

CSI PARAMEDIC PROGRAM FAQ'S

1. What must I do become a paramedic?

First, you must feel a strong desire to help people at their time of utmost need. Second you must complete EMT-B certification and show competence in Math, English and Anatomy & Physiology. Competence is usually met by completing pre-requisite courses which are all offered at the college. Math and English are available online. For course schedules visit: <http://www.csi.edu>

2. How long is the program?

The CSI Program is three semesters: Spring, Fall, and Spring. Students have the summer off to work in the field, spend time with family or take courses towards their degree. The clock hour total of the program is approximately 1,400 hours.

3. Why should I attend the college based paramedic program at CSI?

The reasons for attending a college based program are many. Unlike other programs, CSI has a tremendous training facility, state of the art equipment, highly qualified and experienced faculty, financial aid, several computer labs, a simulation lab, human cadaver lab, student malpractice insurance, an extensive library, and students receive college credit for all classes!

4. Is the CSI Paramedic program state approved and nationally accredited?

Yes! The State of Idaho Bureau of EMS has approved all courses since the program's inception and the program is fully accredited by the prestigious national Committee on Accreditation of Education Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions/Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

5. Is accreditation important?

Accreditation assures the program meets the highest standards of paramedic education in the country. Because of our commitment to the highest quality of education, accreditation is of utmost importance to the CSI paramedic program. For more information on accreditation visit: <http://www.coaemsp.org>

6. What is the class schedule?

During the first semester Lecture is MWF 10am-1pm, Lab MW or MF 2-5pm, and Clinical TTH by schedule for 100hrs.

During the second semester Lecture is MWF 10am-1pm, Lab MW or MF 2-6pm, and Clinical TTH by schedule for 200hrs.

During the third semester Lecture/Lab is TTH 9am-12pm for the first 4 and last 3 weeks. The remainder of the time is spent in internship at an agreed upon location.

- 7. If I am a certified EMT in another state, can I begin the program CSI?**
Yes, although you must keep it current throughout the program. For students interested in Idaho certification, visit: <http://www.idahoems.org>
- 8. What is the difference between an EMT and a Paramedic?**
An EMT-B course is approximately 120 hours after which the EMT-B provides basic life support to sick or injured patients. A Paramedic course is approximately 1,400 hours after which the Paramedic provides advanced life support to sick or injured patients.
To learn more, visit: http://www.nremt.org/about/ems_learn.asp
- 9. What is the job market and pay scale across the nation for Paramedics?**
The job forecast for paramedics for the next 10 years shows a national shortage of paramedics across the country. This will mean more jobs and higher pay. To see where current openings are, visit: <http://www.jems.com/careerpath/> to see a salary survey, visit: http://www.jems.com/jems/pdf/salary_survey02.pdf
- 10. Where do I have to do my internship?**
Internships are based on student competencies and are conducted in metropolitan areas with high call volumes. This allows students to experience many types of calls in an adequate time frame during the third semester. Current internships are offered in the Las Vegas area at the following links:
Southwest Ambulance Las Vegas <http://www.swalv.com/>
AMR Las Vegas <http://www.amr-inc.com>
Acadian Ambulance <http://www.acadian.com>
- 11. Do I need health insurance while enrolled in the program?**
Yes. Students are exposed to many illnesses and dangers and personal health insurance is a requirement. Several plans are available for purchase on your own or by inquiring at the Health Science and Human Services office.
- 12. What are the physical and mental requirements of a paramedic?**
The physical requirements are set forth by the US Department of Transportation. To view them visit: <http://www.csi.edu/ip/nursing/paramedic/qualifications.html>
- 13. What are the pre-requisites for the program?**
Besides being an EMT-B or higher, every new student must show competence in Math, English, and Anatomy and Physiology. Competence can be showed by scoring high enough on a COMPASS or CLEP test for Math and English (above Math 123 and English 101). The Anatomy and Physiology requirement is met by completing BIO 127 or BIO 227 AND Bio 228. All courses must be completed with at least a “C” grade.

14. Can I work full time while in the program?

Because of the demanding nature of the program, students are strongly discouraged from working fulltime. Few students have successfully completed the program while working fulltime. Many students do however, work part time.

15. What is the cost of the program?

The estimated cost of the program is approximately \$4,000.00. Depending on various factors, it may be substantially less. Because the tuition cost at CSI is the same for 20 credits as it is for 10, the cost is substantially less than other public and private programs.

16. Do paramedic students qualify for financial aid and scholarships?

Absolutely.

For financial aid information, visit: <http://www.csi.edu/level3.asp?id=7&level=3>

For scholarship information, visit: <http://www.csi.edu/level3.asp?id=6&level=3>

17. What are the differences between the Technical Certificate (TC) and the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree?

The TC is the paramedic curriculum with the minimum pre-requisites. The AAS includes all of the TC courses, plus a full year of A&P and additional courses in Bioethics, Pharmacology, and Medical Terminology. The state of Oregon requires all new paramedics who practice in the state have an Associate Degree. Many ambulance services and fire departments are beginning to award salary bonuses to employees with degrees.

18. If I complete a TC, can I complete my AAS at a later date?

Yes. Once the remaining AAS courses are completed a student can be awarded the AAS degree.

19. Upon graduation, will I qualify to work in any state?

CSI graduates qualify to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician paramedic exam. Successfully completing the Registry certification enables individuals to apply for certification in most states. (Occasionally states require individuals to take an additional state-specific test). For a complete list of state certification requirements, visit:

http://www.nremt.org/EMTServices/emt_cand_state_offices.asp

20. How have CSI paramedics performed on the National Registry exam?

Since the program's beginning, 100% of all graduates have passed the difficult National Registry exam. Over 90% of graduates have passed the exam on the first attempt, which is 26% higher than the national average and the best paramedic exam performance in the state of Idaho.

21. What certifications do I earn while I am in the CSI paramedic program?

Students complete the American Heart Association's Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) courses <http://www.americanheart.org> and the NAEMT Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) course <http://www.phtls.org>. All of these courses insure graduates have the latest knowledge and enhance employability.

22. Where are CSI graduates currently employed?

Graduates of the program are employed in Idaho, Oregon, Louisiana, and Nevada; working in Fire Rescue, Ambulance, Emergency Department, and Home Healthcare settings.

23. Upon graduation, will CSI assist me in securing employment?

Yes. The Center for New Directions offers assistance in resume preparation, interviewing skills, and placement assistance. To learn more, view: <http://www.csi.edu/level3.asp?id=49&level=2#Services>

24. How do I begin my path of study?

The first step is to apply to CSI. For more information, click on <http://www.csi.edu/level2.asp?id=2>

25. How do I apply to the paramedic program?

Call (208) 732-6701 to request an application or click on the program application link <http://www.csi.edu/ip/nursing/paramedic/PDF/paramedicapplication.pdf> to download an application today.

25. What can I do if I get tired of being a field paramedic?

Because the CSI paramedic program is college-based, the courses are all worth college credit. Many of these credits apply toward many other paths of study. Many former paramedics have gone on to study medicine, nursing, physician assistant studies, and law. Field paramedics also often move into professional positions as managers, educators, and non-traditional paramedic roles in occupational and/or industrial medicine, critical care settings, flight medicine, and emergency department settings.

26. More questions?

Contact Gordon Kokx, CSI Paramedic Program Manager by email gkokx@csi.edu or by calling (208) 732-6710.