Vernon College EMS Program

Pre-Admission Packet

(This Preadmission Packet is for the Basic, Advanced EMT, and Paramedic levels)

Mission Statement

In keeping with the mission of Vernon College, it is the goal of the program faculty and staff to produce graduates who complete Basic, Advanced EMT, and/or Paramedic certification, who pass NREMT certification exam on the first attempt, who are able to enter the job market as entry level paramedics, who demonstrate empathy and compassion for their patients, and graduates who are committed to life-long learning.

Outcomes

1. Provide care for the emergency patient in the pre-hospital setting.
2. Work as a team with other EMS care providers in the prehospital setting.
3. Use critical thinking and decision-making skills to determine the healthcare needs of the pre-hospital patient.
4. Plan treatment to include prevention and initial care procedures to promote and maintain the healthcare needs in an emergency situation.
5. Place the patient’s welfare, comfort, and privacy first when planning and implementing initial care.
Thank you for your interest in the EMS program offered by Vernon College. We strive to consider all applicants in a fair and consistent manner. This packet describes the steps involved in completing this application. Vernon College and the EMS Professions Department do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion/creed, age, gender, disabling conditions, handicaps, or national origin. To be admitted to the EMS program, students must first meet the basic entrance requirements of Vernon College. However, admission to Vernon College does not constitute automatic acceptance into the EMS programs.

The program to which you are applying is both mentally and physically challenging. Because of the unique environment in which EMS personnel function, it is important to have a good understanding of the demands of the profession. A copy of the Functional Position Description is attached. Please review it carefully to assess your ability to perform the essential job functions of the profession. **If you believe you have a disability that will require accommodations during the application process or during your enrollment as a student, please contact the EMS Department as soon as possible.** While we will assure that everyone is afforded equal opportunity during the application and instructional processes, you should be aware that you must be able to successfully complete **ALL** of the program’s requirements, either with or without reasonable accommodations.

This packet also includes a list of the program’s prerequisites and several required forms. Please complete **ALL** forms carefully and provide any necessary attachments. You should consult the checklist at the bottom of the form to ensure your application is complete. Please be aware that the time frame for immunizations is lengthy and you should plan accordingly. We do **NOT** accept incomplete applications. If you have any questions, please contact us and we will be happy to assist you.

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS**

Vernon College will take the steps required for reasonable accommodation to ensure that no individual is excluded, denied service, segregated, or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services. Support assistance may include note takers, interpreters for the deaf, tutoring, counseling and advising, special arrangements, tape recorders, etc. Persons requesting disability services should complete a request for services by contacting the Office of Special Support Services. In many cases, recent documentation of disability may be required.

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians administers a separate process for determining whether accommodations for disabilities will be granted during the certification exams. Eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, a student who receives an accommodation during an EMT course has no guarantee of receiving an accommodation for the certification exam.

**INFORMATION ON A CAREER IN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**NATURE OF THE WORK**

People’s lives often depend on the quick reaction and competent care of emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics, EMTs with additional advanced training to perform more difficult pre-hospital medical procedures. Incidents as varied as automobile accidents, heart attacks, drowning, childbirths, and gunshot wounds all require immediate medical attention. EMTs and paramedics provide this vital attention as they care for and transport the sick or injured to a medical facility.
Depending on the nature of the emergency, EMTs and paramedics typically are dispatched to the scene by a 911 operator and often work closely with police and fire department personnel. Once they arrive, they determine the nature and extent of the patient’s condition, while trying to ascertain whether the patient has preexisting medical problems. Following policies and protocols, they give appropriate emergency care and when necessary, transport the patient. EMTs and paramedics also treat patients with minor injuries on the scene of an accident or at their home without transporting them to a medical facility. Some paramedics work as part of helicopter flight crews that transport critically ill or injured. All treatments are carried out under the supervision of medical doctors.

EMTs and paramedics may use special equipment such as backboards to immobilize patients before placing them on stretchers and securing them in the ambulance for transport to a medical facility. Usually, one EMT or paramedic drives while the other monitors the patient’s condition and gives additional care as needed. At the medical facility, EMTs and paramedics transfer patients to the emergency department staff, report their observations and actions, and may provide additional emergency treatment. After each run, EMTs and paramedics replace used supplies, check equipment, decontaminate the equipment and the interior of the ambulance, and write a patient care report.

