**TOP Code: 1251.00\* - Paramedic**

**CIP Code: 51.0904: Emergency Medical Technology/Technician (EMT Paramedic)**

**Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives:**

The goal of the Merritt College Paramedic Certificate of Achievement (COA) program is career education that provides a pathway for students into entry-level positions as paramedic or firefighter-paramedic. The paramedic program provides technical and practical knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of the California Administrative Code to gain licensure as a paramedic by the California State Emergency Medical Services Authority. Students must be 18 years of age to enter the program and be a California Certified EMT (Title 22, Section 100157).

The minimum time for completion of this COA is two years/four semesters. Completion time will vary based on student preparation and the number of units completed per semester. The course of study includes instruction in paramedic sciences, and clinical paramedic experience in both the pre-hospital and hospital.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

1. With appropriate supervision, identify and implement a treatment plan for a sick or injured patient in the pre-hospital setting.
2. Participate effectively as part of a pre-hospital first responder team by applying their knowledge as a functioning paramedic.
3. Apply basic life support and advanced support principles when interacting with an injured or sick patient, family members, bystanders, and fellow first responders.

**Career Opportunities**

Students that complete the Paramedic Certificate of Achievement can gain employment as paramedic firefighters, paramedics on ambulances that serve the community as Advanced Life Support 9-1-1 providers, for municipal fire service departments, private ambulance companies, and in the hospital setting.

**Item 2. Catalog Description**

The Paramedic Certificate of Achievement (COA) provides a pathway for students who are seeking technical education towards a living wage career associated with this major. The Paramedic COA program provides technical and practical knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of the California Administrative Code to gain licensure as a paramedic by the California State Emergency Medical Services Authority. Students must be 18 years of age to enter the program and be a California Certified EMT (Title 22, Section 100157).

The paramedic functions as an extension of the emergency department physician. The paramedic is responsible for the assessment, treatment, and stabilization of the sick or injured patient utilizing advanced life support equipment and techniques at the scene of the incident and during transportation to the medical facility. Specific responsibilities include but are not limited to patient interviewing, physical examination, critical decision making, cardiac monitoring and interpretation, defibrillation, intravenous therapy, drug therapy, intervention in emotional crises and advanced airway management.

An analysis of the job requirements mandates a paramedic must be in good physical condition and able to lift, carry and balance objects more than 125 lbs. They must be able to receive and interpret oral and written communication in a timely manner.

This program prepares students to take and pass the National Registry Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic (NREMTP) examination so they can become Licensed Paramedics in the state of California.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this program, the student will be able to:

1. Complete the National Registry written and skills exams
2. Perform the requisite skills in assessing and treating the patient at the paramedic level
3. Demonstrate professional behavior consistent for employment as a licensed paramedic

Students that complete the Paramedic COA can gain employment as paramedic firefighters, paramedics on ambulances that serve the community as Advanced Life Support 9-1-1 providers, and in certain limited situations work in the hospital setting.

**Program Prerequisites**

Program prerequisite courses must be satisfactorily completed at an accredited college or university prior to enrolling in EMT 221A. All coursework must be documented by official transcripts. Program prerequisites may take up to one to two full semesters to complete. Please meet with a counselor to assist with developing a student education plan.

To confirm that courses taken outside of Peralta Community College District (PCCD) are equivalent to program prerequisite course requirements, it is highly recommended that students meet with a college counselor prior to starting paramedic training. Prerequisite courses receiving a grade of “Credit” or “Pass” instead of a letter grade will be calculated as a “C” which is equal to a 2.0 GPA.

Program prerequisite course requirements include:

1. EMT 211 - Emergency Medical Technician Basic (6 units)
   * + *EMT 211 must be completed prior to enrolling in EMT 221A*
2. BIOL 024 – Basic Human Anatomy and Physiology (4 units)
3. MEDAS 503 – The Language of Medicine (noncredit, 0 units)

**or**

HLTOC 101 – Medical Terminology (3 units)

1. MEDAS 505 – Introduction to Pharmacology (noncredit, 0 units)

Students participating in the program must also have the following:

1. High School diploma/GED
2. Current Health care provider CPR certification
3. Current immunization {MMR, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, negative TB skin test)
4. Evidence of good health verified by a physical examination.
5. Background clearance

**Mandatory Additional Costs**

Additional estimated costs for this program are:

* Textbooks - $600
* Uniforms - $300
* Safety boots - $200
* Medical equipment (stethoscope) - $150
* National Registry testing fees - $200

**Certificate of Achievement Requirements**

A Certificate of Achievement will be awarded upon successful completion of the program requirements. The minimum time for completion is two years/four semesters. Completion time will vary based on student preparation and the number of units completed per semester.

**Item 3. Program Requirements and Course Sequence**

**Certificate of Achievement Requirement Table**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Requirements** | **Dept. Name/#** | **Title** | **Units** |
| Required Core Courses  (34.5 Units) | EMT 221A | Paramedic Theory and Laboratory 1 | 11 |
| EMT 221B | Paramedic Theory and Laboratory 2 | 11 |
| EMT 421A | Paramedic Clinical Work Experience | 3.5 |
| EMT 421B | Paramedic Capstone Work Experience | 9 |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Total Units** | | | 34.5 |

**Recommended Course Sequence Table**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Course Number** | **Course Title** | **Units** |
| **1st Semester** | | |
| EMT 221A | Paramedic Theory and Laboratory 1 | 11 |
|  |  |  |
| GE Course Requirements and Electives (if applicable) | | n/a |
| **1st Semester Units** | | 11 |
| **2nd Semester** | | |
| EMT 221B | Paramedic Theory and Laboratory 2 | 11 |
|  |  |  |
| GE Course Requirements and Electives (if applicable) | | n/a |
| **2nd Semester Units** | | 11 |
| **3rd Semester** | | |
| EMT 421A | Paramedic Clinical Work Experience | 3.5 |
|  |  |  |
| GE Course Requirements and Electives (if applicable) | | n/a |
| **3rd Semester Units** | | 3.5 |
| **4th Semester** | | |
| EMT 421B | Paramedic Capstone Work Experience | 9 |
| GE Course Requirements and Electives (if applicable) | | n/a |
| **4th Semester Units** | | 9 |

**Item 4. Master Planning**

The paramedic training and education program is an opportunity for Merritt students to engage in meaningful learning that will afford them the opportunity to contribute in the following ways in their respective communities:

* Serving as first responders providing preventive health care strategies.
* Serving as first responders providing aid during emergency medical incidents.
* Serving as first responder providing aid during intentional and unintentional disasters.

