

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES – Associate of Applied Science Degree Program

The paramedic is an Allied Health professional and the highest level of licensure attainable for practice in the pre-hospital setting. Before learning the invasive skills of a paramedic, you must remain proficient in all of the skills acquired at the EMT level of training, which is why EMT remains a prerequisite for Paramedic education. What sets paramedic education apart is the complex level of knowledge and depth of understanding required to make decisions regarding invasive treatments, electrical therapies and pharmacological interventions for the acutely ill and critically injured patient. The paramedic scope of practice, with its complex invasive therapies and pharmacology demands acquiring and maintaining skill proficiency with high risk and low frequency procedures. Examples of frequently performed complex skills include venous access and medication administration and the acquiring and interpretation of diagnostic EKG's. High risk, low frequency procedures include electrical therapies such as transcutaneous pacing and cardioversion, endotracheal intubation, needle thoracotomy and surgical cricothyrotomy. The paramedic serves as the team leader and is responsible for determining the patient's condition and acuity, directing the actions of the team to ensure standard of care and reduce morbidity and mortality, and allocating medical resources including assigning personnel with respect to their scopes of practice. The complexity of skill and depth of knowledge required to function as a Paramedic and the risk to the patient if skills are improperly or inappropriately performed, necessitates an adequate background knowledge in basic and applied sciences and a formal medical education. Graduation from a CoAEMSP accredited EMS education program is a requirement for NREMT exam eligibility and subsequent Paramedic licensure

The Paramedic program is a comprehensive program based on the U.S. Department of Transportation's EMT-Paramedic National Education Standards. The program is designed to prepare the student for the challenges of Emergency Health Care. Combining quality instruction and real-world experience, the Paramedic program is quickly earning a reputation as one of the finest EMS training programs in the State of Michigan. First-time pass rates on the National Registry of EMTs exam are higher than both the national and state averages.

KVCC's Paramedic program is accredited by the
Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)
upon the recommendation of the
Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP)

CAAHEP:
9355 – 113th Street N, #7709, Seminole, FL 33775 (727) 210-2350
www.caahep.org/

The Emergency Medical Services Associates of Applied Science Degree Program is a four and a half semester (two year) Associate Degree program beginning each FALL semester. A total of 24 students can be accepted into each program. The courses must be completed sequentially to be eligible to take the National Registry exam for Paramedic. Classes meet two days per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are two, 2-hour lectures and an afternoon lab each day. Students are required to complete a minimum number of skills and patient encounters during their clinical experience. Students are scheduled for approximately 600 clinical hours. Clinical rotations will be scheduled with area ambulance services, hospitals and fire departments.

[Online applications](#) are accepted April 1 – 15 each year for entrance into the fall program.

Getting Started

1. If a **new** KVCC student, first submit the online general application for admission to Kalamazoo Valley Community College (www.kvcc.edu) listing "Emergency Medical Services, AAS" as program choice. If a **current** KVCC student, change program choice status to "Emergency Medical Services, AAS" by contacting a counselor or advisor at [269-488-4040](tel:269-488-4040).
2. Provide the Admissions & Records Office with all official college and/or high school transcripts, if applicable.
3. Past and current students must have an overall KVCC grade point average of 2.0 or greater in all subjects.
4. Schedule an appointment with a counselor or advisor at [269-488-4040](tel:269-488-4040) to develop a course plan. **This is a critical step in the admission process!**
5. Applicants must provide proof of current **American Heart Association BLS Provider CPR certification** from an authorized training center for the American Heart Association.
 - WPE 112 – Safety & First Aid can be completed at KVCC to meet this requirement.
*Please note American Red Cross CPR certification of any kind is **NOT** accepted.*

Complete the required prerequisite requirements by:

- Taking and completing KVCC courses successfully.
- Using transfer courses from other colleges when equivalent to the courses listed below.
- Having all prerequisites successfully completed by the end of the WINTER semester of application to the Emergency Medical Services program. All science and math prerequisite courses must be completed within 7 years of the application deadline (BIO, CHM, HCR and MATH).

Recommended Full-Time Course Sequence for Required Prerequisite Courses

Semester 1

EMT 105* – Medical First Responder – 3 credits
 BIO 115 – Human Anatomy & Physiology I – 4 credits
 ENG 110 – College Writing I – 3 credits
 MATH 100 – Health Careers Math – 1 credit
 PSY 150 – Introductory Psychology – 3 credits
 WPE 101 – Principles of Fitness and Health – 2 credits

Total Credit/Contact Hours for Semester 1:
 16 credits / 19 contact hours

Semester 2

EMT 111* – EMT Part I (1st 7 weeks) – 3 credits
 EMT 112* – EMT Part II (2nd 7 weeks) – 3 credits
 EMT 115* – EMT Clinical (2nd 7 weeks) – 1 credit
 BIO 215 – Human Anatomy & Physiology II – 4 credits
 COM 210 – Fundamentals of Prof. Comm. – 3 credits

Total Credit/Contact Hours for Semester 2:
 14 credits / 20 contact hours

***Please see Advanced Placement options below.**

Eligibility Criteria

1. Past and current students must have an overall KVCC grade point average of 2.0 or greater.
2. Meet the Reading score requirement:

SAT: 22	NG Accuplacer: 248	COMPASS: 65
ACT: 14	Accuplacer: 53	

****The Reading score requirement cannot be waived by ANY prior coursework or college degrees.****

3. Meet the Math requirement (one of several ways):
 - a. Submit ACT, COMPASS or SAT scores (see minimum scores below) **OR**
 - b. Complete free Accuplacer/ALEKS Math testing in Room 2210 (no appointment necessary), **OR**
 - c. Complete Math 100 (Health Careers Math) or a higher-level Math course with a minimum 2.0.

SAT: 23.5	NG Accuplacer: 260	ALEKS: 14
ACT: 18	Accuplacer: 80	COMPASS: 50

4. Applicants must provide proof of current **American Heart Association BLS Provider CPR certification** from an authorized training center for the American Heart Association.
 - WPE 112 – Safety & First Aid can be completed at KVCC to meet this requirement.

Please note that American Red Cross CPR certification is NOT acceptable.

5. Be 18 years of age to participate in clinical rotations.

Frequently Asked Questions

Applying to the Program

- Submit all **official** college and/or high school transcripts (if applicable) to the Admissions, Registration & Records Office and **verify transcript arrival. Confirm required prerequisite transfer credit is awarded.**
- Schedule an appointment with a counselor or advisor at 269-488-4040 to develop a course plan. Meet with the Health Careers Admissions Coordinator (healthcareers@kvcc.edu) to review your application.
- Complete and submit the online [Health Careers Application](#). Select Emergency Medical Services as program choice. Verify signature for completion.
- The [online application](#) will be available each year April 1-15 for entrance into the Fall (September) program.
- Students must have successfully completed all prerequisites with grades of 2.0 or higher by the end of the winter semester (typically end of April) to be eligible to apply in April.

***Please Note:** Should the program receive less than 24 applications; the application period will be extended until the program fills or until the first day of class to include students completing prerequisite courses during the summer semester. Students who are in their last prerequisite course(s) during the SUMMER semester are encouraged to check with the Health Careers Admissions Coordinator (healthcareers@kvcc.edu) regarding any potential seat openings and/or options for permission to take EMS AAS courses that FALL.

NREMT Certification

Students must have current NREMT Certification or proof of eligibility to sit for the exam. Beginning Paramedic students are expected to pass National Registry (EMT-B) exams and obtain licensing from the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services **before the start of clinical courses**. (www.NREMT.org).

Advanced Placement

- Advanced placement is the process of obtaining credit for prior learning experiences. KVCC participates in the Michigan Transfer Agreement so that student may obtain transfer credit for courses taken at other institutions. KVCC will award credit for prior learning to individuals who wish to use their existing MFR, EMT, or Paramedic licensure, or NREMT registration, to obtain EMS course specific credits when pursuing the degree track. Students should check with the [Prior Learning Assessment Office](#) for determination of these credits. There is great variation between institutions across paramedic level coursework. This is especially true regarding the clinical experiences. KVCC cannot testify to course and clinical work performed elsewhere when declaring NREMT Portfolio or CoAEMSP required competencies and therefore does not recognize the advanced placement for EMS coursework from other institutions.

Acceptance

- Admission decisions are typically sent to your Kalamazoo Valley email address by June 15.
- The EMS, AAS program does not hold a waitlist. Applicants who are not admitted must reapply.
- Beginning with the April 2026 application period, students **must have a minimum prerequisite GPA of 2.5** or higher. Exceptions may be given on a case-by-case basis with the approval of the program director.

Kalamazoo Valley's Alternate List

- After the top 24 applicants have been determined, the next 10 highest applicants are designated as alternates in case an admitted student declines their seat. It is not uncommon for this to happen.
- Alternates who are not admitted into the program from the alternate list must reapply and will not receive preferential ranking in the next cycle.

Ranking of Applicants

The college implemented a holistic admission system for entry into the Health Careers programs beginning with the April 2023 application. The revised admission system was developed to establish a more equitable process so admitted students will have the best chance of success in their Health Careers program.

- Please see Holistic Admission below for details.

Proof of Healthcare License or Non-Credit Training for Points

If you are interested in potentially earning admission points for healthcare experience, please be sure to submit all supporting documentation with your application. (Applicants can only receive points in one of these categories). Examples of supporting documentation include: A copy of your current healthcare license or credential, a copy of your transcript or diploma for degree(s) received, or a letter from your employer specifically detailing skills acquired through on-the-job training, current job tasks, etc. for PCA/CNA (non-credit) training.

- Please note that personal essays or letters of recommendation from employers, family, friends, colleagues cannot be factored into the admission score whatsoever.

Associate or Bachelor Degree Points

- Students must have a current license/credential in a healthcare occupation that requires an Associate or Bachelor Degree to obtain the license/credential. Examples include: licensed respiratory therapist, dental hygienist, paramedic, registered dietician, etc.

Admission Scores

- Please note that the competitiveness of each application period varies based on the number and quality of applications received.

After Acceptance

- An acceptance packet full of important information will be sent to your KVCC email address. Please read this packet thoroughly and pay attention to all deadlines.
- Several items will be due prior to the start of class. Examples include, but are not limited to: Current American Heart Association BLS Provider level CPR certification, immunization information, physical exam, 2-step TB test and Live Scan criminal background check.
 - Please note that the Live Scan criminal background check and drug screen will both be done ON CAMPUS after you have been accepted into the program. Further details will be given at that time. The corresponding forms in the application packet must be filled out and signed at the time of application as acknowledgment that these items will be successfully completed, if accepted.

Emergency Medical Services, AAS Program Outline

This program is not available on a part-time basis.

Semester 1 – Fall Entry

EMT 124	Emergency Pharmacology	Theory	2.5 credits/2.5 contact hours
EMT 134	Emergency Medicine Foundations	Theory/Lab	3 credits/4 contact hours
EMT 138	Trauma and Emergency Care I	Clinic	1.5 credits/4.5 contact hours
EMT 144	Patient Assessment	Theory/Lab	2.5 credits/3.5 contact hours
EMT 154	Advanced Cardiac Life Support	Theory/Lab	2.5 credits/3.5 contact hours
WPE 128	Managing Stress	Theory	1 credit/1 contact hour

TOTAL: 13 credits/19 contact hours

Semester 2 – Winter

EMT 136	Advanced Life Support I	Field Work	1.5 credits/1.5 contact hours
EMT 164	EMS Systems Operations	Theory/Lab	2.5 credits/3.5 contact hours
EMT 234	Medical Emergencies	Theory/Lab	2.5 credits/3.5 contact hours
EMT 236	Advanced Life Support II	Field Work	2 credits/2 contact hours
EMT 238	Trauma and Emergency Care II	Clinic	1.5 credits/4.5 contact hours
EMT 244	Pre-hospital Trauma and Life Support	Theory/Lab	2.5 credits/3.5 contact hours

TOTAL: 12.5 credits/18.5 contact hours

Semester 3 – Summer

EMT 246	Advanced Life Support III	Field Work	2 credits/2 contact hours
EMT 248	Intensive and Critical Care Clinic	Clinic	2 credits/6 contact hours
EMT 254	Special Considerations	Theory/Lab	2.5 credits/3.5 contact hours
EMT 263	Employability Certifications	Theory/Lab	2 credits/3 contact hours
EMT 265	Field Internship	Field Work	5 credits/5 contact hours

TOTAL: 13.5 credits/19.5 contact hours

GRAND TOTAL: 77 credits/131 contact hours

(Grand total includes prerequisite courses)

