Primary Care Paramedic – PCP

Program Outline

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION DATE: March 2011
OUTLINE EFFECTIVE DATE: January 2011
PROGRAM OUTLINE REVIEW DATE: January 2016

GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) program is designed to teach the complex skills that enable a paramedic to function independently in the world of pre-hospital care. The PCP scope of practice is defined by the National Occupational Competency Profiles (NOCP) and governed by provincial licensing bodies. The level of PCP is recognized nationally and internationally.

The PCP student completes the program with a deeper understanding and knowledge of human anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology. The program is structured around eight distinct blocks, as outlined below, and includes: patient assessment; airway management; intravenous therapy; drug administration; pharmacology; vehicle extrication; ECG interpretation and clinical decision making. The program is delivered over 570 hours with a balance of lecture and practical labs, clinical and a short practicum work term on a working ambulance with a preceptor.

Upon completion of our program, the successful candidate can apply to a provincial licensing board to sit the PCP licensing exam. Successful licensure will enable the paramedic to apply for a position with an ambulance service or work as a PCP in industry.

Program Information: The Primary Care Paramedic certificate program will prepare students for successful licensure with provincial licensing boards

Delivery: This program is delivered face-to-face.

COTR Credits: N/A

Hours for this program: 578 hours

Typical Structure of Instructional Hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructional Activity</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Hours</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars / Tutorials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory / Studio Hours</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum / Field Experience Hours</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Contact Hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>578</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practicum Hours (if applicable):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Practicum</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-the-job Experience</td>
<td>150 minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Work Experience</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>171</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If Other, please list:
- Clinical (in hospital)
PROGRAM PRE-REQUISITES AND TRANSFER CREDIT

Admission Requirements
- Provincial grade 12 or GED equivalent (transcript or copy of diploma required)
- At least 19 years of age
- BC Class 5 Driver’s license or provincial equivalent (“N” is acceptable), valid at time of application
- Current Hepatitis B and tetanus immunizations
- A certificate of completion from a recognized EMR training facility (may require an EMR license in future programs)
- A current CPR “C” certificate
- A 300 word essay outlining the student’s decision to become a Primary Care Paramedic
- Signed statement from a physician indicating an acceptable level of health for the fitness test
- Signed waiver form for the physical fitness testing
- Successfully complete the physical fitness test
- Applicant participates in an interview with the Coordinator

Recommended prerequisites
- Basic computer skills
- Active in community service work
- Experience working as a occupational first aid attendant
Prior Learning Assessment (PLA):
Credit can be awarded for this course through PLA

- Yes
- No

Learners may request formal recognition for prior learning at the College of the Rockies through one or more of the following processes: External Evaluation, Worksite Assessment, Demonstration, Standardized Test, Self-assessment, Interview, Products/Portfolio, Challenge Exam. Contact an Education Advisor for more information.

Transfer Credit: For transfer information within British Columbia, Alberta and other institutions, please visit [http://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer](http://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer)

Students should also contact an academic advisor at the institution where they want transfer credit.

Prior Course Number: N/A

COURSE GRADE

Students must achieve a minimum of 75% on written and practical exams, as detailed in Evaluation and Assessment Section following.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COM</td>
<td>Completed to defined standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCG</td>
<td>No Credit Granted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A grade of pass or fail will be assigned.

Textbooks and Required Resources:


Reference: Comprehensive and current, this two-volume set is the only Canadian resource available for PCP and ACP training that closely correlates with the new Paramedic Association of Canada Competency Profiles. Clearly written and well-organized, this book covers the fundamentals of paramedic practice including pathophysiology, pharmacology, medication administration and advanced airway management. Assessment skills, incident command, ambulance service, rescue, hazardous material and crime scene operations are also detailed.


Course (Block) Descriptions Outcomes

Block 1: Foundations
Consists of several units designed to build a firm base on which to grow and learn to be a paramedic. This block consists of approximately 35 hours in the classroom, a combination of didactic and practical labs. In addition there are approximately 20 hours of home study.

Upon completion of Block 1 Foundations, the student should be able to:

- understand the scope of practice of the primary care paramedic and interact in a professional way with others.
- apply safe and aseptic techniques when dealing with patients.
- handle biohazardous materials safely and control exposure to biohazardous materials and communicable diseases.
- locate, identify, clean, dispose or restock commonly used PCP equipment and supplies.
- use biomechanics in a safe manner when lifting and transferring patients.
- outline the roles and responsibilities of the driver and identify the key attributes of a safe, professional driver.
- use communications equipment and techniques in an effective manner.
- apply knowledge about anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology to airway assessment and management.

Block 2: Medical: Integumentary and Respiratory
Includes A & P of the integumentary and respiratory systems, pharmacology, drug administration, IV therapy and respiratory emergencies. This block consists of approximately 70 hours in the classroom, a combination of lecture and practical labs. In addition there are approximately 40 hours of home study.

Upon completion of Block 2 Medical, the student should be able to:

- apply knowledge about anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology related to the cellular and respiratory systems.
- identify the assessment, findings and management of various common respiratory diseases and conditions.
- define and differentiate among the chemical, generic and trade names of a drug and recall common medications for specific diseases and conditions.
- define and describe various effects of drugs on the human body.
- apply safe and efficient practices with medication administration and calculations.
- apply the knowledge of assessment and management of specific respiratory diseases and conditions.
- apply effective clinical decision making skills.
Course (Block) Descriptions and Outcomes continued

Block 3: Medical: Cardiovascular
This block includes A&P of the cardiovascular system, ECG monitoring, advanced procedures, pain management and the management of cardiac disorders. This block consists of approximately 70 hours in the classroom, a combination of didactic and practical labs. In addition there are approximately 40 hours of home study.

Upon completion of Block 3 Medical, the student should be able to:
- apply knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology to cardiovascular assessment and management.
- demonstrate the assessment and management of various cardiovascular diseases and conditions using a variety of diagnostic tools.

Block 4: Medical: Gastrointestinal and Genitourinary
This segment includes A&P of the gastrointestinal and genitourinary systems along with A&P of the endocrine system. It also includes some pharmacology, management of abdominal disorders, air and land transfers, anaphylaxis and diabetes. This block consists of approximately 70 hours in the classroom, a combination of didactic and practical labs. In addition there are approximately 40 hours of home study.

Upon completion of Block 4 Medical, the student should be able to:
- apply knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology to the assessment and management of various diseases and conditions of the gastrointestinal and genitourinary systems.
- apply the knowledge of assessment and management of a diabetic and anaphylaxis emergency.

Block 5: Medical: Neurological
This section is all about the neurological system. It covers the A&P of the neurological system, relevant pharmacology, management of neurological disorders, behavioral emergencies, management of poisons, overdose or alcohol related emergencies. This block consists of approximately 35 hours in the classroom, a combination of didactic and practical labs. In addition there are approximately 20 hours of home study.

Upon completion of Block 5 Medical, the student should be able to:
- apply knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology related to the assessment and management of neurological, behavioral and substance abuse emergencies.

Block 6: Medical: Obstetrics and Pediatrics
Starting with A&P of the reproductive system, this block covers obstetrical emergencies, pediatrics and special populations. This block consists of approximately 35 hours in the classroom, a combination of didactic and practical labs. In addition there are approximately 20 hours of home study.

Upon completion of Block 6 Medical, the student should be able to:
- apply knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology related to the reproductive system.
- apply knowledge to the assessment and management of obstetrical, pediatric, bariatric and geriatric emergencies.
Course (Block) Descriptions Outcomes continued

Block 7: Trauma: Musculoskeletal
The trauma section starts with A&P of the musculoskeletal system, kinematics, shock, soft tissue injuries, and the management of head and spinal injuries, chest and abdominal injuries. This block consists of approximately 50 hours in the classroom, a combination of didactic and practical labs. In addition there are approximately 15 hours of home study.