This program meets Merritt’s desire to create a comprehensive set of allied health programs.

Completion of the COA program will provide career opportunities in the first responder community as a firefighter-paramedic or medical provider working for a private ambulance company. Both career opportunities will allow Merritt students to elevate and sustain a higher income level. Through a current partnership with the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), the program will also provide opportunities for recent Oakland high school graduates to complete paramedic training and education after successfully completing all prerequisite courses.

Program needs include the following:

* Dedicated classroom for lecture and lab opportunities
* Funding to secure advanced life support system supplies, equipment, and training props.

**Item 5. Enrollment and Completer Projections**

The Paramedic Certificate of Achievement is a new program. In Spring 2025, Merritt College plans to start the program with a cohort of 20 students. The second cohort is scheduled to offer training and education to 30 students. EMT 211 (EMT Basic), which is a program prerequisite, has an estimated 88% completion rate (30 – 35 students). Below is the projected enrollment for the four new courses that comprise paramedic training and education:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **2025/2026** | | **2026/2027** | |
| **Course Department Number** | **Course Title** | **Annual # Sections** | **Annual Enrollment Total** | **Annual # Sections** | **Annual**  **Enrollment Total** |
| EMT 221A | Paramedic Theory and Laboratory 1 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 20 |
| EMT 221B | Paramedic Theory and Laboratory 2 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 20 |
| EMT 221C | Paramedic Clinical Work Experience | 1 | 20 | 1 | 20 |
| EMT 221D | Paramedic Capstone Work Experience | 1 | 20 | 1 | 20 |
| EMT211 | Emergency Medical Technician Basic | 2 | 40 | 2 | 40 |

**Item 6. Place of Program in Curriculum/Similar Programs**

Merritt College currently offers Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Certificate of Proficiency. The Paramedic COA will allow students an opportunity to increase their certification level to a paramedic status (EMT-Paramedic). The program does not replace any existing programs. The paramedic curriculum offered at Merritt is the same training and education offered at other community colleges in California (Title 22 mandate). This program offers similar training and education to the Nursing and Medical Assisting programs here at Merritt; however, the career pathways are different.

The Merritt paramedic program will actively recruit students from the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), communities of color in Oakland, women, and military veterans. These demographic groups are severely underrepresented in public safety and private ambulance organizations statewide.

**Item 7. Similar Programs at Other Colleges in Service Area**

The following Northern California community colleges offer paramedic training and education using the same curriculum accredited by the California State Emergency Medical Services Authority:

* Las Positas College
* Foothill College
* Napa Valley College
* San Francisco City College
* Santa Rosa Junior College
* Contra Costa City College

**Item 8. Transfer preparation information**

Transfer preparation is not a component of this program.

**Item 9. Current Labor Market Information and Analysis**

According to a recent LMI study by the Center for Excellence (LMI Merritt Paramedic Sept, 2023) , there is a large labor market gap in the Bay region with 671 annual openings for the Paramedic occupational cluster and 70 annual (3-year average) awards for an annual undersupply of 601 students. In the East Bay Sub-Region, there is also a gap with 224 annual openings and six (6) annual (3-year average) awards for an annual undersupply of 218 students.

**Item 10. Advisory Board Membership and Recommendation**

A meeting of the Merritt College Paramedic program Advisory Board was held on Sept. 14, 2023.

**Members Present:**

Demond Simmons- Deputy Chief, Oakland Fire Department

Damon Covington- Fire Chief, Oakland

Nick Luby- Fire Chief Alameda

Gerald Takahashi- Alameda County EMS Agency EMS coordinator

Rick Ramos- Allied Health- Public Safety Dean Emeritus/ Consultant: Merritt College

Stacy Thompson- VPI Emeritus: Chabot College,

Jennifer Shanoski- Consultant Alameda County Dept of Ed.

Zac Unger- Firefighter Paramedic, City of Oakland

Dr. Gene Hern- Medical Director Los Positas Paramedic program

**Absent Members**:

Linda Vaughn- Public Safety Director, BACCC RJV

David Sprague- Assistant Chief Berkeley Fire Department

Lisa R. Cook- Interim Vice President of Instruction, Merritt College

The advisory board reviewed the paramedic LMI data from the Center for Excellence. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to support the establishment of new two new programs at Merritt College:

1. Paramedic, AS
2. Paramedic, Certificate of Achievement

See Minutes from Merritt Paramedic Advisory Board, Sept. 14, 2023.

**Item 11. (New Programs Only) Complete this after BACCC give recommendation**

**Bay Area Community College Consortium (BACCC) Approval Meeting Minutes that show program recommendation**

1. Summary of Bay Area Community College Consortium (BACCC) Recommendation. The summary can be comprised of three simple sentences.
2. Example: On (date) the Bay Area Community College Consortium (BACCC), approved the XXX program. During this meeting BACCC made the following recommendations: (include list recommendations).
3. Attach BACCC meeting minutes to proposal in CurriQunet.