

Paramedic Specialist

Why should I major in Paramedic Specialist?

Paramedic specialists are the highest level emergency medical services provider in the state of Iowa. The paramedic specialist serves as an extension of a physician and brings advanced life support to the patient. Paramedic specialists are employed by fire departments, air and ground ambulances, hospitals, and private industries. They care for patients of traumatic and medical emergencies, as well as non-emergency situations. Paramedic specialists can provide intravenous injections, endotracheal intubation, administer medications, cardiac defibrillation, read electrocardiograms, and other emergency procedures.

As the average age and population of America continues to rise, the need for paramedic specialists will likely also rise. The educational program at Iowa Western will focus in four areas: didactic or classroom, lab or practical, clinical internship, and field internship.

Upon concluding the first portion of the program, the student will need to pass the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, EMT - Basic exam and be certified by the State of Iowa Department of Public Health - Bureau of EMS before continuing in the program.



What type of degree will I earn at Iowa Western if I enroll in this program?

Graduates of the Paramedic Specialist program earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree. Upon completion of the program, students will be eligible to sit for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT), EMT - Paramedic exam which will make them eligible for certification by the State of Iowa Department of Public Health - Bureau of EMS as a paramedic specialist. The student will also complete certification in advanced cardiac support, pediatric advanced life support, pre-hospital trauma life support, and advanced medical life support.

If I major in the Paramedic Specialist program, can I transfer to a four-year college or university?

By earning an Associate of Applied Science degree in this program, you will be ready to work as a paramedic specialist as soon as you successfully complete the NREMT and State of Iowa certification requirements. Many of the credits you earn may transfer to a four-year institution to be applied toward a bachelor's degree.

What is the job outlook for Paramedic Specialists and what type of jobs will I be qualified for?

Employment will center on the larger population areas, and will likely continue to expand to more rural areas as smaller volunteer services are no longer able to handle the load in their areas. The state and national organizations are looking into expanding the scope of practice for paramedic specialists. Expected earnings for a paramedic specialist vary greatly by the type of service they are employed by. Municipal fire departments and air ambulances usually provide the highest salaries. A paramedic specialist can expect to make between \$25,000 and \$50,000 per year.

Are there any special considerations that a prospective Paramedic Specialist should keep in mind?

Paramedic specialists, much like other healthcare professionals, are often on call, work rotating shifts, and work on weekends and holidays. A paramedic specialist must be physically fit enough to perform strenuous lifting and work in a variety of environments. Because of the emergency nature of the job, there is always variety in the field and often is intellectually challenging. More on information on the EMS professions can be found at: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos101.htm>

Program of Study

The Paramedic Specialist program of study prepares students for a challenging career in pre-hospital emergency medicine. Paramedic specialists are employed by ground ambulances, fire departments, and air medical services. Students study medical and traumatic emergencies, scene management, transportation techniques, and pathophysiology. Upon completing the first semester, students sit for the National Registry of EMT's EMT-Basic examination. Students need to successfully become certified by the State of Iowa (as an EMT-Basic) in order to continue in the program. Upon completing the program, students are eligible to sit for the National Registry of EMT's EMT-Paramedic examination. Graduates of this program are awarded an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree.

*Students must complete the curriculum described below:

Prerequisite: Current, valid American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR or American Red Cross CPR for Professional Rescuer certification.

RECOMMENDED COURSE SEQUENCE

| First Semester (Fall) | | Cr. |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| EMS 211 | Emergency Medical Technician-Basic | 6.5 |
| BIO 168 | Human Anatomy and Physiology I with Labs | 4 |
| ENG 105 | Composition I <u>OR</u> | 3 |
| ENG 111 | Technical Writing | |
| | Mathematics Elective (MAT 121 - 227) | 3-4 |
| | | <hr/> 16.5-17.5 |

| Second Semester (Spring) | | Cr. |
|---------------------------------|---|------------|
| EMS 620 | **Paramedicine I | 12 |
| BIO 173 | Human Anatomy and Physiology II with Labs | 4 |
| HSC 113 | Medical Terminology | 2 |
| | | <hr/> 18 |

**Students must have obtained certification by the Iowa Department of Public Health-Bureau of EMS as an EMT-Basic prior to beginning this course.

| Third Semester (Summer) | | Cr. |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| EMS 621 | Paramedicine II | 6 |
| | | <hr/> 6 |

| Fourth Semester (Fall) | | Cr. |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| EMS 622 | Paramedicine III | 12 |
| EMS 825 | Advanced Medical Life Support | 1 |
| EMS 810 | Advanced Cardiac Life Support | 1 |
| PSY 111 | Introduction to Psychology <u>OR</u> | 3 |
| PSY 121 | Developmental Psychology | |
| | | <hr/> 17 |

| Fifth Semester (Spring) | | Cr. |
|--------------------------------|--|------------|
| EMS 623 | Paramedicine IV | 10 |
| EMS 820 | Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support | 1 |
| EMS 815 | Advanced Pediatric Life Support <u>OR</u> | 1 |
| EMS 816 | Pediatric Education for Pre-Hospital Professionals | |
| MGT 195 | Workplace Empowerment | 3 |
| | | <hr/> 15 |

72.5 semester hours required

**For More Information,
Contact the Admissions Office:
712.325.3277 or 800.432.5852, ext. 3277
or the Program Chair at 712.325.3357
www.iwcc.edu**