



PARKLAND COLLEGE EMS PROGRAMS ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Students matriculating in and graduating from a Parkland College EMS health career program (EMR, EMT, or Paramedic) must be able to meet the Essential Qualifications of the academic program and must not pose a threat to the well-being of patients, other students, staff, or themselves. As an incoming EMS student you will need, at a minimum, the following types of skills and abilities and will need to maintain and demonstrate these abilities throughout the program.

Students are encouraged to discuss their specific academic needs with the course instructor/program director prior to beginning a course of study. Consultation between Accessibility Services, the student and the program director are encouraged in order to address concerns.

Essential Qualifications	Behaviors
Cognitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate strong problem-solving skills and critical thinking sufficient for clinical judgment in emergency situations. Accurately evaluate a patient's symptoms and administer the appropriate treatment • Effectively use a variety of teaching/learning methods and strategies in both individual and collaborative learning situations. • Access, evaluate, and use a variety of information resources such as library services, electronic catalogs, databases, in an efficient, ethical and legal manner.
Affective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional attitudes including but not limited to: integrity, empathy, self-motivation, appearance and personal hygiene, personal communication, time management, teamwork and diplomacy, respect, patient advocacy, and careful delivery of services as outlined in the "Professional Behavioral Evaluation" denoted in the paramedic policies.
Psychomotor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor strength and coordination to stand/walk for sustained periods of time; potentially within confined spaces. • Ability to bend, stoop, crawl, stand, carry, and balance on uneven or rough terrain. • Frequent moving, lifting and transferring patients in excess of 125 pounds (250 pounds with assistance) • Exert up to 50 pounds of force occasionally and/or up to 20 pounds of force frequently and/or 10 pounds of force constantly to move objects • Provide direct patient care and emergency treatment including cardiopulmonary resuscitation. • Manual dexterity in handling and lifting equipment. • Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective care. • Ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold, and moisture. • Ability to work in low light and confined spaces.
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize English language skills to effectively communicate (express, understand, and exchange information and ideas) with individuals in all health care professions, clients, family members and care providers, sometimes under highly stressful circumstances. • Interact with individuals, families, groups, etc. from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.
Sensory/Observation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess patients' needs and to understand instructions, emergency signals, and telephone conversation accurately. Visual and tactile ability sufficient to accurately observe and assess patients' need for care. • Detect and respond appropriately to odors to maintain environmental safety and provide for patient needs (e.g. foul smelling drainage, alcohol breath, smoke, gasses or noxious smells)
Behavioral/Emotional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform multiple responsibilities concurrently. • Organize responsibilities, make decisions and function effectively in critical situations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cope with strong emotions in others (e.g., grief) and provide emotional support. • Adapt to changing environments and unexpected situations and respond in an emotionally controlled manner under stress.
Professional Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to organize and efficiently use time to prepare for class and clinical. • Demonstrate professional demeanor and behavior at all times. Consistently work in an ethical manner in relation to peers, faculty, staff, and patients Follow all HIPAA guidelines • Ability to access transportation to attend classes and clinical assignments in a timely manner • Adherence to Professional Conduct Standards for EMTs and the Code of Ethics for EMS Practitioners
Criminal Background Checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No disqualifying conditions according to the IDPH healthcare worker background check act by deadlines on admission and throughout the program. • No positive drug screen or clearance by the Medical Review Officer.

If you have any concerns regarding these standards, please email healthrecord@parkland.edu.

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