



COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND

EMS PROGRAM INFORMATION PACKET



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Key Contacts

Public Safety Careers Academic Advisor

Destin Trocheset

409-933-8684

dtrocheset@com.edu

Public Safety Careers Department Chair

Gary Staudt

409-933-8934

gstaudt@com.edu

Public Safety Careers Administrative Assistant

Michele Brown

409-933-8285

mlbrown@com.edu

EMS Program Director/Coordinator

Gary Staudt

409-933-8934

gstaudt@com.edu

EMS Clinical Coordinator

Vanessa Murphy

409-933-8557

vmurphy@com.edu

College of the Mainland EMS Program Overview

Program Mission

To prepare competent entry-level Emergency Medical Technicians, Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, and Paramedics in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains, with or without exit points at the AEMT and EMT levels.

Program Goals

- Prepare students who are competent in the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective learning domains to enter the EMS profession at their certification level.
- Develop professionals who solve problems using highly developed assessment skills supported by a working knowledge of pathophysiology and reinforced by clinical and field experiences.
- Produce graduates who are flexible, who think beyond the established protocols when patient care requires it, and who function as effective members of the prehospital care team.
- Achieve and maintain National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) first-attempt pass rates and retention rates that meet or exceed CoAEMSP and TDSHS outcomes thresholds.

Job Duties and Professional Expectations

Functional Job Description:

EMTs and paramedics typically perform the following duties:

- Provide first-aid treatment or life support care to sick or injured patients.
- Assess a patient's condition and determine an appropriate course of treatment.
- Transport patients safely in an ambulance.
- Transfer patients to the emergency department of a hospital or another healthcare facility.
- Report their observations and treatments to physicians, nurses, or other healthcare facility staff.
- Document all medical care provided to patients.
- Inventory, replace, and clean supplies and equipment after use.

When transporting a patient in an ambulance, one EMT or paramedic may drive while the other monitors the patient's vital signs and administers additional care. Some paramedics also work as part of helicopter or airplane flight crews to transport critically ill or injured patients to a hospital. Additionally, EMTs and paramedics transfer patients between medical facilities, including hospitals specializing in specific treatments and extended-care facilities such as nursing homes.

If a patient has a contagious disease, EMTs and paramedics must decontaminate the ambulance's interior and may be required to report the case to the appropriate authorities. **The work is physically demanding and stressful, often involving life-or-death situations.**

EMS Personnel Requirements

EMS personnel must have the ability to:

- Communicate verbally via telephone and radio equipment.
- Lift, carry, and balance up to 125 pounds (250 pounds with assistance).
- Interpret written, oral, and diagnostic form instructions.
- Use good judgment and remain calm in high-stress situations.

- Work effectively in environments with loud noises and flashing lights.
- Function efficiently throughout an entire work shift, including 12, 24, and 48-hour rotations.
- Calculate weight and volume ratios, read small print, and understand English-language manuals and road maps under time-sensitive conditions.
- Accurately discern street signs and address numbers.
- Interview patients, family members, and bystanders.
- Document all relevant information in a prescribed legal format.
- Communicate patient status in English with coworkers and hospital staff.

Physical and Environmental Demands

- EMS personnel should possess good manual dexterity and the ability to:
- Perform all tasks necessary for high-quality patient care.
- Bend, stoop, and crawl on uneven terrain.
- Withstand extreme environmental conditions, including heat, cold, and moisture.
- Work in low-light, confined spaces, and other hazardous environments.

Job Expectations and Risks

- Lifting and moving patients, from pediatric to bariatric.
- Extricating patients from vehicles or other hazardous situations.
- Potential exposure to pathogens, bodily fluids, and hazardous materials.
- Managing patients experiencing behavioral emergencies, including violent, mentally unstable, or hypoglycemic individuals.
- Risk of trauma while operating near a moving ambulance.
- Working long hours in extreme temperatures.

