

Frequently Asked Questions

About the Northwest College Paramedic Program

1. **Are you accredited?**

Technically not. We have received the “Letter of Review” from the Committee on Accreditation of EMS Programs. This is a two-year preliminary accreditation process that allows us to educate students and for them to test with the National Registry. After our first cohort graduates in May 2022, CoAEMSP will be conducting a site visit and determining whether to recommend us for full accreditation with CAAHEP. Our program has been recognized as having the tools necessary to produce education at the equivalent of an accreditation program, essentially, but without the data to support it with a graduated cohort.

2. **What does the schedule look like?**

For your first year Paramedic core classes: you will meet every Wednesday from 8a to 5p. Occasionally, there will be some adjustments to the weekly schedule to accommodate special required trainings (such as wilderness training, ACLS, PALS, etc.) for which you will be notified on the first day of class and can plan accordingly. Second year students will be meeting every Tuesday from 8a to 5p. Your fourth semester with us will be the capstone in which the student schedules their own clinicals to achieve 20 team leads. The time this takes is variable depending on the student.

3. **What do clinicals look like?**

Clinicals for the program are spread out through the four semesters. During the first three semesters, the majority of this is experiential culminating to approximately 75 hours of self-scheduled time. We have a schedule posted online where students can go and pick out shifts that work for them. With COVID, the ability to extend timelines for clinicals will be considered. We may save clinical time for the Summer when you do not have classes.

4. **Do I have to come to class?**

Ideally, having students in their seats in the classroom is the best way to ensure everyone is on the same page with knowledge. Our classes have been highly interactive in the past and missing these components can be a detriment to your learning.

5. **Where can I do clinicals?**

We have agreements in place with Cody, Powell, Casper, Gillette, Riverton, and Cheyenne to accomplish your required clinicals.

6. **How do you teach?**

I (Whitney) believe in the flipped classroom approach to learning and have been trained in that as a National EMS Instructor. I expect you to read and do your homework previous to class beginning, then come to class prepared to cement these ideas and questions you may have be answered.

7. **Where is the class located?**

We will be holding Paramedic core classes out of the Cody Center.

8. **Why do you require students complete a degree?**

All major EMS licensure authorities, including NAEMT, NAEMSE, and NREMT, have voiced their support for degree requirements of all paramedics by 2025. That means if you want to practice as a Paramedic by then, you must have an associate’s degree. This is in a format similar to nurses and is an effort to push the Paramedic role into a more respected profession with higher

wages. Most of the classes you will take alongside your Paramedic core classes are required to be a paramedic anyway and are often a pre-requisite to being accepted into the program – Math, A&P 1&2. I will work with you to design your schedule once you are accepted.

9. **Can I earn a Bachelor's degree in this program?**

Yes. NWC now offers a Bachelor's of Applied Sciences Degree. We can complement your Paramedic course requirements with the requirements for the BAS program. This would be especially beneficial to those who hope to take a supervisory role in the future or transition to a more advanced healthcare provider role.