Paramedical Technology

Matanuska-Susitna College (MSC)
8295 East College Drive (P.O. Box 2889), Palmer, AK 99645
Contact Kathy Griffin (907) 746-9329
http://matsu.alaska.edu/office/student-services/degree-programs/paramedical-technology

Paramedics provide pre-hospital emergency care to acutely ill or injured patients under medical authority of licensed physicians. Individuals interested in pursuing a career as a paramedic should possess significant strength to lift and carry victims, good use of hands and fingers, good coordination, good judgment and emotional stability, as well as the ability to work confidently under pressure. Students successfully completing the degree requirements and the PMED courses meet the U.S. Department of Transportation National Standards for Paramedics and are eligible to take the National Registry examination required for licensure.

Two primary requirements of the Paramedical Technology program are clinical rotations and the field internship. Clinical rotations provide instruction and supervised practice of emergency medical skills in various units of hospitals within the Anchorage and Mat-Su borough areas. The field internship provides experience in advanced life support vehicles such as ambulances, helicopters, and fixed-wing aircraft. Student interns are the third member of the medical/rescue team and work under the direct supervision of a paramedic preceptor. Internship sites are arranged in various U.S. locations. Efforts are made to place students in geographic locations of their choice; however, intern positions may not be available at all approved sites. Length of internship varies depending on the call volume at the location and successful application of paramedic skills.

Program of Study

Associate of Applied Science

• AAS in Paramedical Technology

Associate of Applied Science in Paramedical Technology

This program is offered only through Kenai Peninsula College and Matanuska-Susitna College.

Admission Requirements

Satisfy the Application and Admission Requirements for Associate Degree Programs.

Admission to the Paramedical Technology program is competitive and based on a ranking process. Program applications can be requested through the department or downloaded via the Internet. Application requirements must be completed prior to May 15 application deadline.

Students should consider applying for admission as a pre-major in Paramedical Technology while enrolled in other Paramedical Technology degree prerequisite courses. While being a pre-major is not required, students may be eligible for financial aid since they will be considered a degree-seeking student. Students enrolled as Paramedical Technology pre-majors are still required to obtain a KPC or MSC campus-specific Certificate of Admission.

Admission as a Paramedical Technology pre-major does not guarantee admission to the Paramedical Technology degree program. Applications for the degree program that starts each fall must still be submitted by the May 15 deadline. Formal admission requirements to the Paramedical Technology AAS degree program are listed below.

1. Certificate of Admission from the Office of Admissions, including transcripts from both high school/GED and college, with transcript evaluations (if any). Documentation from college transcripts must show successful completion of BIOL A111 and BIOL A112 with laboratories and grades of 2.00 (C) or above.
2. Student must attend an advising session with the Paramedical Technology coordinator. Contact the campus for an appointment.
3. Paramedic Program Application and Confidential Required Information form sent to the Paramedical Technology coordinator:
   a. Copy of current National Registry EMT-Basic or state of Alaska EMT-1 certificate
   b. Evidence of current Healthcare Provider or equivalent, CPR Card
   c. Copies of all current medical certifications or licenses
   d. Military DD-214 (long form); if applicable
   e. Complete BIOL A111, BIOL A112 (8 credits) with a minimum C grade
   f. Submit to the program coordinator the scores from the Nurse Entrance Test (NET). The test may be scheduled through the MSC or UAA testing centers
   g. Resume with three letters of recommendation
   h. Admissions essay
4. Upon completion of items 1-3, student files are ranked based on a point system. The top 25 (MSC) applicants will be notified and invited for oral interviews by a selection committee. The top 16 (MSC) will be accepted into the program. The remaining standby applicants will be ranked and offered a position should an accepted applicant decline admission. Please contact department for further details. Students will be contacted in June with the results.

Admission Requirements Before Beginning Coursework

Once admitted to the Paramedical Technology program, students are required to provide the following before beginning coursework.

1. Provide documentation from personal physician, PA-C, or NP affirming capability of performing the physical tasks as outlined by the DOT 1998 Paramedic Curriculum.
2. Evidence of:
   a. Immunity to measles, rubella and mumps confirmed by titer;
   b. Immunity to hepatitis A and hepatitis B, confirmed by titer (first semester clinical students may be in the process of completing the immunization series; for those students, documentation of immunity by titer is required prior to entry into PMED A295 course);
   c. Immunity to chicken pox documented by history, titer or current immunization;
   d. Diphtheria/tetanus vaccination within the past 10 years (with booster required at the time of expiration);
   e. Freedom from active tuberculosis, documented annually by negative PPD skin test or by health examination by a nurse practitioner, physician, or physician’s assistant;
   f. Documentation of HIV testing annually (results not required to be submitted to MSC).
3. Healthcare Provider or equivalent CPR certificate must be kept current.
4. Professional liability insurance in the amount of $1 million/$3 million must be maintained throughout the duration of the student’s enrollment in the Paramedical Technology program. The policy will be paid out of student lab fees.
5. Submit results of a state- and national-level criminal background check. Must be completed prior to the start of courses. This process can take several months to complete.
6. Document having been found free of illegal drugs. Tests must be taken and results submitted to the Paramedical Technology coordinator after being accepted into the program, and before the first day of class.

Students enrolled in clinical courses must provide their own transportation to clinical assignments and will be required to purchase uniforms and specialized equipment. The college assumes no responsibility for illnesses and injuries experienced by students in conjunction with their clinical experiences; students who are injured while completing clinical assignments are responsible for all associated
A total of 68 credits is required for the degree. It is strongly recommended that students maintain personal medical insurance.

Advising
Advising for the Mat-Su College program is only available from the Paramedic Technology faculty at MSC. Please call (907) 746-9329 for more information.

Academic Progress Requirements
- Students are required to earn a grade of 3.00 B or higher in each PMED course. Failure to maintain a passing grade of B will result in dismissal from the program.
- Students must complete all General Course Requirements (English, communications and math) before they register for or begin their ride-along internship (PMED A295).

Graduation Requirements
- Satisfy the General University Requirements for Associate of Applied Science Degrees.
- Complete the General Course Requirements for Associate of Applied Science Degrees.
- Complete the Program Requirements below.

Program Requirements

Communication Requirements
Oral Communication:
COMM A111 Fundamentals of Oral Communication (recommended) 3
Written Communication:
ENGL A111 Introduction to Composition (required) 6
ENGL A212 Technical Writing (recommended) 3

Natural Science Requirements
BIOL A111 Human Anatomy and Physiology I * 4
BIOL A112 Human Anatomy and Physiology II * 4

Math Requirement
MATH A105 Intermediate Algebra (or higher) 3

Program Requirements
PMED A241 Paramedicine I 8
PMED A242 Clinical Rotation I 4
PMED A251 Paramedicine II 8
PMED A252 Clinical Rotation II 4
PMED A261 Paramedicine III 8
PMED A262 Clinical Rotation III 4
PMED A295 Paramedic Internship 12

* BIOL A111 and BIOL A112 are required prerequisites for admission into the Paramedic program and also fulfill the AAS General Course Requirements.

A total of 68 credits is required for the degree.

Program Student Learning Outcomes
The national DOT curriculum for paramedic training covers 14 learning outcomes and the MSC program follows that curriculum. The students and the program are assessed by an external review team (the National Registry) on each of those specific curriculum points.

National Highway Safety Traffic Association curriculum outcomes:
- Preparatory — Integrates comprehensive knowledge of EMS systems, safety/well-being of the paramedic, and medical/legal and ethical issues, which is intended to improve the health of EMS personnel, patients, and the community.
- Anatomy and Physiology — Integrates a complex depth and comprehensive breadth of knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of all human systems.
- Medical Terminology — Integrates comprehensive anatomical and medical terminology and abbreviations into the written and oral communication with colleagues and other health care professionals.
- Pathophysiology — Integrates comprehensive knowledge of pathophysiology of major human systems.
- Life Span Development — Integrates comprehensive knowledge of life span development.
- Public Health — Applies fundamental knowledge of principles of public health and epidemiology including public health emergencies, health promotion, and illness and injury prevention.
- Pharmacology — Integrates comprehensive knowledge of pharmacology to formulate a treatment plan intended to mitigate emergencies and improve the overall health of the patient.
- Airway Management, Respiration and Artificial Ventilation — Integrates complex knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology into the assessment to develop and implement a treatment plan with the goal of assuring a patent airway, adequate mechanical ventilation, and respiration for patients of all ages.
- Patient Assessment — Integrates scene and patient assessment findings with knowledge of epidemiology and pathophysiology to form a field impression. This includes developing a list of differential diagnoses through clinical reasoning to modify the assessment and formulate a treatment plan.
- Medicine — Integrates assessment findings with principles of epidemiology and pathophysiology to formulate a field impression and implement a comprehensive treatment/disposition plan for a patient with a medical complaint.
- Shock and Resuscitation — Integrates comprehensive knowledge of causes and pathophysiology into the management of cardiac arrest and peri-arrest states. Integrates a comprehensive knowledge of the causes and pathophysiology into the management of shock, respiratory failure or arrest with an emphasis on early intervention to prevent arrest.
- Trauma — Integrates assessment findings with principles of epidemiology and pathophysiology to formulate a field impression to implement a comprehensive treatment/disposition plan for an acutely injured patient.
- Special Patient Population — Integrates assessment findings with principles of pathophysiology and knowledge of psychosocial needs to formulate a field impression and implement a comprehensive treatment/disposition plan for patients with special needs.
- EMS Operations — Knowledge of operational roles and responsibilities to ensure safe patient, public, and personnel safety.

Faculty
Kathy Griffin, Coordinator/Assistant Professor (MSC), kagrippin2@matsu.alaska.edu