



***Pensacola Junior College  
Paramedic Program  
Information Packet  
2010-2011  
Program Information Packet***

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***Accredited by the  
Committee on Accreditation of  
EMS Professions***

***PJC – AN EQUAL ACCESS/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION***

**To apply for the Pensacola Junior College (PJC) Paramedic Program, you must:**

1. Apply to PJC, if you have not applied in the past. If you have attended PJC in the past, but not within the last year, you will need to update your application online at [www.pjc.edu](http://www.pjc.edu). Go to Quick Links and click on Applications and Forms, then on Admissions. Also, complete and mail in the Health-Sciences application, checking paramedic as your program choice. Be sure to request official transcripts from all colleges and schools you have attended.
2. Hold a current Florida EMT Basic Certification. If you have not yet completed EMT-basic training, you must apply for that program first. Contact the Health Admissions office, 484-2210 on the Warrington Campus, Building 3600, Room 3622, for more information. The Health-Sciences application is also available at <http://www.pjc.edu/students/programs/HealthRelatedPrograms.asp> , but it must be filled out and faxed, mailed, or brought to the admissions office on Warrington Campus. If you hold another state's EMT certification, or National Registry, you need to apply to and successfully complete the Florida EMT certification exam. Go to <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/EMT-Paramedic/index.html> for information about Florida EMT certification requirements.
3. Have a current BLS Health Care Provider Card from one of the three agencies listed below:
  - American Heart Association, Health Care Provider
  - American Red Cross Professional Rescuer
  - American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI) CPR Pro
4. Provide a front and back copy of your BLS and Florida EMT Basic Certification cards along with the Health-Sciences application. Your application to the program is not complete until each of these items is provided to the Health Admissions Office. Health Admissions is located on the Warrington Campus, Building 3600, Room 3622.
5. Schedule the TABE test through the Testing Department at Warrington Campus, 484-1076, Pensacola Campus, 484-1656, or Milton Campus, 484-4410. This test is not an entrance screening device. TABE Scores at less than the 11<sup>th</sup> grade level will NOT keep you out of the paramedic program. TABE is a benchmark to assist determination for program success. It is a multi-part test, with math and reading comprehension requiring a score at the 11<sup>th</sup> grade level to assure program success. There is no charge for the TABE.
6. If a student does not achieve an 11<sup>th</sup> grade level on all portions of the TABE, the student will still be admitted into the paramedic program. However, to ensure the student's success, the student will be required to complete a remediation process in the PJC SAIL lab. Upon completion, the student will retake the TABE. If 11<sup>th</sup> grade scores are not achieved on the second attempt, the student must continue with remediation until 11<sup>th</sup> grade level on all portions of the TABE have been achieved. This process must be successfully completed prior to the student's entry into the fall term of the program.

## ***Frequently Asked Questions:***

### When does the Paramedic Program start?

The program begins each May, and continues for 14 months. You will need to have your applications completed on or about March 15<sup>th</sup>. The incoming class will be selected shortly thereafter and must attend an orientation session prior to the program start date.

### Approximately how much does the program cost?

Florida Residents:

42 credits @ \$84.06, in-state (\$3,530.52) for the Paramedic certificate; tuition only

73 credits @ \$84.06, in-state (\$6,136.38) for the EMS-AAS degree; tuition only

Alabama Residents:

42 credits @ \$85.11, in-state (\$3,788.73) for the Paramedic certificate; tuition only

73 credits @ \$85.11, in-state (\$6,213.03) for the EMS-AAS degree; tuition only

Out of state resident fee is \$317.00/credit hour. Please contact the PJC Admissions office if you have questions regarding residency.

Additional Expenses (approximate):

Books \$600.00

Lab fees \$285.00

Uniforms \$150.00

Supplies \$300.00

Immunization/Physical \$300.00

*Fees may vary and are subject to change.*

Remember, the legislature has the right to raise tuition, and generally does so in July of each year.

### What is the difference between the Paramedic Certificate and the EMS-AAS degree?

You can go to work with the paramedic certificate as soon as you graduate and pass the Florida Paramedic Certification exam. If you choose to complete the degree, you can test for Florida certification when you have successfully completed the 42 college credit hours of the Paramedic program, whether or not you have completed the associated required college classes required for the degree.

The EMS-AAS degree consists of 11 college credit hours for EMT (must have been completed at PJC or able to be articulated over to PJC from a CoAEMSP accredited program), 42 college credit hours for Paramedic from PJC, and 20 other credit hours of specific general education. For specific information regarding the other college classes, check the PJC catalog under the AAS programs for EMS-AAS. The PJC catalog is available online at <http://www.pjc.edu/misc/collegecatalog> .