Please note: Program requirements are subject to change

Emergency Medical Services, AAS Program

APPROXIMATE COST – Subject to change

	In-District	Out-of-District	Out-of-State	International
Tuition Rates (per contact hour)	\$127.00	\$219.00	\$292.00	\$331.00
Student fees/semester	\$167.00	\$167.00	\$167.00	\$167.00
Prerequisites				
Tuition (39 contact hours)	\$4,953.00	\$8,541.00	\$11,388.00	\$12,909.00
Student fees (2 semesters)	\$334.00	\$334.00	\$334.00	\$334.00
Books (approximate)	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00
	\$5,737.00	\$9,325.00	\$12,172.00	\$13,693.00
Semester 1 - FALL				
Tuition (19 contact hours)	\$2,413.00	\$4,161.00	\$5,548.00	\$6,289.00
Student fee	\$167.00	\$167.00	\$167.00	\$167.00
Books (approximate)	\$520.00	\$520.00	\$520.00	\$520.00
Uniform/supplies* (approximate)	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Clinical Compliance (approximate)	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
	\$3,675.00	\$5,423.00	\$6,810.00	\$7,551.00
Semester 2 - WINTER				
Tuition (18.5 contact hours)	\$2,349.50	\$4,051.50	\$5,402.00	\$6,123.50
Student fee	\$167.00	\$167.00	\$167.00	\$167.00
Books (approximate)	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$140.00
Travel/parking estimates**	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	\$2,956.50	\$4,658.50	\$6,009.00	\$6,730.50
Semester 3 - SUMMER				
Tuition (19.5 contact hours)	\$2,476.50	\$4,270.50	\$5,694.00	\$6,454.50
Student fee	\$167.00	\$167.00	\$167.00	\$167.00
Books (approximate)	\$130.00	\$130.00	\$130.00	\$130.00
Post program Board Exams	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
	\$2,773.50	\$4,567.50	\$5,991.00	\$6,751.50
Program Totals				
Prerequisites	\$5,737.00	\$9,325.00	\$12,172.00	\$13,693.00
Semester 1	\$3,675.00	\$5,423.00	\$6,810.00	\$7,551.00
Semester 2	\$2,956.50	\$4,658.50	\$6,009.00	\$6,730.50
Semester 3	\$2,773.50	\$4,567.50	\$5,991.00	\$6,751.50
GRAND TOTAL:	\$15,142.00	\$23,974.00	\$30,982.00	\$34,726.00

*Uniform/Supplies: EMS Uniform and stethoscope

**Travel/parking estimates based on distance from KVCC to clinical sites in Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Grand Rapids

Emergency Medical Services, AAS Applicant Checklist

Steps for Eligibility

- ☐ 1. New Student: General application to Kalamazoo Valley (www.kvcc.edu/apply) with program selection of *Emergency Medical Services, AAS*.
- ☐ 2. Current Valley Student: Program code changed to "*Emergency Medical Services, AAS*, if needed.
- ☐ 3. Transferring credit toward a degree at Kalamazoo Valley: Forward official, unopened college transcripts for evaluation to:

Degree Auditor
Kalamazoo Valley Community College
PO Box 4070, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070

Verify their arrival at the Admissions, Registration & Records Office (Phone: 269.488.4281).

- ☐ 4. Verify that all transfer courses meet the prerequisites.
- ☐ 5. Confirm the minimum reading and math requirements have been met.
- ☐ 6. Schedule an appointment with an academic counselor or advisor (Phone: 269.488.4040).

EMS AAS Application Requirements

- ☐ 1. ALL prerequisite courses successfully completed, or will be by the end of the Winter semester for the April 1 – 15 application period.
- ☐ 2. Apply using the [online application](#) between April 1 – 15. Answer the four Short Answer Questions about Experiences and Attributes.
- ☐ 3. Upload supporting documentation with the application for points in the Healthcare Experience category.
- ☐ 4. Proof of current American Heart Association BLS Provider CPR certification. A copy of the card, the eCard code or link must be included with the application.

Other Requirements

- 1. An acceptable Live Scan fingerprinting (criminal background check) will be required at a later date. Further information regarding the on-campus Live Scan will be given to you upon acceptance into the program.
- 2. A negative drug screen will be required. Further information regarding the on-campus drug screen will be given to you upon acceptance into the program.
- 3. Immunization information, current (within 1 year) physical exam, 2-step TB (or QuantiFERON Gold TB blood test or T-Spot Blood test) and any other clinical compliance items required will be due after acceptance. Please pay close attention to due dates as outlined in your acceptance letter.

Emergency Medical Services, AAS Prerequisite GPA Calculator Worksheet*:

PREREQUISITE COURSES	A	B	C
	Credit Hours or GPA Hours	Numeric Grade Example 4.0	Quality Points (A x B = C)
BIO 115 Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4		
BIO 215 Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4		
COM 210 Fund. Professional Communication	3		
ENG 110 College Writing I	3		
MATH 100 Health Careers Math	1		
PSY 150 Introductory Psychology	3		
WPE 101 Principles of Fitness and Health	2		
TOTALS	20		

Prerequisite GPA Calculation:

A: Add total Credit or GPA Hours

B: Add total Numeric Grade (i.e. 4.0)

C: Multiply A X B = **Quality Points**

Total from **Column C** ÷ Total from **Column A** = **Prerequisite GPA**

*Please note this worksheet is for student use only and is not required to be submitted with application

What is a Holistic Admission?

Holistic review, when used in combination with a variety of other mission-based practices, constitutes a “holistic admission” process.

