



COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE

Global Curriculum & Career Pathway



COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE EDUCATION

Community Paramedicine offers optimal positioning of EMS resources to fill an identified gap in the healthcare system. A Community Paramedic Program closes the gaps within the healthcare system by expanding the role of EMS personnel within the community. Through a standardized curriculum of advanced education with certification and degree, EMS responders are educated at the appropriate level to serve communities more broadly in the areas of:

- Primary Care
- Prevention and Wellness
- Public and Population Health
- Mental Health
- Disease Management
- Readmission Prevention
- Oral Health
- Human Services

The Community Paramedicine Program is flexible by design to meet the needs and resources of the local community. The program's success is driven through a combined effort of those holding value in maintaining health and wellbeing of community members within their healthcare system, practice and community.

The Community Paramedicine Program concept is an excellent match to all areas of the world, connecting underutilized resources to underserved populations. Expanding the role of EMS personnel allows healthcare services to reach those where access to physicians, clinics or hospitals may be difficult, non-existent or unobtainable.

The Community Paramedic has a proven ability to efficiently and professionally serve as a primary care provider, and when deployed to a patient's home as an extension of a patient-centered primary care plan, Community Paramedics assist with chronic disease management and prevention.

In the United States, the Community Paramedicine Program combines all the best practices and lessons learned from similar programs around the world. International initiatives have generated remarkable results. The Community Paramedic and Community Paramedicine Program exist for the sole purpose of serving the needs of the local community within which it serves and is supported by the International Roundtable on Community Paramedicine (IRCP), The Paramedic Foundation (TPF), Paramedic Health Solutions (PHS), Paramedic Network, Community Partners, Global Paramedic Higher Education Council (GPHEC), Mobile CE and Community Paramedicine Association and Registry (CPAR).

If you are interested in initiating Community Paramedics and creating a Community Paramedicine Program, we are happy to assist you, please email network@paramedichs.org or visit <http://paramedicnetwork.org> for more information.



Primary Care
Technician™

PRIMARY CARE TECHNICIAN FOR EMT (PCT):

- Awards Certificate or Technical Diploma
- Connects underutilized resources to underserved populations
- Expands the role of the EMT (not scope) to provide health services where access to physicians, clinics, and/or hospitals is difficult or may not exist.
- Exists for the sole purpose of serving the needs of a particular community and its success relies heavily on collaboration among local stakeholders.
- Follow a pre-existing care plan
- Functions under the guidance of an independent practice care practitioner

PRIMARY CARE TECHNICIAN FOR EMT (PCT):

As an entry-level class within the associates degree program, this option prepares students for career opportunities in the areas of Community Paramedicine, health promotion, health behavior, and disease prevention. Students learn a variety of skills and strategies that will provide them with the necessary proficiencies to improve population health in diverse settings. The program focuses on the social and behavioral determinants of health, with a particular emphasis on health disparities and prevention. Following successful completion of 48 hours, 28 didactic and 20 clinical, graduates are qualified to assist by implementing predesigned prevention programs that address health disparities and that are intended to improve the health of diverse populations. This program awards either certificate or 3 credit hours.



COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC TECHNICIAN (CPT):

- Awards Certificate or Technical Diploma
- Connects underutilized resources to underserved populations
- Expands the role of the paramedic and advanced EMT (not scope) to provide health services where access to physicians, clinics, and/or hospitals is difficult or may not exist.
- Exists for the sole purpose of serving the needs of a particular community and its success relies heavily on collaboration among local stakeholders
- Follow a pre-existing care plan
- Functions under the guidance of an independent practice care practitioner

COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC TECHNICIAN (CPT) – ASSOCIATES DEGREE:

As an entry-level class within the associate degree program, this option prepares students for career opportunities in the areas of Community Paramedicine, health prevention, health behavior, and disease prevention. Students learn a variety of skills and strategies that will provide them with the necessary proficiencies to improve population health in diverse settings. The program focuses on the social and behavioral determinants of health and disease across the lifespan, with a particular emphasis on health disparities. Following successful completion of 88 hours, 48 didactic and 40 clinical, graduates are qualified to assist with the planning, implementing, and evaluation of programs that address health disparities and that are intended to improve the health of diverse populations. This program awards 4 credit hours.



COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC CLINICIAN (CPC):

- Awards Associate Degree
- Expansion of capabilities to: physical examination, decision making/critical thinking as related to:
 - Critical thinking
 - History Taking
 - Conducts a physical examination.
 - Evaluation of treatment effectiveness.
 - Performs interventions (treatments).
 - Provides feedback as it relates to effectiveness of the care plan.
 - Collaborates with other healthcare professionals to modify care plan.
- Conducts an in-depth gap study of the community and completes a Community Health Needs Assessment for Community Paramedicine Program implementation

COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC CLINICIAN (CPC) – ASSOCIATES DEGREE:

This option is included within the core the Associates degree program. In addition to an in-depth study of social and behavioral determinants of health, disease across the lifespan, health disparities and chronic disease process, the CPC completes a Community Health Needs Assessment. The Community Health Needs Assessment focuses on initiating and conducting research in partnership with healthcare systems, public health and communities. Includes in-depth examination of community-based participatory research (CBPR) elements, principles, theories, and approaches; how researchers can successfully partner with communities; and research with minority and/or underprivileged communities; with examples from environmental health and health promotion. Following successful completion of 344 hours, 144 didactic and 200 clinical, graduates are qualified to assist in multidisciplinary planning and are able to implement and evaluate of programs that address health disparities and that are intended to improve the health of diverse populations. This program awards 16 credits.



COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC PRACTITIONER (CPP):

- Awards Bachelor's Degree
- Can establish, evaluate and modify a treatment care plan under the guidance of an independent practice care practitioner
- This level builds on the cognitive, affective and psychomotor base knowledge obtained in the previous levels with the expansion of:
- Physical examination
- Evaluates and modifies care plan.
- Evaluates and modifies treatments

COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC PRACTITIONER (CPP) – BACCALAUREATE DEGREE

This degree program offers continued in-depth learning in all areas defined within the CPT and CPC programs and continues to examine the processes and tools involved in planning and evaluating culturally competent health and human service prevention and intervention programs in the global context. Special considerations in program decision-making in the global context (community engagement, cultural competence, sustainability, feasibility, political/ethical issues) will be explored.



COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC ADVANCED PRACTITIONER (CPAP):

- Awarded Master's Degree
- Builds upon previous education and practice
- Similar to Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner in terms of role and scope.
- This level has the ability to make treatment decisions.
- Can prescribe a care plan
- Has autonomy to drive care under the guidance of an independent practice care practitioner

COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC ADVANCED PRACTITIONER (CPAP) – MASTER'S DEGREE

A Master of Science in Community Paramedicine (CPAP) is an advanced-level postgraduate degree for Community Paramedic Practitioners and is also considered an entry-level degree for Community Paramedic Educators and Community Paramedicine Program Managers. This degree may also prepare the Community Paramedic as an administrator, health policy expert or clinical leader. This program provides a key forum for students to share ongoing development in their research and practice, drawing from fieldwork as well as attended conferences and meetings. The CPAP may be used as a prerequisite for doctorate-level Community Paramedicine education.



COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC CONSULTANT (DCP):

- Awards Doctorate Degree
- Offers preparation for careers in research and education
- Builds methodological and analytical skills
- Provides a deep knowledge of theoretical and conceptual underpinnings, philosophy and history
- Drives professional acculturation and network building

COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC CONSULTANT (DCP) – PhD

The Doctor of Science in Community Paramedicine program prepares and supports students to complete an academic terminal doctoral degree which can provide opportunities for employment in institutions of higher education, healthcare and research clinics, hospital settings and other healthcare venues. The PhD in Community Paramedicine prepares stewards of healthcare disciplines as committed lifelong scholars who can conduct, evaluate, publish, present and integrate research findings into their daily academic agenda and/or clinical practice.

COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE TRANSITION PROGRAMS

PRIMARY CARE TECHNICIAN FOR EMT TRANSITION (PCT):

- Currently licensed as a health care provider in one of the following disciplines: CHW, LPN, RN, NP, PA, DO, MD
- Successful completion of the EMT Program
- Recommendation from their independent practice care practitioner

This program allows the opportunity of competency testing for experienced health care providers following successful completion of the EMT program. Competency testing is offered per module with a required 90% passing score and will award completion of the individual module. Clinical Skills competency will also be required and will be signed off by the appropriately accredited independent practice care practitioner.

COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC TECHNICIAN TRANSITION (CPT):

- Currently licensed as a health care provider in one of the following disciplines: CHW, LPN, RN, NP, PA, DO, MD
- Successful completion of the Paramedic Program
- Recommendation from their independent practice care practitioner.

This program allows the opportunity of competency testing for experienced health care providers following successful completion of the Paramedic program. Competency testing is offered per module with a required 90% passing score and will award completion of the individual module. Clinical Skills competency will also be required and will be signed off by the appropriately accredited independent practice care practitioner.

CUSTOM CURRICULA:

These Paramedicine Programs have been written with a generic scope of practice in mind and it may be reasonable to expect that individual regions, provinces, states, or countries may wish to customize this curriculum to meet their unique needs.

The Paramedic Network™ and Paramedic Health Solutions™ recognize there will be a need to make curricular changes to fit into legislation and scope of practice. The Paramedic Network™ and Paramedic Health Solutions™ stands ready with a team of experts and resources to assist in the creation of a custom program and curricula to meet the unique program needs.

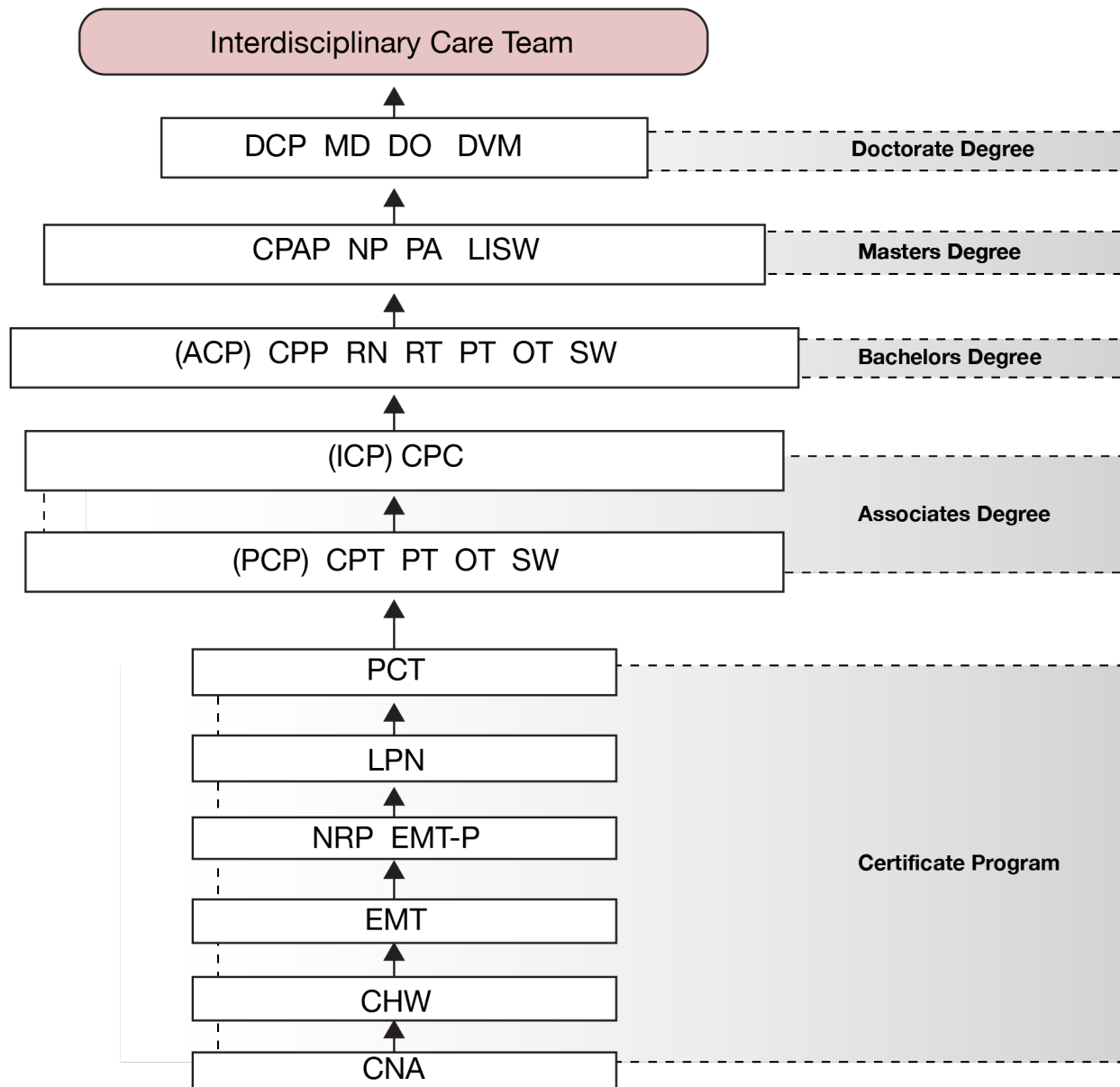
COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE PROGRAMS

