interest in the Paramedic Program at Odessa College. New classes begin each August and January with the start of the fall and spring semesters. The paramedic program is twelve months in length. Graduates earn a Level I Certificate and are eligible to take the national registry examination to become an Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P). Paramedic students may also earn an associate degree in applied science (AAS) though this is not required to become a paramedic. The AAS requires general education courses such as computers, English, government, psychology, physical education, and an elective in addition to the paramedic specialty courses.

ENROLLMENT IS LIMITED AND COMPETATIVE.

ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE DOES NOT GUARANTEE ADMISSION TO THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM.

Important Note to Students:

Completion of this program **DOES NOT GUARANTEE** registration with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, or certification/license with the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Application to the paramedic program involves several steps. Please refer any questions that you might have to the EMSP program instructor, Stephen Berry, LP, by phone at 432.335.6471 or by email sberry@odessa.edu. The EMSP program director, LeeDon Martin, LP, is also available for assistance by phone, 432.335.6676, or by email lmartin@odessa.edu.

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ADMISSION to the Level I Certificate program, the following requirements must be met:

1. Applicants new to Odessa College must complete the application requirements online at <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/admissions/apply.htm> or, by applying in person at the Wrangler Express Center, located in the Student Union Building. If the student has prior college credit, an official transcript must be requested from all previous schools and filed with the registrar. If the student does not have any college credit, an official high school transcript is required.
2. Complete the Application for Admission to Emergency Medical Services Professional which is available online at http://www.odessa.edu/dept/ems/PDF/EMS_Application_for_Admission.pdf or from the EMSP Department.
3. The student must provide the EMS department copies of all the transcripts or evaluation of transfer credit on file with the Odessa College registrar.
4. Provide proof of certification in Texas as an Emergency Medical Technician-Basic by providing the EMSP Department a copy of a current Texas Department of State Health Services, Emergency Medical Technician-Basic card.
5. Provide proof of current training in CPR by providing the EMSP Department a copy of the CPR card verifying training according to the standards of the American Heart Association, Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers.
6. Provide the EMSP Department proof of immunizations.

PLEASE NOTE: All documents necessary for program admission must be submitted to the EMSP Department in a folder labeled with the student's name and telephone number. Applications will be accepted at any time during the year. However, if the application is more than 90 days old the student must contact the EMS department and update all relevant contact information no later than 45 days prior to their desired entry date to be considered for admission into the program. All active applications on file will be reviewed and letters of acceptance will be sent out approximately 30 days prior to the beginning of class. The EMS department will not accept any incomplete applications.

Immunization Requirements

Students in health career programs are required by state law, Odessa College and/or by clinical agencies to have certain immunizations or health screening. Students must show proof of the following prior to being admitted to the program:

1. Tetanus-diphtheria (Td) or tetanus-diphtheria – adult pertussis (Tdap) current within the last 10 years. If your immunization will age past that date while you are in the program, please obtain a booster now.
2. Hepatitis B - this is a series of three injections over a 4-6 month time period. If not immunized, it is important to start the series immediately so that you are immunized before the admission deadline.
3. Rubella (usually an MMR*)
4. Mumps (usually an MMR*)
5. Rubeola. If born on or after Jan.1, 1957, you are required to have two vaccines; one vaccine if born prior to Jan.1, 1957. Vaccines must have been given after the first birthday. (Usually an MMR; sometimes an MR*)
6. Find out if you have had chicken pox (varicella). A parent, physician or school nurse must provide written verification of the disease. If you have not had chicken pox, or you are unable to get written verification, the vaccine is required. Vaccination requires two doses with the second dose being given exactly one month from the first dose.
7. Find out if you were immunized against polio as a child. Boosters are not required for college students.

*MMR = measles (rubeola) mumps and rubella; MR = measles (rubeola) and rubella

Note: In lieu of dates showing hepatitis B, rubella, rubeola, and mumps vaccine(s), or varicella history or vaccination, the student may demonstrate immunity through laboratory blood tests showing positive antibody titers. These lab results will need to be filed in the EMS Department. Physician confirmed disease is also acceptable.

AFTER ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM

The student will be required to complete the following

Tuberculosis Skin Test

You will be asked to obtain a tuberculosis skin test after you are admitted into the paramedic program. The department will not accept a TB skin test that has been done more than 3 months prior to the start of class. If you have a history of testing positive to the TB skin test, you must have a chest x-ray report on file in the EMSP Department. The chest x-ray must be current within 1 year of program admission.

Drug Screening and Physical Examination

Students will be required to obtain a urine drug screen after being accepted into the paramedic program. Some of the clinical agencies also conduct random and for-cause drug screens. Be advised that a positive drug screen will affect the student's status in the program. A pre-participation physical examination is required. Forms and further information will be provided by the EMSP Department for students admitted to the program.

Background Check

After admission to the program, new students will authorize the EMSP Department to conduct a criminal background check. This procedure is required for students to go to the various hospitals and agencies for clinical education. If the background check is positive for certain offenses, the student may not be able to participate in clinical education and therefore will not be able to complete the requirements for the paramedic program and will be dismissed from the program.

Health Insurance Requirement

Clinical agency contracts require that students have personal health and accident insurance while enrolled in nursing and other health career programs. Any policy is satisfactory but you will be required to verify proof of the policy every semester while enrolled in paramedic courses. If needed, a student health insurance policy is available for purchase for approximately \$330 per year. Ask for an information packet in Student Services or in the EMSP Department. Insurance is not required until you are accepted into the program.