Beyond these general duties, the specific responsibilities of EMTs and paramedics depend on their level of qualification and training. The Texas Department of State Health Services certifies or licenses emergency medical service (EMS) providers and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) registers providers at four levels: First Responder, also called Emergency Care Attendant (ECAs), EMT-Basic, EMT-Advanced, and EMT-Paramedic. The lowest level, First Responder (ECA), is trained to provide basic emergency medical care because they tend to be the first persons to arrive at the scene of an incident. Many firefighters, police officers, and other emergency workers have this level of training. The Basic, also known as EMT-B, represents the first component of the emergency medical technician system. A BASIC is trained to care for ill or injured patients on scenes and during transport by ambulance to the hospital. The BASIC has the skills to assess a patient’s condition and manage respiratory, cardiac, other medical and trauma emergencies. The EMT-Intermediate (EMT-I), Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) has more advanced training that allows administration of intravenous fluids, use of advanced airway techniques and equipment to assist patients experiencing emergencies. Paramedics provide the most extensive pre-hospital care. In addition to the procedures already described, paramedics may administer drugs, interpret electrocardiograms (EKGs), use manual defibrillators to restart the heart, perform surgical airways, and use other complex equipment.

**WORKING CONDITIONS**

EMTs and paramedics work both indoors and outdoors, in all types of weather. They are required to do considerable kneeling, bending, and heavy lifting. These workers risk noise-induced hearing loss from sirens and noisy accident scenes and back injuries from lifting patients. In addition, EMTs and paramedics may be exposed to diseases such as Hepatitis and HIV, as well as violence from drug overdose victims or mentally unstable patients. The work may not only be physically strenuous, but also stressful, involving life-or-death situations and suffering patients. Nonetheless, many people find the work exciting and challenging and enjoy the opportunity to help others. EMTs and paramedics should be emotionally stable, have good dexterity, agility, and physical coordination, and be able to lift and carry heavy loads.

EMTs and paramedics employed by fire departments work about 50 hours a week. Those employed by hospitals frequently work between 45 and 60 hours a week and those in private ambulance services, between 45 and 50 hours. Some of these workers, especially those in police and fire departments, are on duty for extended periods. Many EMTs and paramedics can work either 24/48 hours shifts in which they work for 24 hours and are off the next 48 hours or they can work 12 hour are 8 hour shift depending on the company they work for. Because emergency services function 24 hours a day, EMTs and paramedics have irregular working hours that add to job stress.
QUALIFICATIONS

You must first successfully complete the course of study offered through the EMS Professions Department. The Texas Department of State Health Services has approved all of our EMT-Basic courses. Once you have successfully completed the program, you are eligible for certification with the Texas Department of State Health Services. However, you will not be granted certification until you have passed the national certification exam.

You must be at least 18 years of age. You will need at least a high school education or its equivalent (GED) to master the knowledge and skills required for successful completion. You must possess the ability to communicate verbally face-to-face, by telephone, computer, tablet, and by radio equipment; ability to lift, carry, and balance up to 125 pounds (250 with assistance); ability to interpret written and oral instructions; ability to use good judgment and remain calm in high stress situations; ability to work effectively in an environment with loud noises, flashing lights, and other distractions; ability to function effectively throughout and entire work shift (up to 24 hours without sleep); ability to read small print under life-threatening time constraints; ability to read and understand English language manuals, computer terminals, and road maps; ability to discern street signs and address numbers; ability to interview patients, family members, and bystanders; ability to document, in writing, relevant information with medical and legal ramifications in a prescribed format; ability to converse in English with coworkers and hospital staff as to patient status; good manual dexterity, with ability to perform all tasks related to highest quality patient care; ability to bend, stoop, and crawl on uneven terrain; ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold, and moisture; ability to work in low light, confined spaces, and other dangerous environments.

About the Program…

The program is accredited/approved through the following agencies:

- Texas Department of State Health Services
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
- Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions

This program is designed to prepare students for a career in emergency medical services. Students successfully completing the first semester may apply for Basic certification. Students completing the second semester may apply for Advanced EMT certification. Students completing the final semesters may apply for paramedic certification.
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADMISSION CRITERIA

All prospective students who wish to be admitted to the Emergency Medical Services Degree/Certificate Programs should contact the Program Coordinator at: (940) 696-8752 ex 3233

Applicants Must:
1. Complete the Vernon College requirements for admission to the College.
2. Paramedic and AAS students must be TSI complete.
3. Submit Shots records to the EMS Department:
   * TB skin test within six months of starting the program.
   * Immunization series; including the Hepatitis B Immunization series including titer or show proof of illness. To be eligible to apply to the Program, student must show proof that the immunization process has been started. The process needs to be completed by the start of the Clinicals. (This process takes 5 Months to complete).
4. Students must be certified in American Heart Health Care CPR and maintain certification throughout their course of study. (Course will be offered twice a year through the EMS department)
5. Complete Application for acceptance into EMS Program. All required documents must be on file with the EMS Department prior to or at the time of sit down meeting with EMS Program Coordinator.
6. Once EMS Program Application is complete, potential students must schedule an interview or sit-down meeting with the Program Director prior to course enrollment. Contact EMS assistant Karen McClure, at: (940) 696-8752 ex. 3377 to schedule an appointment.
7. Adhere to the Vernon College Dress Code for both Classroom and Clinicals.
Date: ____________________ Course Level: Basic  AEMT  Paramedic

TDH Course Number: ____________________ Current EMS Cert: Basic  AEMT  Paramedic

Name: __________________________________ SSN: ____________________ Home Ph: ____________________

Local Mailing Address: ____________________________________________________________

City: ____________________ State: ______ Zip ______

Pager: _______________ Cell Phone: ____________________ Other Phone: ____________________

E-Mail: _____________________________________________________________

Permanent Mailing Address: ______________________________________________________

City: ____________________ State: ______ Zip ______ Perm Hm Ph: ____________________

NOTE: Please Provide Copies of current EMS Certification and CPR HCP unless already provided.

FD/EMS Service: _________________________________________________________________

Address: _____________________________________________________________

City: ____________________ State: ______ Zip ______ Ph: ____________________

Employer: ____________________ Work Ph: ____________________

What are your hobbies? __________________________________________________________

What are your expectations of this course? __________________________________________

Have you taken an EMS course with us in the past:  Yes  No

Do we have permission to publish your work & home phone number as part of the class phone roster?

Yes  No  Signature:
HEPATITIS B IMMUNIZATION

INFORMATION
Hepatitis B is a serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the liver. The virus, which is called hepatitis B virus (HBV), can cause lifelong infection, cirrhosis (scarring) of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure, and death. Short-term consequences of Hepatitis B include an average of seven (7) weeks lost from work and the risk of permanent liver damage. Long-term consequences include chronic active Hepatitis, cirrhosis of the liver, and liver cancer. In the health care setting, Hepatitis B patients are difficult to identify. In many cases, they do not show symptoms and it may not be known that they are infected with the Hepatitis B virus. The virus is primarily spread to health care workers through contact with infected blood or other body fluids. Health care workers have three (3) to five (5) times the risk of the general public of acquiring Hepatitis B. Hepatitis B represents the major occupational infectious disease hazard of health care workers.

THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) AND THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA) RECOMMEND VACCINATION OF ALL HEALTH CARE WORKERS. As a student in a health care field, you will have direct contact with patients who could be Hepatitis B carriers. THEREFORE, IT IS REQUIRED THAT YOU OBTAIN THE SERIES OF THREE (3) IMMUNIZATIONS FOR HEPATITIS B, OR PROVIDE PROOF OF SEROLOGIC CONFIRMATION OF IMMUNITY TO HEPATITIS B VIRUS OR YOU MUST QUALIFY FOR ONE OF THE EXCLUSIONS LISTED IN RULE 97.62.

I, ____________________________________________________________, hereby affirm that I have been well advised and thoroughly informed of the hazards of not obtaining the Hepatitis B immunizations.

_____I understand that participating in clinical rotations involves certain risks, and injuries can occur that result in extensive treatments, personal injury and even death. I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain the Hepatitis B immunizations and to provide proof of such to Vernon College.

_____I have already been vaccinated against Hepatitis B and will provide proof of these to Vernon College.

_____I will immediately start and obtain the entire series of Hepatitis B immunizations prior to any clinical rotations or other activities involving patient care and will provide proof of these to Vernon College. Completion of the Hepatitis B series takes approximately four (4) to six (6) months to complete. Please see schedule regarding admission requirements. Watch your dates closely.

_____I Choose NOT to obtain the Hepatitis B immunizations. I understand if I choose not to obtain the Hepatitis B immunizations and I do not qualify for any of the Exclusions in Rule 97.62, I will not be considered for admission into this program.

EXECUTED this _______ day of ________________________, 20_____.

Signature ____________________________________________________________

Printed Name:_________________________________________________________
HEPATITIS B IMMUNIZATION

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

IN CONSIDERATION OF BEING ENROLLED IN CLINICAL ROTATIONTS, I AFFIRM: REGARDLESS OF MY HEPATITIS IMMUNIZATION STATUS, I DO HEREBY RELEASE, DISCHARGE AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE TEMPLE COLLEGE, ITS GOVERNING BOARD, ITS EMPLOYEES, INSTRUCTORS, AGENTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES (THE “RELEASED PARTIES”), FROM ALL LIABILITY WHATSOEVER TO ME FOR PERSONAL INJURY, DAMAGE OR WRONGFUL DEATH CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR BY ANY STATUTORY VIOLATION, OR CAUSED BY MY CONTRACTING HEPATITIS OR ANY CONTAGIOUS DISEASE WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING INJURIES OR DISEASES CAUSED BY “SHARP” CUTS, NEEDLE STICKS, OR EXPOSURE TO PATIENTS OR THEIR BODILY FLUIDS OR RESPIRATIONS, AND I EXPRESSLY HEREBY DISCHARGE AND RELEASE THE SAID RELEASED PARTIES ABOVE NAMED FROM ANY CLAIM, DEMAND, CAUSE OF ACTION OR DAMAGE OF ANY DESCRIPTION IN ANY WAY RELATED TO MY CONTRACTING INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND MY OBTAINING OR FAILING TO OBTAIN IMMUNIZATIONS AGAINST THESE DISEASES. THIS RELEASE WILL BE APPLICABLE TO DAMAGES SUSTAINED BY ME CAUSED BY THE JOINT OR CONCURRENT NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASED PARTIES, EVEN IF THEY ARE DISCHARGED OR PROTECTED AGAINST THEIR OWN NEGLIGENCE.

I FURTHER STATE THAT I AM OF LAWFUL AGE AND LEGALLY COMPETENT TO SIGN THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY; THAT I UNDERSTAND THE TERMS HEREIN ARE CONTRACTUAL AND NOT A MERE RECITAL; AND THAT I HAVE SIGNED THIS DOCUMENT OF MY OWN FREE ACT.

I HAVE FULLY INFORMED MYSELF OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY BY READING IT AND THE VERNON COLLEGE HEPATITIS B INFORMATION DOCUMENT BEFORE SIGNING BELOW.

EXECUTED this ___ day of __________________________, 20__.

SIGNATURE__________________________________________

Printed Name:__________________________________________
Check List for Your EMS Program Application

Have you:

_____ Reviewed the Functional Position Description?
_____ Applied to Vernon College?

Have you attached the following documents to this application?

_____ Paramedic and AAS students must be TSI complete.

_____ Verification of immunization against: Tetanus, Diphtheria, Mumps, Measles, Rubella, Varicella and Hepatitis B.

_____ Negative results of a Tuberculosis skin test or chest x-ray performed within the last 6 months

_____ All potential EMS students will be required to have a negative criminal background and drug screen prior to program enrollment. Details about the requirements for background checks and drug screens are included in this pre-admissions packet.

_____ Copy of driver’s license or State ID Card

_____ Copy of current CPR Card (AHA Health Care Provider or ARC CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer only)

_____ Required uniform in classroom and clinical

Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted.