



INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE

Paramedic Program

Application Booklet

For more information

IRSC Information Call Center
1-866-792-4772

www.irsc.edu

IRSC OVERVIEW

INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE (IRSC) is a public, comprehensive college with a statewide and national reputation for excellence. Located in Florida's Treasure Coast region, each of the College's five campuses provide unparalleled educational environments.

IRSC serves approximately 30,000 students annually and offers more than 100 programs leading to Bachelor's degrees, Associate degrees, technical certificates and applied technology diplomas. Continuing a 60-year tradition of responsiveness to community needs, IRSC is committed to advancing educational, cultural, career training, workforce and economic development in its service area.

IRSC was distinguished as the 2019 winner of the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, an honor that recognizes outstanding quality in the areas of completion & transfer, labor market outcomes, learning, equity and more. IRSC is one of the few colleges in the nation to earn the Achieving the Dream™ Leader College designation. The College is identified by the United States Department of Education as the most affordable college in Florida and the third-most affordable college in the country.

EA/EO

Indian River State College provides equal employment and educational opportunities to all without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, genetic information, and any other factor protected under applicable federal, state, and local civil rights laws, rules and regulations. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies:

Adriene B. Jefferson, *Dean of Northwest Center,*
Equity Officer/Title IX Coordinator
IRSC Massey Campus • 3209 Virginia Ave. • Fort Pierce, FL 34981
772-462-7156

EMS PROGRAMS

The IRSC Paramedic program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions.

The Indian River State College EMT and Paramedic programs are approved by the Florida Department of Health (DOH), Division of Emergency Preparedness, Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight, EMS Program.

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Indian River State College PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATE

THE PARAMEDIC

The IRSC Paramedic Certificate program follows the National EMS Education Standards. The program is also in compliance with Florida Statute 401 and F.A.C. 64J-1 of the Florida Department of Health.

The goal of the Paramedic program is to “to prepare competent entry-level Paramedics in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills) and affective (behavior) learning domains with or without exit points at the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician and/or Emergency Medical Technician, and/or Emergency Medical Responder levels.”

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Note that this is a selective admission program. All requirements must be complete for application consideration. Necessary forms can be found in the back of this booklet.

- _____1. Complete the online Indian River State College *Application for the Paramedic Program* at www.irsc.edu and pay the \$30 application fee. Fees are nonrefundable.
- _____2. Send official sealed transcripts from the high school you graduated from and all post-secondary (college and university) institutions that you have attended to the Office of Student Records.
- _____3. Read the EMT & Paramedic Core Performance Standards (page 7).
- _____4. Read the Program Completion section (page 4).
- _____5. Submit, as a single package, the Paramedic Application Cover Sheet (form can be found in the back of this book), including:
 - a. A copy of current State of Florida EMT certification. State of Florida EMT certification must be maintained for the entire program. Failure to maintain EMT certification will result in immediate withdrawal from the program.
 - b. A copy of current American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider CPR card. Card should be valid for the length of the program. Failure to maintain a current CPR card will result in immediate withdrawal from the program.
- _____6. 2.0 IRSC and College cumulative GPA.

Note: Do not proceed with drug/background screening, physical or health insurance until notified.

INTRODUCTION

The IRSC Paramedic program is offered through the Health Science Division. All applicants enter this program through a Selective Admissions process. Contact Student Services at any IRSC campus or the Health Science Office at 772-462-7550, or toll-free at 866-792-4772 x7550, for additional information.

PROCESS FOR APPLYING ONLINE

1. Read the Paramedic Application Booklet.
2. Complete and submit the IRSC Application for the Paramedic program (\$30 fee; keep copy of your receipt.)

Note: If at any time during the application process you have a change in personal information (address, phone number or email), submit the changes through **MyPioneerPortal**.

All applicants will be notified of their status via the email address provided in the Health Science Application after the deadline date or earlier. No information is available by phone. To finalize acceptance, once notified of provisional acceptance, students will be required to have a completed IRSC physical examination form, a negative drug screen report, a FDLE background check and personal health insurance. Timely response to these steps is important to hold the seat.

PARAMEDIC PROGRAM INFORMATION PRESENTATION

Students interested in applying to any health science program should plan to review the online program information presentation. The presentation addresses any questions or concerns prospective applicants may have. Students should plan to review the information presentation prior to the application deadline date. The presentation is located on the Paramedic website.

All applicants will be notified of their status via the email address provided in the Health Science Application. No information is available by telephone. To finalize acceptance, once notified of provisional acceptance, students will be required to have a completed IRSC physical examination form, a negative drug screen report, a FDLE background check and personal health insurance. Timely response to these steps is important to hold the seat.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Students are selected on a competitive basis, and final consideration for admission into the Paramedic program will be based on the following criteria:

1. Must be 18 years old or older.
2. 2.0 IRSC and College cumulative GPA.
3. Completion of admission/program requirements as listed on program checklist by deadline.
4. Treasure Coast Public Safety Agency Employees
Preferential admission is available to Treasure Coast public safety agency employees such as law enforcement officers, lifeguards, and telecommunicators. An applicant wishing to claim the preference must meet all admission/program requirements by the preference deadline and must submit a letter from his/her agency verifying employment status. Preference will be granted in the order in which the applications were received for a designated number of seats.
5. Military Active Duty, Reserve & Veteran Status
Preferential admission is available to active duty, reserve and veteran status members of the military. An application wishing to claim the preference must meet all admission/program requirements by the preference deadline and must submit a letter from his/her commanding officer or DD-214 verifying eligibility. Preference will be granted in the order in which the application was received or a designated number of seats.

It is the continued goal of Indian River State College to be inclusive to all who wish to pursue the career of their choosing, as well as providing a quality education that allows them to succeed at their goals. To that end, the faculty of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department stress the importance of being prepared for this intensive Paramedic program.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED (not required) that applicants have completed or are in the process of completing the following academic classes in order to prepare for course EMS 2601C: Anatomy & Physiology I & II with lab (BSC 2093/L & BSC 2094/L).

It is also RECOMMENDED (not required) that applicants are employed as Emergency Medical Technicians in order to gain patient care experience and to prepare for course EMS 2664. Attach an employment verification letter to the application.

PROGRAM COMPLETION

Paramedic program completion certificates will only be issued to graduates who have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher. Prospective students should review their GPA with an advisor and consider taking courses within the AS in EMS degree to help elevate their GPA before enrolling in the paramedic program.

It is strongly recommended that current paramedic students do not take any additional courses, as the paramedic program's fall and spring semesters each have 18 credits. It remains at the discretion of the paramedic program director to bar entrance into the paramedic capstone (EMS2659) until the student's GPA is above a 2.0 average, and instead direct the student to take other courses within the AS in EMS degree in an effort to raise GPA, complete the degree and be ready for the licensing process.

ACCEPTANCE INTO PROGRAM

Paramedic applicants are accepted on a competitive basis pending successful completion of checklist items on page 1 by the application deadline. Students will then be notified via the email address provided in the Application to complete a drug screen, criminal background check, physical examination, immunization record and health insurance for final acceptance.

CPR CERTIFICATION

All Paramedic applicants must be certified in American Heart Association BLS Provider CPR. The card should be valid through the end of the Paramedic program. The applicant will not be accepted without a valid CPR card. Failure to maintain a current CPR card will result in immediate withdrawal from the program.

DRUG SCREENING & CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

Refer to the IRSC website at www.irsc.edu.

HEALTH/MEDICAL RECORD

A completed medical health form must also be submitted and approved by the Program Director. This health record will contain results from a physical examination and laboratory tests including immunization records.

Applicants who do not meet the standards of good physical and mental health, as required by clinical facilities for safe patient care, may reapply and be considered for application to a Health Science program after resolution of the health problem. An updated health record, verified by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or an ARNP must be submitted.

STUDENT DRUG SCREEN, BACKGROUND CHECK, AND MEDICAL RECORDS

When submitted, these records will become the property of the College and will not be available for copying or for use to meet the requirements of outside employers. Students who are out of the program for six months or more must submit new records.

NON-ACCEPTANCE INTO PROGRAM

Applicants who are not accepted into the program will be notified by RiverMail.

PARAMEDIC PROGRAM CURRICULUM

This approximately ten-month program is comprised of classroom, laboratory, hospital and ambulance rotations. The Paramedic program may be taken as a technical certificate (42 credits) or an A.S. Degree (73 credits).

The A.S. Degree in Emergency Medical Services provides the graduate with a strong general education and science background to enhance and expand the technical knowledge of the EMT and Paramedic Certificate programs.

All core curriculum and Natural Science courses require a grade of "C" or higher. For more information, visit www.irsc.edu. Click **Quick Links**, click **Course Catalog**, select **Associate in Science**, scroll down the page and select **Paramedic**.

PARAMEDIC PROGRAM EXPENSES

Visit www.irsc.edu.

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial Aid (grants, loans, work-study) is available to those who qualify. Complete the *FAFSA and IRSC Supplemental Financial Aid Application* to determine eligibility. For more information, contact the IRSC Financial Aid Office at 772-462-7450 or toll-free at 1-866-900-3243 (FAID).

Scholarships designated for students in the Health Science programs may also be available. Complete *IRSC ONLINE Scholarship Applications* through MyPioneerPortal.

For more information regarding scholarships, contact Sherri Monds at smonds@irsc.edu.

EMT & PARAMEDIC CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Introduction

The following general position description for the EMT and Paramedic is provided as a guide for advising those interested in understanding the qualifications, competencies and tasks required for emergency medical services certification. It is the ultimate responsibility of an employer to define specific job descriptions within each emergency medical services (EMS) entity.

Qualifications & Competencies

A candidate for the EMS profession must have the following qualifications and competencies: observation, communication, motor, intellectual-conceptual, integrative, and quantitative, and behavioral/social attributes. Technological compensation may be made for disabilities in certain areas, but candidates should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner, with or without accommodation.

Visual: Candidates must be able to observe and participate in experiments in the basic sciences (for example, physiologic and pharmacological demonstrations and microscopic studies for micro-organisms and tissues). In order to make proper clinical decisions, candidates must be able to visually assess a patient, interpret x-rays and other graphic images, and digital or analog representations of physiologic phenomena, such as EKGs with or without the assistive devices. Candidates must be able to read small print. The functional use of vision is necessary.

Oral-Auditory: Candidates must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Candidates must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently with other members of the health care team. In an emergency situation, Candidates must be able to understand and convey information essential for the safe and effective care of patients in a clear, unambiguous, and rapid fashion. Candidates must also be able to relate information to and receive information in a caring and confidential manner. Candidates must be fluent in and able to read, write, converse, and comprehend the English language. Candidates must be able to listen and respond to radio communications. Candidates must be able to effectively hear through a stethoscope.

Physical/Motor: Candidates must possess the motor skills necessary to perform palpation, percussion, auscultation, and other diagnostic maneuvers. Candidates must be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general emergency medical care such as airway management, placement of intravenous catheters, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, application of pressure to control bleeding, and suturing of lacerations. These skills require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and integrated use of the senses of touch and vision. Candidates must be able to lift and carry 125 pounds (250 pounds with assistance) and manipulate and handle equipment such as stretchers from floor level to a height of 48 inches. They must be able to walk and work in small spaces, various weather conditions, and various physical environments. Candidates must be able to function effectively during a 24-hour shift without sleep.

Cognitive: Candidates must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize in a timely fashion. Candidates must comprehend three-dimensional relationships and

understand the special relationships of structures. They must have a concept of time and be able to record times to the second from a clock or watch. Candidates must be able to follow written and verbal directions. Candidate must have the ability to document, in writing, all relevant information in prescribed format in light of legal ramifications of such.

Social: Candidates must possess the emotional health required for the utilization of their intellectual abilities for the exercise of good judgment, for the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and for the development of effective relationships with patients. Candidates must tolerate physically taxing workloads and function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients. Candidates must be able to interact with individuals from varying social, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

Curriculum Requirements: Candidates must be able to successfully complete, with or without reasonable accommodation, all required components of curriculum.

Test and Evaluation: In order to evaluate the competence and quality of candidates, the IRSC EMS Program employs periodic examinations as an essential component of the EMS curriculum. Successful completion of these examinations is required for all candidates as a condition for continued progress through the curriculum. Reasonable accommodation will be made in the form or manner of administration of these evaluations where necessary.

Clinical Assessment: Demonstration of clinical competence is also of fundamental importance to the career curriculum progression of the candidate. The process of faculty evaluation of clinical performance of candidates is an integral and essential part of the curriculum. Although reasonable accommodation may be made, participation in clinical experiences and the evaluation of participation is required.

Attendance: Class attendance is deemed an important component of the educational experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided, but attendance requirements must be satisfied for successful completion of these courses.

Description of Tasks

1. Receives call from dispatcher, responds appropriately to emergency calls, reads maps, may drive ambulance to emergency site, uses most expeditious route and observes traffic ordinances and regulations.
2. Determines nature and extent of illness or injury, takes pulse, blood pressure, visually observes changes in skin color, auscultates breath sounds, makes determination regarding patient status, establishes priority for emergency care, renders appropriate emergency care (based on competency level); may administer intravenous drugs or fluid replacement as directed by physician.
3. May use equipment (based on competency level) such as but not limited to, defibrillator, electrocardiograph, performs endotracheal intubation to open airway and ventilate patient.
4. Assists in lifting, carrying, and transporting patient to ambulance and on to a medical facility.
5. Reassures patients and bystanders, avoids mishandling patient and undue haste, and searches for medical identification emblem to aid in care.
6. Extricates patient from entrapment, assesses extent of injury, uses prescribed techniques and appliances, radios dispatcher for additional assistance or services, provides light rescue service if required, provides additional emergency care following established protocols.
7. Complies with regulations in handling deceased, notifies authorities, and arranges for protection of property and evidence at scene.
8. Determines appropriate facility to which patient will be transported, reports nature and extent of injuries or illness to the facility, asks for direction from hospital physician or emergency department.
9. Observes patient en route and administers care as directed by physician or emergency department or according to published protocol.
10. Identifies diagnostic signs that require communication with facility.
11. Moves the patient into the emergency facility from the ambulance
12. Reports verbally and in writing concerning observations about the patient, patient care at the scene, patient care in route to facility and provides assistance to emergency department staff as required.
13. Maintains familiarity with all specialized equipment.
14. Replaces supplies, sends used supplies for sterilization, checks all equipment for future readiness, maintains ambulance in operable condition, ensures ambulance cleanliness and orderliness of equipment and supplies, decontaminates vehicle interior, determines vehicle readiness by checking oil, gasoline, water in battery and radiator and tire pressure.

Accessibility Statement

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, professional disability specialists and support staff at the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) facilitate a comprehensive range of academic support services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

IRSC offers many disability resources at on-campus labs. The SAS works with online students to ensure accessibility. A quick link is located to the SAS in the Institutional Resources section in the course control panel. Students who wish to request an accommodation for a documented disability should contact the SAS immediately at 772-462-7809 or 772-462-7396.

Reasonable Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act does not exempt the student from these Core Performance Standards. These standards are viewed as essential to the job. However, whenever possible, reasonable accommodations will be made to students with disabilities. The Indian River State College EMS Program uses the rules of the Florida Department of Health along with the National Registry of EMT's, as a template with regards to what accommodations will be provided. Students must work with the SAS staff in conjunction with the EMS Program Director and instructor of record in order to be considered for accommodation. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Student Accessibility Services office.

The following is a sample list of accommodations that are not allowed in the EMS Program because they are not in compliance with the essential job functions of an EMT or paramedic as outlined in the Core Performance Standards. These include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Students are not allowed additional time for skills with specific time frames.**
 - Obviously, patients would suffer due to life threatening conditions in emergency situations if treatment were delayed.
- 2. Students are not allowed unlimited time to complete a written or computer exams or quizzes.**
 - This request is not considered reasonable because a candidate should be able to complete an exam or quiz within a finite amount of time.
 - Exams and quizzes are designed, at least in part, to measure the ability to quickly recall information.
 - Students will be allowed a maximum of time and one-half to complete written or computer exams or quizzes.
- 3. Students are not allowed to have written or computer exams given by an oral reader.**
 - The ability to read and understand small English print is an essential function of the profession, and written exams are designed, at least in part, to measure that ability.

- 4. Students are not provided a written or computer exam with a reading level of less than grade nine.**
 - The EMS profession requires a reading level of at least grade eight to work safely and efficiently.
- 5. Students must answer all written or computer test questions as written. No explanation of the question can be provided by the test proctor or any other individual.**
 - Additional descriptions of test questions would not be a reasonable accommodation because reading and understanding written English is an essential part of EMS communication.
 - Students must be able to understand and converse in medical terms appropriate to the profession.
- 6. Students are not allowed to use calculators.**
 - Students must be able to perform the calculations required for patient assessment and care even if assistive technology was not available.

LATEX ADVISORY – Latex-based products are used in all health care facilities.



INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE

PARAMEDIC APPLICATION COVER SHEET

STUDENT NAME _____ Student ID _____

I have attached all of the following items: (mark off items submitted with a check mark)

_____ CPR Card ONLY American Heart Association Health Care Provider Level will be accepted (Must be valid throughout the program).

_____ Current State of Florida EMT Certification (must be kept valid throughout the program)

Clearly print your name and student ID on each piece of paper submitted. All documentation must be submitted in order with this cover page.