Getting Started

EMS Program Enrollment Checklist

COMPLETE ALL STEPS FOR SUCCESSFUL ENTRY INTO THE PROGRAM

☐ **Apply to College of the Mainland (Texas)**

Apply online: <https://www.applytexas.org>

Applying for EMT, select AEMT

Applying for AEMT, select AEMT

Applying for Paramedic, select Paramedic

If you are undecided, choose AEMT

Submit required documents:

- Official high school/GED transcript,
- Proof of Texas residency, and
- Bacterial meningitis vaccination (if under 22).

Within about a week, you'll receive a COM ID# and student email account.

Set up and check your COM email daily once you have set up your account

_____@com.edu My COM email address

☐ **Pick up or request an EMS Program Information Packet**

The packet can be picked up in person or sent digitally via email.

Contact program staff if you have questions:

- Administrative Assistant: Michele Brown mlbrown@com.edu
- Program Director/Coordinator: Gary Staudt gstaudt@com.edu
- Clinical Coordinator: Vanessa Murphy vmurphy@com.edu

☐ **Make Program Advising Appointment**

Must schedule a phone or in-person meeting with the COM EMS Program Director and/or Clinical Coordinator by appointment

- Program Director/Coordinator: Gary Staudt gstaudt@com.edu
- Clinical Coordinator: Vanessa Murphy vmurphy@com.edu

_____ Date of Program Advising Appointment

☐ **Attend EMS Program Information Session**

Sign up for a Program Information Session by scanning the QR >

Program Information Session: 5:30 – 6:30pm typically on the last Tuesday of every month in the PSC Building, Room 123.

You must attend one before the start of the semester you are applying for

☐ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer 20_____ Semester you are applying for

EMS Program Information
Sessions



☐ **Submit Background Check**

Watch the Surpath Information Video before beginning: >

Create a COM.surpath.com account and pay for the background check and mandatory drug screening

Must be completed through Surpath: <https://com.surpath.com/>

Background checks can take up to three weeks to complete – make sure to complete this early to avoid missing registration deadlines



____ Date you created COM.Surpath.com account
____ Email you used to create the account
____ Date your background check was submitted

☐ **Registration Confirmation**

When you are clear to register, you'll receive a Dynamic Form to your COM email.

YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM TO BE REGISTERED. IT WILL ONLY BE SENT TO YOUR COM EMAIL.

Review for accuracy (schedule and personal info).

Confirm via email to Michele Brown that she received it.

____ Date form was accepted, signed, and returned

☐ **Gather Pre-Clinical Requirements**

- ☐COM Physical Exam ☐BLS CPR Certification ☐Health insurance card
Required immunizations: ☐MMR ☐Varicella ☐Tdap
☐Hepatitis B ☐TB Test ☐Influenza
☐Titers of immunity (if you do not have vaccination records)
Paramedic Applicants: ☐ EMT-Basic or AEMT certification
***Upload all documents to Surpath account

☐ **Drug Screening**

Conducted RANDOMLY after classes begin (instructions will be provided).

All EMS students will be present in healthcare settings where there may be controlled substances.

***If you believe you may not pass a drug screen, please test yourself prior to attending classes.

Students who fail a drug screen are not permitted to return to the program for AT LEAST one year with proof of substance abuse treatment.***

☐ **Begin Classes**

Congratulations and welcome!!

Remember to check your COM email often for important updates regarding the first day of class and other important information.

The COM Physical Form on the next two pages is the ONLY accepted physical

Medical Provider: Please evaluate the student's ability to meet the following standards:

YES NO N/A

☐ ☐ ☐

Sufficient Eyesight: observe patients, read records, and manipulate equipment. Function in dim light, and drive in hazy conditions. Wear protective eyewear.

☐ ☐ ☐

Sufficient Hearing: to hear blood pressure and function in high-noise environments.

☐ ☐ ☐

Sufficient speaking, reading, and writing skills: to communicate in English effectively and promptly.

☐ ☐ ☐

Sufficient gross and fine motor coordination: to manipulate equipment, stoop, bend, crawl, reach, twist, balance, grapple, bend, and lift under emergency conditions.

☐ ☐ ☐

Satisfactory physical strength and endurance: to move immobile patients, lift/carry/ balance 125 lbs. while walking, stand in place for long periods of time, complete clinical rotation of 12 to 24 hours. Tolerate environmental extremes (heat/cold/wet/poor ventilation/noise/ vibrations). **Satisfactory psychological function:** ensure safety (self, patient, partners), function in confined space, work at height, maintain self-control in emotionally charged situations.

☐ ☐ ☐

Can this student medically tolerate various types of respirators? Examples include simple N95 to avoid infectious exposure and various hazmat/firefighting masks. Examples of these include air-purifying respirators, supplied-air respirators, and self-contained breathing apparatus.

* ☐ ☐ ☐

***FIRE ACADEMY candidates only** (mark N/A if student does not plan to attend Fire Academy--now or within the year): perform while wearing protective clothing/gear, approximately 65 lbs., climb stairs with equipment weighing approximately 50 lbs., lift and climb/descend ladders (with victims up to 200 lbs.).

Remarks/Abnormal Findings

After careful physical examination, it is my opinion that this student has no current or past medical issues which will prevent him/her from **safely completing** indicated program(s). **Please indicate:**

☐

EMS Program

☐

Fire Academy (see special section, above)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Print Name: _____

☐ Physician (MD/DO)

☐ Physician Assistant

☐ Nurse Practitioner

Fill out the FAFSA

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Contact Veterans Center (*If Applicable*)

<https://www.com.edu/veterans/index.html>

Apply for Scholarships – EMS Scholarships Available

<https://www.com.edu/paying-for-college/scholarships.html>

Am I Required to See a Specific Healthcare Provider?

College of the Mainland does not endorse any specific medical provider or clinic. Students may see any provider of their choice for their immunizations, testing, or physical. Students should refer to their health insurance coverage for a listing of providers, or they may choose to see out a local clinic or pharmacy for their needs.

Personal Health Insurance Providers

College of the Mainland does not participate in a specific college-sponsored health insurance plan. Health insurance is available for purchase through private companies. Students should carefully study the terms of any policy before buying coverage.

- <http://www.ejsmith.com/short-term-medical-plans/>
- <https://www.uhcsr.com/>
- <https://www.healthcare.gov/>
- <https://insuranceforcollegestudents.com/texas/>
- <https://shorttermhealthinsurance.com/>

Notice Regarding Texas Administrative Code

**TITLE 25 HEALTH SERVICES
PART 1 DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
CHAPTER 157 EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE
SUBCHAPTER C EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TRAINING AND COURSE
APPROVAL RULE §157.33 Certification**

To qualify for certification EMS students must meet the following:

- (a) Certification requirements. A candidate for emergency medical services (EMS) certification shall:
1. be at least 18 years of age;
 2. have a high school diploma or GED certificate:

(A) the high school diploma must be from a school accredited by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) or a corresponding agency from another state. Candidates who received a high school education in another country must have their transcript evaluated by a foreign credentials evaluation service that attests to its equivalency. A home school diploma is acceptable;

Please read the regulation here:

[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=25&pt=1&ch=157&rl=33](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=25&pt=1&ch=157&rl=33)

Students will be required to provide proof of a high school diploma or GED/HSE. These documents will be provided during the document dossier process. Any student who cannot provide this documentation will not be allowed to test for certification.

Notice to Students Regarding Licensing

Effective September 1, 2017, HB 1508 amends the Texas Occupations Code Section 53 that requires education providers to notify potential or enrolled students that a criminal history may make them ineligible for an occupational license upon program completion. The following website provides links to information about the licensing process and requirements:

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/formsresources.shtm>

Should you wish to request a review of the impact of criminal history on your potential EMT Certification prior to or during your quest for a degree, you can visit this link and request an EMS Criminal History Prescreening: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/dshs-ems-trauma-systems/criminal-history>

This information is being provided to all persons who apply or enroll in the program, with notice of the requirements as described above, regardless of whether the person has been convicted of a criminal offense. Additionally, HB 1508 authorizes licensing agencies to require reimbursements when a student fails to receive the required notice.

Student Self-Reporting

Before starting the program, students must self-report any pending infractions not listed in the background check report provided to the program.

Additional guidelines include:

- Misdemeanor offenses: Must be disclosed before program entry.
- Pending misdemeanor charges: Students may participate in clinical rotations. However, if convicted, they must self-report immediately, and rotations may be postponed or stopped.
- Deferred adjudication or dismissed cases: Official documentation must be provided to the course instructor. Failure to do so may prevent progression to clinical coursework.
- Individuals currently on deferred adjudication, probation, or with active warrants: Not eligible to begin the program.
- Felony convictions: Cases will be evaluated on an individual basis. Students may be denied admission or removed from the program following review.
- **Program completion does not guarantee certification, licensure, or employment.**

What to Expect in the EMS Program

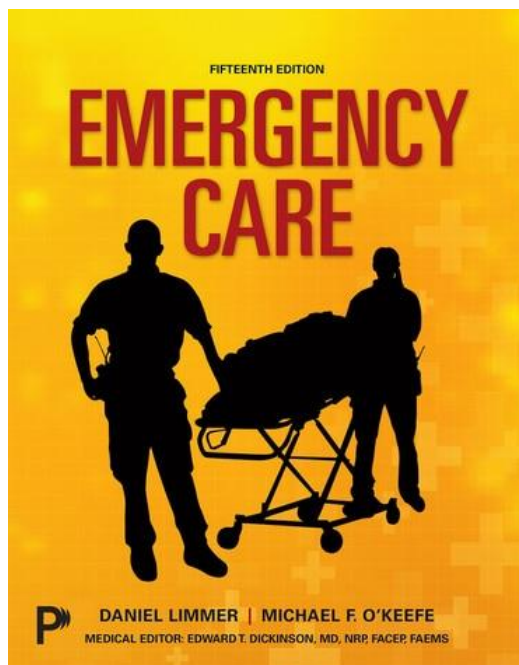
Program Cost Breakdown

The following is a breakdown of costs for the EMS program. Tuition and fees are based on COM's credit [tuition and fees schedule](#). This is an approximation and may not reflect your final costs and should not be viewed as a price guarantee.

EMT (EMSP-1501 & EMSP-1260) Estimation Only	In District	Out of District
Tuition (7 credit hrs.)	\$539	\$805
Program Fees		
• Malpractice Insurance	\$16	\$16
• Lab	\$75	\$75
• Supplies - uniform (est.)	\$180	\$180
Total (est.)	\$810	\$1076

Additional OUT-OF-POCKET EMT-B Program Fees:

Uniform Boots	\$100.00 (approx.)
Stethoscope	\$25.00 (approx.)
Physical	\$50.00 (approx.)
Background Check by SurScan	\$44.00 (approx.)
Drug Screen by SurScan	\$45.00 (approx.)
Purchased Books & Online Platform	\$100.00 (approx.)
Sterling Credentials	\$100.00 (approx.)
My Clinical Exchange	\$25.00 (approx.)
Student Health Insurance	Costs will vary by provider
BLS CPR Certification	\$93.00 (approx.)



Required Textbook

Emergency Care, 15th edition

Published by Pearson (17Dec2026)

Authors: Daniel Limmer, Michael F. O'Keefe, Edward T. Dickinson

ISBN-13: 9780138365561 (2025 update)

You will need the **MyLab access**. Physical textbooks are not required. Your instructor will provide the Course ID.

Paramedic Semester One (AEMT) Estimation Only	In District	Out of District
Tuition (15 credit hrs.)	\$1155	\$1725
Program Fees		
• Malpractice Insurance	\$16	\$16
• Lab	\$75	\$75
• Supplies - uniform (est.)	\$180	\$180
Total (est.)	\$1426	\$1996

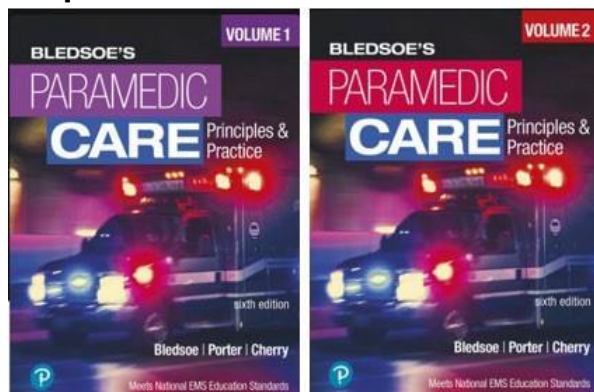
Paramedic Semester Two Estimation Only	In District	Out of District
Tuition (15 credit hrs.)	\$1155	\$1725
Program Fees		
• Malpractice Insurance	\$16	\$16
• Lab	\$75	\$75
Total (est.)	\$1246	\$1816

Paramedic Semester Three Estimation Only	In District	Out of District
Tuition (16 credit hrs.)	\$1232	\$1840
Program Fees		
• Malpractice Insurance	\$16	\$16
• Lab	\$75	\$75
Total (est.)	\$1323	\$1931

Additional OUT-OF-POCKET Paramedic Program Fees:

Uniform Boots	\$100.00 (approx.)
Stethoscope	\$25.00 (approx.)
Physical	\$50.00 (approx.)
Background Check by SurScan	\$44.00 (approx.)
Drug Screen by SurScan	\$45.00 (approx.)
Purchased Books & Online Platform	\$300.00 (approx.)
Sterling Credentials	\$170.00 (approx.)
My Clinical Exchange	\$25.00 (approx.)
Student Health Insurance	Costs will vary by provider
BLS CPR Certification	\$93.00 (approx.)

Required Textbook



Paramedic Care: Principles and Practice Volume 1 & 2, 6th Edition

Published by Pearson (23Dec2022)

Authors: B. Bledsoe, B. Porter, R. Cherry

ISBN-13: 9780136895039 (2022 update)

You need **MyLab** access. Physical textbooks are not required. Instructor will provide Course ID.

Textbook Purchasing

A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Textbook Price Matching

The College of the Mainland Bookstore may be able to match the price of other retailers. Please contact them and see the following link.

http://www.combookstore.com/StoreFiles/95-SchoolFiles/95-Price_Match.pdf

Please be cautious about ordering textbook packages from Amazon as they may not be correct. For any questions regarding this, please contact the EMS Program Director.

Clinical Requirements

Emergency Medical Services Program classes require a clinical component to be able to test for certification. This is a separate class that will help you to learn the professional practices and processes of the profession. You will be working in hospital and ambulance service settings to learn and practice EMS skills.

Clinicals must be taken concurrently with the academic courses. However, if your grades in the academic coursework do not meet the program requirements you will be required to repeat both courses together in a separate semester. You must pass both courses to successfully complete the program and be eligible for certification.

Because there is limited time to complete clinical requirements, it is important to begin gathering your medical information as it will need to be uploaded to Surpath by the end of the first week of class and all documentation requirements will be turned in before Clinical Orientation.

Our clinical partners set standards on what information is needed to be able to enter and work within their facilities. For any questions regarding this, please contact the EMS Clinical Coordinator.

Where Can I Find BLS CPR Classes?

We will occasionally offer a CPR class for students who are not currently certified. This information will be collected to determine if or when the class will be held.

You can contact the EMS Clinical Coordinator for more information.

If you find a course on your own, please ensure it is a BLS Healthcare Provider CPR certifications. This is the only accepted certification for compliance with the program.