

Do I need work experience before I take the paramedic core courses?

You do not have to complete any specific requirements in terms of work experience in order to register for paramedic courses. However, keep in mind that historically those who come into the paramedic core courses with some experience generally perform better than those who do not. There is no replacement for experience when it comes to conducting patient assessments, so it is highly suggested.

Do I have to take EMT-Basic before I start the paramedic technician general education classes?

No, you may take EMT-Basic at the same time that you are taking other general education classes that are associated with the Paramedic Technician program.

Do I need to take EMT-Basic before I start the paramedic core courses?

Yes, you must submit a current Wisconsin EMT license with your intent to enroll form. Failure to present a current license will result in you not being matriculated (fully accepted) into the paramedic program. A National Registry of EMTs certification card does not satisfy this requirement.

When can I register?

Once you complete your intent to enroll form and submit it with all of the required documentation you will be moved to matriculated status. Once you are matriculated you will be able to register for the core paramedic courses, provided it is on or after the first day of class registration for the semester in which you will be starting.

Why do I need to have an EMT license issued before I can turn in my intent to enroll?

A current Wisconsin license is required with the intent to enroll because it is needed for entry into a clinical setting. Requiring it up front eliminates the possibility that a problem arising during your licensing phase will result in removal from the program. This process also provides a fair way for people to be matriculated into the program on a first come – first served basis following the completion of all requirements for program entry.

Will there be other costs associated with the program that are not covered in my tuition?

You will be required to purchase a significant number of textbooks for the paramedic program. A list of those books is available through the MSTC bookstore.

You will also have testing fees that will need to be paid if you intend to take the National Registry exam at the end of class. The National Registry fee for paramedics is currently \$110.00, payable each time that you take the written exam. There is also a \$200.00 fee due to MSTC for the paramedic practical exam for NREMT. If you choose to test elsewhere, or have to take stations over again at another site you will be responsible for payment of their testing fees.

There will likely be costs associated with clinical health work requirements. You may need immunizations, TB skin tests, or titers in order to be eligible for clinical experiences. Any costs associated with these clinical requirements are the responsibility of the student.

There is a \$25.00 graduation fee at the end of the program. You will want to pay this fee, even if you do not intend to take part in the actual graduation ceremony. If you do not pay the fee you will not show a graduated status on your transcript, nor will you receive your technical diploma or associate's degree. Failure to pay the fee will not affect your eligibility to take the National Registry exam.

Travel to clinical sites and back and forth to class can get quite expensive. Please plan accordingly and understand that the price of fuel, etc. is your responsibility and is not a reason to be excused from class.

Will I be required to purchase uniforms for class?

Yes, uniforms are required as a part of the paramedic program. MSTC screen-printed t-shirts are ordered on the first day of class. You will also be supplied with other uniform guidelines on the first day of class. Generally the uniform will consist of navy blue EMS pants, a button down uniform shirt, a black belt, and black boots. The t-shirt is sometimes specified on certain days of the week or for certain clinical rotations. You can expect that a single set of uniforms will cost in the area of \$100.00, not including your belt and boots. You will also be given the opportunity to order custom printed job shirts like those worn by many career fire departments.

Who is my advisor?

The advisor for paramedic students is Dale Dominick, the lead instructor for the day program.

When is orientation for the paramedic program?

Paramedic program orientation is completed on the first day of Paramedic Fundamentals. If you have not previously attended an MSTC Smart Start session you are highly encouraged to do so. Smart Start information is sent to students who are in matriculated status.

What will my weekly schedule look like?

Your weekly schedule as far as classroom time is concerned will be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 0830 to 1230, and Thursday from 0830 to 1530. You will also have a clinical class period that will occur on Monday afternoons from 1300 to 1430, starting in late October to early December.

What will my weekly clinical schedule look like?

Your weekly clinical schedule will be somewhat dependent upon your scheduling habits. You will be responsible for scheduling all clinical hours OUTSIDE of designated class time. The instructor will be scheduling you for cardiac catheterization lab and your operating room rotation during class time. You will also be scheduled for periodic laboratory clinical times, which will generally be scheduled in groups on Wednesday or Thursday afternoons, as well as Fridays.

You must remember that this program is a full-time program, making employment a very difficult undertaking. Please take your time commitment for class, clinical, family, work, and any other

obligations into consideration before making a commitment to this program. There is little room for absence from class or clinical periods.

Will my criminal or driving history affect my opportunities for employability?

Consider the following educational and occupational requirements and expectations before you commit your time and money into a program, which might not be suitable for you. Mid-State Technical College is looking for students who are prepared to meet the academic rigors of the paramedic program and who know the time and effort it takes to be successful in the classroom. We are also looking for students who have made wise decisions in their life experiences and who have not had to suffer the consequences of poor decision making. Your prior decision making may lead to a situation where your clinical possibilities are severely limited or non-existent. All clinical sites have the ability to deny a student the ability to perform clinical experiences at their facility or department. The same decisions may impair your ability to find gainful employment in this field as well. Consider the following *before* making a *commitment* to this program and occupation.

- **Criminal record clear of pertinent offenses.**
- **Valid driver's license.**
- **No serious driving violations.**
- **Physically fit.**
- **No history of emotional problems.**
- **Good verbal communications skills.**
- **Good written communications skills.**
- **Ability to work through conflict rationally and calmly.**
- **No biases toward other genders, races, nationalities, sexual orientation, or religions.**
- **No use of illegal narcotics.**

How far do I have to travel for my clinical and field experiences?

Hospital clinical experiences are generally completed at hospitals in Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, Stevens Point, Weston, Wild Rose, and Portage. There are a couple of other hospitals with which we have clinical agreements; however, they are not often utilized.

Field sites are located in Wisconsin Rapids, Marshfield, Stevens Point, Portage, Wisconsin Dells, Baraboo, Chippewa Falls, Waupaca, and Wautoma. There are various other sites with current agreements; however, they are not often utilized.

Will Mid-State Technical College enter into a clinical agreement with other facilities in order to lessen my driving time for clinical rotations?

The clinical agreements that Mid-State Technical College has in place represent a snapshot of those facilities with which we were able to secure agreements. Most other agencies are affiliated with other technical colleges, making it difficult to impossible to secure an agreement. We will not make special agreements with other clinical sites at this time.