Upon completion of Block 7 Trauma, the student should be able to:
- apply knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology related to the assessment and management of various injuries to the musculoskeletal system
- apply knowledge of assessment and management of various conditions resulting from exposure to environmental extremes

Block 8: Special Operations
Special Operations covers how to manage multiple casualty incidents, patient recovery and crime scene management. This block consists of approximately 42 hours in the classroom, a combination of didactic and practical labs. In addition there are approximately 20 hours of home study.

Upon completion of Block 8 Special Operations, the student should be able to:
- understand triage and demonstrate the ability to effectively organize a multiple casualty incident.
- appreciate the relevancy of preserving evidence at a crime scene.

Block 9: Clinical and On Car Practicum
Clinical and on car practicum shifts are an integral and mandatory part of the PCP program. There will be 21 hours spent in a clinical setting and at least 150 hours on a working ambulance. The students will be provided with a clinical/practicum booklet that must be returned with competencies signed off by the end of the program. Attendance will commence approximately half way through the program.

Upon completion of Block 9 Clinical and On Car Practicum, the student should be able to:
- meet the required competencies as determined by the NOCPs (National Occupational Competency Profile).

ESSENTIAL SKILLS DEVELOPED IN THIS COURSE:
Students may develop this skill during my course:

Computer Skills
- Create a simple document in Word
- Perform basic document editing
- Access COTR’s online learning resources

Skills for Busy Students
- Manage study time effectively
- Set educational priorities and goals
- Recognize one’s personal learning style
- Use effective note-taking strategies
- Develop problem-solving and memory skills
- Practice strategies to reduce stress level and deal with anxiety
• Practice strategies to succeed at exams and tests
• Use support systems and College resources

Writing Skills
• Identify a purpose and audience for writing
• Apply pre-writing strategies and develop a draft
• Use correct punctuation and grammar

Research Skills
• Use the library catalogue; renew materials and place holds on resources
• Use full-text online database to locate current journal and magazine articles
• Use the internet to locate and evaluate information
• Understand what constitutes plagiarism in academic writing
• Cite, save, and print information for research

Getting Hired Skills
• Recognize personal skills and attributes
• Write a focussed, effective resumé
• Write a strong cover letter
• Prepare for an effective job interview
• Use WorkopolisCampus to find information about jobs

Topics:

Foundations
Integumentary and Respiratory
Cardiovascular
Gastrointestinal and Genitourinary
Neurological
Reproductive and Pediatric
Musculoskeletal
Special Operations

Certifications:

Students completing this program receive all of the following additional certificates:

Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System
Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation “C” for Health Care Providers
Pediatric Education for Pre-hospital Professionals
Incident Command System 100
Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive Level 1 and 2
EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Written Exams</th>
<th>% Of total Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes - interspersed, include A&amp;P</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm - all theory up to Block 4</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam - all theory from all Blocks</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practical Exams</th>
<th>% Of total Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm - any medical scenario up to the end of Block 4</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam - any medical and trauma scenario from any Block</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTES:** Quizzes will be interspersed throughout the program and will include anatomy and physiology. The midterm written exam will include all the theory up to Block 4 and the midterm practical evaluations can be any one medical scenario that has been taught up to the end of Block 4. The final written will include all the theory from all the Blocks and the final practical will consist of one medical scenario and one trauma scenario. The final exam will be given at the end of the program. The student must achieve 75% on each of the written and practical exams given at the midterm or final, to be successful. Students who are unsuccessful will have two opportunities to re-write or re-do the exam(s) that must be completed by the end of the program.

Academic Policies

See [www.cotr.bc.ca/policies](http://www.cotr.bc.ca/policies) for college policies related to course activities, including grade appeals, cheating and plagiarism.

Course Changes:

Information contained in the course outline is correct at the time of publication. The instructor reserves the right to add material to the course to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs.