

BMCC Paramedic Program FAQ's

Besides tuition, are there extra costs associated with the program?

Yes, costs listed below are approximate and subject to change:

- Textbooks will cost between 700-800 dollars.
- You will be required to purchase a good quality stethoscope, which can run between 40 and 100 dollars.
- You will need a white, short lab coat, approximately 20-50 dollars
- You will need BMCC paramedic uniform shirts, approximately 20 dollars each, plus navy blue uniform pants, 30-50 dollars, and black work oxfords or boots which can run as low as 30 or as high 100 dollars or more
- You will need a medical clearance exam, including lab tests, and are responsible for all costs associated with the exam
- There are transportation costs when travelling to clinical rotation sites
- You must purchase access to the FISDAP clinical tracking and testing system, approximately 180 dollars.
- There are occasionally other costs which will be announced in class

Does financial aid cover these costs?

Textbooks are generally covered by financial aid, but you should check with the financial aid office to obtain specific answers

What if I can't afford these items? Can any of the above be waived?

No, these requirements can't be waived

When must I purchase these items?

All of the above are required in the first semester. Deadlines for the above will be outlined the first night of class.

Do I need a computer?

You must have access to a computer to do homework assignments, quizzes, and research, as well as use the FISDAP program. In addition, you must maintain an active email account and must have access to BMCC computer log in credentials to take exams.

Can I work full time and complete the program?

That entirely depends on you. You have great flexibility in scheduling clinical rotations, but not all rotations are available at all times. In addition, no waiver of absence/lateness policies or clinical rotation requirements is granted for work, child care, or other personal situations. Only you can decide whether this is the right time for you to take this program, which is very demanding and will place many demands on your time.

Is there homework?

Yes. You are required to complete reading assignments which can contain highly technical and scientific material. You will be assigned quizzes to complete based on reading assignments, and will also be assigned other homework from time to time.

I'm doing well academically but didn't complete my rotations. Does that mean I am dropped from the program?

In short, yes. The program requires that you successfully complete **ALL** academic, skills, and clinical requirements. The clinical and academic policies will be discussed the first night of class.

I'm passing all requirements but have been absent more than the allowable time. Does that matter?

Yes. If you exceed the limit of absences or lateness, you will be dropped from the program.

My EMT card expires before the class ends. Do you include a refresher in the paramedic class?

No. You must attend a refresher and maintain your EMT certification throughout the program. If your certification lapses, you cannot remain in the paramedic program.

It's difficult for me to get to some of the rotations by public transportation. Can I just do the time at my local hospital or ambulance corps?

No. Rotations can only be completed at sites affiliated with the program.

I took Anatomy and Physiology, Medical Math and the EMT class as required. Do you review all of this material in the class?

Yes and no. It is expected that you have already mastered previous material, so we spend a brief time reviewing and highlighting these subjects as they come up, but we cannot and do not teach these subjects all over again. There simply isn't enough time to do that. We assume you are prepared in these foundation areas and expect you to perform as if you are.

I have no (or very little) EMS experience. Can I still take the class?

Yes, but you will be required to complete additional EMT level rotations as part of your clinical requirements. Experience has shown that those with no EMS experience have a more difficult time with the material.

Am I required to pass certain tests in order to stay in the program?

Yes. You must maintain a 75 average to pass. In addition, you must pass CPR, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and Pediatric Advanced Life Support exams. These and other requirements will be discussed in detail the first night of class.

Can any portion of the class be completed via distance learning?

No. However, there are quizzes that are completed online as well as supplementary material available via computer.

I don't have a driver's license. Can I still take the course and the NYS test?

Yes. However, almost all EMS employers will require you to have a driver's license. BMCC does not currently provide any kind of driver training.

I have worked for years as an EMT or other healthcare provider. Will that experience count as experiential learning?

No, experiential learning does not count towards your requirements to successfully complete the paramedic program.

I have a disability. Can I still take the course?

Yes. However, you must be able to complete all skills and clinical requirements in a manner consistent with the expectations of the job. No accommodation can be given for skills or clinical requirements.

I object to taking vaccines. Am I required to do so?

No one will force you to take vaccines. However, our clinical sites (hospitals and ambulances) have certain requirements for employees and students that include vaccination status. They reserve the right to refuse participation to any student who does not meet their requirements or the requirements of NYS DOH. As such, if you do not meet the requirements, you will not be able to complete clinical rotations.

I have a past history of conviction(s). Can I still take the class?

Yes. However, your individual case will have to be investigated by the NYS DOH who will determine if your conviction bars you from taking the NYS exam and being certified as a paramedic. Neither the school nor the faculty are involved in the investigation. The NYS policy follows in this manual, or you can consult www.health.ny.gov, going to the “EMS/EMT” tab, and the clicking the “certification” tab.

Do you provide child care? In an emergency, can I bring my child to class?

No and no. No children of any age are permitted in class for any reason. Child/family care issues are the sole responsibility of the student.

I have transportation issues. Can I leave class early or come later if I make up the work?

No.

I have a vacation scheduled in advance. Is this ok?

As long as you can still meet attendance, academic, skills, and clinical requirements, you are free to spend your time as you choose. However, no special consideration will be given to anyone for such matters nor will any requirement be waived. You have to make the choice as to what’s important to you.

I missed an exam. Can I take a makeup?

The only exam for which a makeup is given is the comprehensive course final in the summer. Missing an exam results in a zero on that exam. Specific requirements are discussed the first night of class.

My native language is not English. Can I still take the class?

Yes. However, fluency in English is required in both written and verbal communication in class, on exams, for reading assignments, and during clinical rotations.

My religious tenets preclude me from wearing a uniform or require that I wear certain items of clothing. Will that present a problem?

Class and clinical rotations require a specific uniform. You should discuss the particular issue with the instructor prior to class to see if there is a conflict. In some cases there are no bars to an accommodation, but general uniform requirements are usually not waived, especially where safety issues are involved.

I can’t attend class or rotations on certain days/hours because of religious observances. How will this affect me?

You can schedule rotations to accommodate your needs. We follow the school/CUNY calendar for religious/cultural holidays. Any other time off is permissible as long as the maximum number of absences are not exceeded.

I was absent because I was sick. Is that an “excused” absence?

You are allowed a certain number of absences as outlined in our policies. We do not judge the reasons, so as such, there are no “excused” absences. Catastrophic situations will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

It seems that you have many requirements. I haven’t encountered these in my other classes. Why is that?

The paramedic program is an intense, highly technical program that compresses a significant amount of material into a relatively short time. We are not like other programs because we are preparing you to function in a capacity in which the lives and safety of others will be in your hands. Our expectations are high, and yours should be too, because your fellow students may be the ones who are taking care of your friends and family and neighbors.

Furthermore, we must meet the requirements of the NYS Department of Health, the Regional EMS Council of NYC (REMSCO), the Regional Medical Advisory Committee of NYC (REMAC), and the Committee on Accreditation of EMS Programs (CoAEMSP). Only by upholding these standards can we assure that our graduates will provide the best pre-hospital medical care.