Many students elect to complete EMT and Paramedic, then return to complete the other required classes for the EMS-AAS degree. Other students go straight through to the degree.

What can I do **before** I enter the program to help me succeed?

Take Anatomy and Physiology I and II and the associated labs (BSC 1093 and BSC 1093L and BSC 1094 and BSC 1094L). There is a component of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology in each of the Paramedic program classes. If you do not take A&P I and II and the associated labs, you can take Essentials of A&P (BSC1080 and BSC1080L), with the accompanying lab, before beginning or within the program, which is a total of 4 credit hours. However, A&P I and II (BSC 1093, BSC1093L, BSC1094, BSC1094L) are much more comprehensive, and, as well, comprise two of the seven classes required for the EMS-AAS degree.

It is helpful to have EMT-basic experience before you enter the program. You will exit a much better prepared Paramedic if you have spent time in the field building your basic skills first. If you choose to enter the program without sufficient experience in the field, you may be asked to complete extra field time, for BLS skills, during the first term.

You will need to be able to communicate via email and use a computer to do basic tasks. The paramedic program uses computers extensively. Each student should have access to a computer with a printer. All students are assigned a Pirate Email address. All official communications regarding the program will be sent to your Pirate Email address.

It would be helpful to brush up on basic math skills, even before you take the TABE. Many students have difficulty with drug calculations because their math skills are poor. After you apply to the program, if you wish additional help with your math skills, you can contact the SAIL Lab at Warrington Campus. The SAIL lab offers tutorials on math that will assist you in preparing for the critical skill of drug calculation. You can also go to the Math Lab on the Warrington campus in building 3100 (850) 484-2378.

Should I take ACLS, ITLS, PALS, or any other similar class before coming to the paramedic program?

No. You will take these classes within the program.

Should I buy my textbooks and begin reading before class starts?

No. All this information will be sequenced and covered in a specific format. If you read the material before class begins, you may be confused or become bored during class time when information you have already reviewed is covered again. Also, textbooks change from time to time, and you would not want to spend additional money for updated textbooks once you start the program.

What if I was:

- In the military and served as a corpsman or the like;
- Worked as a patient care tech or nursing assistant;
- Licensed or certified as a health care provider in some other field.

Will any of the above-mentioned experience reduce my number of hours in the paramedic program?

No. It should be noted, however, that healthcare experience is always helpful, and will help you succeed in the program. None of these will articulate over to substitute for classes within the paramedic program.

The one exception: if you are a Florida-EMT Basic certified and a Florida-licensed RN, and hold a current American Heart Association ACLS course card, you will be allowed to challenge the Florida Paramedic certification exam. If you are already a Florida-EMT basic certified, hold a current ACLS card, and you are a Florida-licensed RN, contact Florida Department of Health, Medical Quality Assurance to apply for the Florida Paramedic certification exam (<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa> ).

Can I take some of the paramedic classes now and start full time next year?

You can take specific Anatomy & Physiology classes before the program starts, and, in fact, this is strongly recommended. Contact Don Lee for the specific Anatomy & Physiology classes you can complete before beginning the program.

The rest of the Paramedic program must be taken in succession. If you are an EMS-AAS degree candidate, you can take the general education classes required outside of EMT and paramedic core classes for the degree. To review the class sequence, go to <http://pjc.edu/healthprograms/> .

Can I enter the program later than May?

No. Each class must be completed in succession. The exception to this would be if you are enrolled in a paramedic program at another CoAEMSP accredited college, and have successfully completed classes which are able to be articulated over to Pensacola Junior College for credit.

On which days/nights of the week are classes held?

Class will be held on Tuesday and Thursday. Specific times will be announced as each term. This is a very intense program, and will require many hours of in-class and out-of-class time to study, complete assignments, and perform clinical and field hours. Extra class days may occasionally be required.

You will be doing clinical and/or field time on weekends, holidays, evenings, and nights. Students who work full-time may be required to take time off to complete certain specific requirements.

What will be required of me once I am accepted to the program?

Upon acceptance into the Paramedic program, you will be required to be fingerprinted, have a background check and complete a drug screen. If a negative report is returned on either, you will be required to meet with the Department Head to determine whether or not you will be able to enter the program.

You will also complete a health form with your private physician, and the information required will include immunization status and titer levels. This exam is designed to determine whether you are able to safely meet all requirements of classroom, lab, and clinical experiences within the program. Specific immunizations or vaccinations may be required for clinic sites.

Any changes in health status during the program may necessitate the completion of additional physical examination(s) to determine the student's ability to safely participate in all program activities. Physical abilities required to successfully complete the program are provided to the student and the health care professional who will perform the entrance physical examination.

Due to the nature of working in an uncontrolled environment, physical abilities are key to success within this program. Safety first for the student, patient, and preceptor are fundamental to successful completion of this program, and all safety concerns must be satisfactorily addressed prior to admission to the program.

Any students whose disabilities may fall within the Americans with Disabilities Act or section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act should inform Disability Support Services (DSS) at the beginning of the term of any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements for this course. The DSS office is located on the Pensacola campus, building 6, room 603. No course accommodations can be offered until the student has met with Student Disability Services.

Please note that Florida Department of Health may not offer full certification to persons with specific disabilities, as determined by the Department. This determination is NOT made by Pensacola Junior College, but should be considered before application to the program.

#### What if I have had arrests and/or convictions in my past?

If you have significant items which will show up on your background check, please make an appointment with the Department Head to discuss these prior to entry into the program. Attendance at clinical sites, and even your ability to certify if you successfully complete the course, can be an issue with some background issues. These must be looked at on a case-by-case basis. Some issues may prohibit the student from attending clinic or field sites, and Florida Medical Quality Assurance may not allow a student with specific background issues to become certified as an EMT.

## Program Progression

Term	Course	Credit Hours
<b>Summer A</b> (May – August), 12 weeks		
BSC 1080	Essentials of A&P (may take BSC1093/BSC1094 & labs instead, especially if considering the EMS-AAS degree)	3
BSC 1080L	Essentials of A&P Lab	1
EMS 2680C	Behavioral Emergencies	1
EMS 2614C	Airway Management and Respiratory Emergencies	5
EMS 1601	<b>online</b> Intro to Adv. Prehosp. Care	1
HSC1590W	<b>online</b> AIDS/OSHA	1
	<b>Total term credits</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Fall</b> (August – December), 16 weeks		
EMS 1683C	Fundamentals of Adv. Preh.	2
EMS 2613C	Patient Assessment	2
EMS 1654	Paramedic Field/Clinical Exp I	3
EMS 2681C	<b>online</b> Special Considerations	2
EMS 2627	Medical Emergencies	4
	<b>Total term credits</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Spring</b> (January – April), 16 weeks		
EMS 1612C	Cardiovascular Emerg.	3
EMS 2628C	Ob/Gyn/Neonatal/Peds	3
EMS 2655	Paramedic Field/Clin Exp II	3
EMS 2682C	Advanced Prehosp. Trauma	3
	<b>Total term credits</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Summer</b> 8 weeks (May – June)		
EMS 2656	Paramedic Field/Clinical Internship	5
	<b>Total Term credits</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Total Program Credits</b>	<b>42</b>

**Flexibility:** It is the intention of the program to accomplish the objectives specified in the course syllabus however, circumstances may arise which prohibit the fulfilling all objectives. Therefore, the syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the primary course instructor. When possible, students will be notified of any change in advance of its occurrence.

**"PJC provides an institutional email account to all credit students. Pirate Mail is the official method of communication, and students must use Pirate Mail when communicating with the College. In cases where companion software is used for a particular class, emails may be exchanged between instructor and student using the companion software."**

## **Contact Information:**

### **Health Admissions:**

Sarah Lewis  
484-2210  
[slewis@pjc.edu](mailto:slewis@pjc.edu)

Paramedic Program Director  
Don Lee, BS, CP  
484-2225  
[dlee@pjc.edu](mailto:dlee@pjc.edu)

Health Sciences Department Head:  
Sandra Hartley, MS, CP  
484-2308  
[shartley@pjc.edu](mailto:shartley@pjc.edu)

### **Testing information:**

484-1076, Warrington Campus

### **Financial Aid:**

484-2349, Warrington Campus

### **PJC Website:**

[www.pjc.edu](http://www.pjc.edu)

### **Health Programs Website:**

[http://www.pjc.edu/students/programs/Health  
RelatedPrograms.asp](http://www.pjc.edu/students/programs/HealthRelatedPrograms.asp)

## **Florida Department of Health:**

**Contact Bureau of Emergency Medical Services** for information about training centers, provider agencies, Chapter 64 E-2, Florida Administrative Code (rules), Chapter 401, Florida Statutes (EMS statutes).

Florida Department of Health  
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin #C18  
Tallahassee, FL 32311-1738  
Telephone: (850) 245-4440  
Fax: (850) 488-9408

**Contact Medical Quality Assurance** for testing and for those who are currently National Registry certified (or have other state EMT certifications), and wish to become Florida certified.

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/Exam/home.htm>