Four Core Principles

1. Selection criteria are broad-based, are **clearly linked to school mission and goals**, and promote diversity as an essential element to achieving institutional excellence.
2. A balance of applicant **experiences, attributes, and academic metrics** (E-A-M) is used equitably across the entire candidate pool (with supporting evidence).
3. Those who participate in the admissions process, give **individualized** consideration to how each applicant may contribute to the school’s learning environment and to the profession.
4. Holistic admissions take a broad range of factors into consideration. In addition to grades, it may include personal attributes, communication skills, experiential factors or other considerations.

Our Values

Caring and Respect

- Foster a safe, dynamic learning environment
- Demonstrate positive regard for self and others
- Give and receive praise graciously
- Honor civility, service, collegiality, and social justice

Integrity

- Do the right things for the right reasons
- Ensure interactions are driven by our vision, mission and values
- Be responsible, accountable and ethical

Excellence and Quality

- Embrace change as an opportunity
- Pursue excellence and innovation
- Values learning and develop an environment of intellectual inquiry
- Share new ideas and expand the boundaries of knowledge

Humor and Well-Being (Too much fun is just enough at Kalamazoo Valley)

- Nurture creativity, humor, and enjoyment of work and learning
- Promote a healthy environment for mind, body and spirit

Teamwork and Stewardship

- Work together to achieve our vision, mission and goals
- Commit to finding solutions

Mission Statement:

Kalamazoo Valley Community College creates innovative and equitable opportunities that empower all to learn, grow and thrive.

Holistic Admission Outcomes

- Generate a student body that is diverse, highly qualified and passionate about a chosen health career.
- Maintain high board exam rates
- Maintain high employer satisfaction ratings for the KVCC Health Careers graduates.
- Respond to mission, vision and goals of Kalamazoo Valley and key stakeholders

Holistic Admission Overview (100 pts max)

- **Metrics (M) Prerequisite GPA – 50%**
Up to 50 pts with sliding scale
- **Experiences (E)/Attributes (A) – 40%**
Up to 10 pts per response with 4 responses
- **Healthcare Experience – 5%**
5 pts max
- **Additional Criteria – 5%**
5 pts max

Prerequisite GPA (50 pts max)

<u>Prerequisite GPA</u>	<u>Ranking Points</u>
4	50
3.99 – 3.70	45
3.69 – 3.50	40
3.49 – 3.30	35
3.29 – 3.00	30
2.99 – 2.75	25
2.74 – 2.50	20
2.49 – 2.25	15
2.24 – 2.00	10

Experience and Attributes (40 pts max)

Short Answer Question (100 words max) in for areas. Answers should integrate the College's Mission Statement and values. Responses should utilize correct grammar, spelling and punctuation to receive full points.

Evaluation will be based on the following:

- **0 points** – Minimally addressed (very limited thought, ideas loosely connected, not clearly communicated)
- **5 points** – Adequately address (solid thinking and integration of ideas, reasonably communicated)
- **10 points** – Completely addressed (reflective, insightful thinking, ideas carefully connected, well-articulated)

Sample questions

Life Experiences

College Values: Excellence and Quality (up to 10 pts)

Short Answer Question (100 words max):

Explain why you want to pursue a career in respiratory care.

Values and Beliefs

College Values: Humor/Wellbeing, Caring and Respect (up to 10 pts)

Short Answer Question (100 words max):

Describe which personal qualities you possess that make you suitable for a career in respiratory care.

Integrity

College Value: Integrity (up to 10 pts)

Short Answer Question (100 words max):

Please provide an example of a barrier or mistake you have experienced. How did you deal with it and what did you learn from it?

Perspectives/ Leadership

College Values: Teamwork and Stewardship (up to 10 pts):

Short Answer Question (100 words max):

Please describe a personal experience working with or within a diverse team. Explain what went well and what didn't. What did you learn from the experience?

Healthcare Experience (5 pts max)

Health Occupation License/certificate/non-credit training:

- 5 pts Bachelor's Degree (i.e. B.S Registered Dietician)
- 4 pts ANY Bachelor's Degree
- 4 pts Associate's Degree (healthcare related, i.e., Paramedic etc.)
- 3 pts License (i.e., LPN, EMT, CMA, RDA)
- 2 pts non-credit training (i.e. CNA, PCA, CDA, MFR, Phlebotomy)
- 1 pt. non-formal experience (i.e. caregiver of family)
- 1 pt. job shadow, health career specific

Additional Criteria (1 pt. each - 5 pts max)

- Lives within KVCC District
- 12 or more credits from Kalamazoo Valley
- Kalamazoo Promise Recipient
- KVAAP
- Active service person or Veteran
- First-generation College Student
- Early Middle College Student