	Program Title	Prerequisite/Entry	Hours			Exit Degree
			Lecture	Lab	Clinical	
PCT	Primary Care Technician	EMT	20	8	20	Certificate/Diploma
CPT	Community Paramedic Technician	Paramedic (ICP or ACP)	40	8	40	Certificate/Diploma/AAS
CPC	Community Paramedic Clinician	Paramedic (ICP or ACP)	120	24	200	AAS
CPP	Community Paramedic Practitioner	AAS				BS
CPAP	Community Paramedic Advanced Practitioner	BS				MS
DCP	Doctor of Community Paramedicine	MS				PhD

COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE EDUCATION PROGRAMS - TRANSITION

	Program Title	Prerequisite	EMS Provider Level
PCT	Primary Care Technician for EMT Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently licensed as a health care provider in one of the following disciplines: CHW, LPN, RN, NP, PA, DO, MD Successful completion of the EMT Program Recommendation from their independent practice care practitioner 	EMT
CPT	Community Paramedic Technician Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently licensed as a health care provider in one of the following disciplines: CHW, LPN, RN, NP, PA, DO, MD Successful completion of the Paramedic Program Recommendation from their independent practice care practitioner 	Paramedic

VALUE OF THE COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM ACROSS THE CONTINUUM





COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE

Primary Care

Primary Care Technician™



Primary Care
Technician™

The Primary Care Technician™ Program

Health Promotion and Primary Care

Community Health and the Primary Care Technician (PCT)™

Health Promotion and Primary Care. This program offers the introduction and application of community health concepts, emphasizing wellness, health promotion, disease prevention and education. This course focuses on the roles of the Primary Care Technician in establishing partnerships within communities in order to promote optimal community health. The clinical practicum provides students with opportunities to deliver quality community health care across all levels of prevention and to explore the planning and implementation of customized community health programs. Successful completion awards the Primary Care Technician™ Certificate. Course transfer value: 3 credit hours.

The Primary Care Technician™ Program is designed to prepare EMT practitioners with the foundational community health knowledge and competencies to address health promotion, health behavior, and disease prevention. Students learn a variety of skills and strategies that will provide them with the necessary proficiencies to improve population health in diverse settings. The PCT curriculum is designed to adapt to the needs of local communities through a standardized multi-module delivery model that will be applicable with our international partners and various states in America. The knowledge gained will enable the PCT to offer enhanced care for patients who are in need of health prevention and education.

Unlike a Community Paramedic Clinician™ and Community Paramedic Technician™, the Primary Care Technician™ is designed for the EMT and is not educationally prepared to be integrated into primary care. This course is designed for the 9-1-1 EMT who is a facilitator of health prevention and resource for basic levels of care. Graduates are qualified to assist by implementing predesigned prevention programs that address health disparities intended to improve the health of diverse populations. Students are required to complete the core coursework, practice experience and final exam. This course awards the official Primary Care Technician™ Certificate.

The Primary Care Technician™

Health promotion is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the process of enabling people to increase control over their health and its determinants, and thereby improving their health. The concept of optimal health reflects not merely the absence of disease, but also a level of vitality to maintain enjoyment and contentment with life. Disease prevention encompasses activities focused on health risk profiling of asymptomatic persons and the appropriate use of screening and testing for early detection of disease. Patient education and referral, when indicated, are imperative health maintenance. PCT protocols should consider age, gender, family history, culture and lifestyle

Primary Care Technicians™ are members of a distinct geographical community who work cooperatively with existing health care teams to improve and close identified healthcare gaps. Primary Care Technicians serve as advocates, facilitators, liaisons, community brokers and resource coordinators of health prevention, educated as direct service providers, ensuring basic levels of care appropriate to prevention, emergencies, and basic mental health. The PCT will ensure the overall goal of working with citizens, communities and healthcare practitioners to achieve positive outcomes and to reach the optimal level of wellness for everyone.

Learning outcomes:

Under the supervision of an appropriately qualified and registered health professional, such as a physician, paramedic, or nurse (or their international counterparts), Primary Care Technicians will be able to:

- Deliver care that is patient focused;
- Work with current and future organizations and health care professionals understanding those boundaries and establishing a treat and refer system;
- Deliver the most appropriate care in the most appropriate place and/or ensure that the patient is referred to the most appropriate health and social care professional.
- Will assist in arranging necessary transportation.
- Provide appropriate healthcare referral and preventative services to both their patients and other relevant groups and individuals;
- Encourage patients to take responsibility for managing their own care and treatment where safe and appropriate to do so;
- Provide referrals for minor illness and injury to the appropriate setting including: Community Paramedic, Behavioral Health, Primary Care, or Acute Care Clinic or Hospital;
- Operate within given protocol and scope of practice;
- Enhance inter-professional communication throughout the patient pathway;
- Assist with continued assessment of the community to identify gaps in service and available resources;
- Work cooperatively to continually assess, identify and development methods to better meet the community's health care needs;
- Promote community awareness of health prevention and promotion;
- Provide follow-up services according to established care plan;
- Serve on the community multi-discipline team and assist in emergency preparedness for the community;
- Recognize and work within scope of practice.



COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE

The Technician

Community Paramedic Technician™



The Community Paramedic Technician™ Program

Community Paramedicine I

Community Health and the Community Paramedic Technician (CPT)™

Community Paramedicine I: Introduction and application of community health concepts, shifting from illness to emphasizing wellness, health promotion, disease prevention and education. This course focuses on the roles of the Community Paramedic in establishing partnerships with communities in customizing therapeutic care in order to protect, promote and restore optimal community health. The clinical practicum provides students with opportunities to deliver quality community health care across all levels of prevention and to explore the planning and implementation of customized community health programs. Students collaborate with agencies and institutions within the healthcare delivery system, as both leaders and managing partners in community health. Successful completion awards the Community Paramedic Technician™ Certificate. Course transfer value: 4 credit hours.

The Community Paramedic Technician™ Program is designed to prepare Paramedics and advanced EMT practitioners with the foundational community health knowledge and competencies to address health promotion, health behavior, and disease prevention. Students learn a variety of skills and strategies that will provide them with the necessary proficiencies to improve population health in diverse settings. The CPT curriculum includes structured experience in several specified areas with emphasis on outcome-oriented, evidence-based studies that delineate common and chronic diseases affecting patients of all ages. The knowledge gained will enable the CPT to offer enhanced care for patients who are in need of health prevention and education.

Unlike a Community Paramedic Clinician™, the CPT is not educationally prepared to be integrated into primary care. This course is designed for the 9-1-1 paramedic who is rerouting patients to alternative care sites, or who is doing, "assess and report" post-discharge, follow-up reports to a primary care provider. Graduates are qualified to assist by implementing predesigned prevention programs that address health disparities intended to improve the health of diverse populations. Students are required to complete the core coursework, practice experience and final exam. This course awards the official Community Paramedic Technician™ Certificate.

The Community Paramedic Technician™

Health promotion is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the process of enabling people to increase control over their health and its determinants, and thereby improving their health. The concept of optimal health reflects not merely the absence of disease, but also a level of vitality to maintain enjoyment and contentment with life. Disease prevention encompasses activities focused on health risk profiling of asymptomatic persons and the appropriate use of screening and testing for early detection of disease. Patient education and referral to therapeutic intervention, when indicated, are imperative health maintenance. Principles and education of disease prevention applied to individual patients are based on scientific evidence derived from population studies. CPT protocols should consider age, gender, family history, culture and lifestyle

The Community Paramedic Technician™ focuses on health promotion and disease prevention through patient-centered care in the home setting. The CPT and the Community Paramedic Clinician™ (CPC) can be catalysts for health promotion and prevention by offering continuous, coordinated and comprehensive care for the patients, their families and their communities throughout the patient's lifespan. . As a cornerstone of the medical home for each patient, the CPT and CPC, as part of the interdisciplinary health team, impact the lives of patients by recommending and supporting positive lifestyle changes, promoting appropriate screenings and examinations, and filling appropriate health access gaps, thus improving health and preventing disease. CPT's will assess, identify, and refer the patients to appropriate resources in the community.

Learning outcomes:

- Understand the CPTs role in the Health Care System.
- Identify coordination needs of preventive health care across interdisciplinary community providers.
- Understand the role of the CPT in public and primary care.
- Demonstrate effective and compassionate communication with the patient and the patient's family regarding reduction of risk factors and recommendations for healthy lifestyle and disease prevention.
- Demonstrate knowledge of up-to-date, evidence-based organizational resources and recommendations for health promotion and disease prevention for patients of all ages.
- Demonstrate preventive health principles by modeling healthy lifestyle, personal safety and wellness.
- Perform a primary history and physical exam of the patient with attention to healthy lifestyle promotion and disease prevention.
- Develop and demonstrate cultural competency.
- Implement or use an existing system for patient call back or follow-up in the outpatient and home settings for medication and preventative screening reminders.
- Understand and appreciate the Social Determinants of Health Model.
- Advocate for patients within the current health care system and continually strive toward system improvements to improve health maintenance and prevention of disease.
- Demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to the patient-centered medical home concept of continuous, coordinated, and comprehensive care that is focused on quality, safety, and enhanced access for all.
- Educate patients on chronic disease process and monitor care plans prescribed by other medical team members, to promote health and secondary prevention.
- Demonstrate an approach to patient care that is family-oriented and assesses the patient in the context of important relationships.



COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE

The Clinician

Community Paramedic Clinician™



The Community Paramedic Clinician[™] Program

Accredited by the Global Paramedic Higher Education Council[™] (GPHEC) and the Global Community Paramedic Higher Education Council[™] (GCPHEC), the 16 credit-hour Community Paramedic Clinician[™] Program is designed to prepare paramedics and advanced EMT practitioners with the foundational community health knowledge and competencies, offering innovative solutions for emerging health problems and concerns within the community. Graduates of the program are prepared to work in a variety of employment sectors including paramedic services, health and social service agencies, health organizations, governmental agencies, public and private industry. Students are required to complete core coursework, practice experience and capstone exam.

Community Paramedicine I

Community Health and the Community Paramedic Technician[™]

Introduction and application of community health concepts, shifting from illness to emphasizing wellness, health promotion, disease prevention and education. This course focuses on the roles of the Community Paramedic in establishing partnerships with communities in customizing therapeutic care in order to protect, promote and restore optimal community health. The clinical practicum provides students with opportunities to deliver quality community health care across all levels of prevention and to explore the planning and implementation of customized community health programs. Students collaborate with agencies and institutions within the healthcare delivery system, as both leaders and managing partners in community health. Successful completion awards the Community Paramedic Technician[™] Certificate. Course transfer value: 4 credit hours.

Community Paramedicine II

Population Health and the Community Health Needs Assessment

Students will gain a broad understanding of the overarching principles of population health, the role of the discipline in improving health and reducing health inequities. This course will lead to an appreciation of population health: locally, nationally and globally. Embedded within this course is the Community Health Needs Assessment research project, inclusive of health systems, point of care data collection, preventive strategies, and population-level health interventions. The Community Health Needs Assessment is pertinent to all types of health care delivery. It explores social determinants of health, chronic diseases, addictions and trends in disease development on a local, national and global scale. Review of government requirements, reporting and outcome objectives will offer additional viewpoints of bettering community health. Students will use evidence-based research to map their community healthcare and support services, describe the demographics and determinants of health in their community, assess the impact on the health and make the concluding determination of a viable and productive Community Paramedicine Program for their community. Course transfer value: 3 credit hours.

Community Paramedicine III

Community Paramedic Clinician™ Health Integration

During this theory and clinical course, students will be guided to think critically about the role and core competencies of community health paramedicine in promoting health, preventing disease, and restoring health. The Community Paramedicine process is applied to individuals, families, aggregates, and communities within diverse population and ecological contexts. Emphasis is placed on the synthesis of concepts, theories, knowledge, and practice from the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and public health sciences to determine the health status, needs, and assets of communities, and their members. Students assess physical social, and cultural environments, identify populations at risk, and implement and evaluate appropriate clinical interventions. During clinical practice they apply the Community Paramedicine process in delivering community health paramedicine services in partnership with health agencies and communities. Strategies for health care delivery, application of health-related technologies and databases, and multidisciplinary collaboration and emphasized. Course transfer value: 4 credit hours.

Community Paramedicine IV

The Community Paramedicine Clinical Practicum

This Clinical Practicum experience in Community Paramedicine focuses on application of primary care, public health and paramedicine principles in the care of individuals, families and aggregates in a variety of populations and settings. The Community Paramedicine Clinical Practicum course provides the Community Paramedic with the opportunity to apply learning to real life experience within community and public health including; public health departments, schools, occupational health, correctional health, rehabilitation, long-term care settings (independent, assisted and skilled), home healthcare, behavioral health, and other appropriate agencies. A total of 200 hours of community paramedic clinician practice is required for course completion. Course transfer value: 4 credit hours

Additional options for Clinical Practicum experiences in Community Paramedicine may be found through our Community Partners™ Program. Although requiring an additional expense, opportunities include travel within the US and globally. If you are looking for that unique, challenging and fruitful experience, our physician and Nurse Practitioner led programs also allow for the 200 hours clinical practicum completion. Course transfer value: 4 credit hours

Community Paramedicine V

Comprehensive Review and Board Certification

This Community Paramedicine Capstone provides students with the opportunity to integrate and synthesize the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the program. Our independent nationally recognized exam measures level of mastery and student learning outcomes. To complete the Community Paramedic Clinician™ Program, the student must complete all program requirements, Community Paramedicine I-V, including successful completion the international board certification exam to become a practicing Community Paramedic Clinician™.* Course transfer value: 1 credit hours

*Successful completion of the Community Paramedicine I-V program plus a passing score on the international board certification exam, awards the official Community Paramedic Clinician™ Certificate for community paramedicine practice.



Paramedic Network



Paramedic Health Solutions



Creative Elements Group



The Paramedic Foundation



Global Paramedic Higher Education Council (GPHEC)



International Board of Specialty Certification



Mobile CE



Community Partners



Hennepin Technical College



Clark State Community College



The Christ College of Nursing
and Health Sciences



MONASH University



Community Paramedicine
Association and Registry (CPAR)



GLOSSARY

Independent Care Provider (Health Professional).

A licensed health professional or healthcare provider, such as physician, dentist, Nurse practitioner, nurse midwife or other individual permitted by law and the organization to provide care and services without direct supervision, within the scope of practice of the individual's license and consistent with individually granted clinical privileges. This practitioner may provide preventative, curative, promotional or rehabilitative health care service in a systematic way to people, families or communities.

Provider (Allied Health Professional or Associate Health Professional).

Health professionals, other than doctors or nurses, that deliver services involving the identification, evaluation and prevention of diseases and disorders; dietary and nutrition services; rehabilitation and health system management. The Provider or Allied Health Professional includes dental hygienists, diagnostic medical sonographers, dietitians, medical technologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, radiographers, respiratory therapists and speech language pathologists. The Provider or allied Health Professional comprises 60% of the healthcare workforce.

LISW (Licensed Independent Social Worker).

Clinical Social Workers in private or independent practice, working in solo or group practices. The private or independent practice may extend beyond the office into such settings as primary care, courts, schools, and nursing facilities. LISW's have a master's degree from an accredited institution and two years of postgraduate work experience in a supervised clinical setting. The LISW may have a doctorate in social work. Practice requires a clinical license in the state of practice.

DVM (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Physician).

The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, colloquially called a vet, shortened from veterinarian or veterinary surgeon, is a professional who practices veterinary medicine by treating disease, disorder, and injury in animals. veterinarians may be involved in a general practice, treating animals of all types; they may be specialized in a specific group of animals or may specialize in a narrow medical discipline such as surgery. Practice requires clinical license in the state of practice.

Contact and Credit Hours.

In the US, students receive credit hours based on the number of "contact hours" they spend studying per week in class. A "contact hour" includes any lecture or lab time when the professor is teaching the student. A "semester credit hour" is equal to 15-16 contact hours per semester, and does not depend on the duration of the course. Therefore, in the US, academic credits are usually referred to as credit hours.