



Paramedic Education Program Applicant Preparation Guide

This guide has been assembled to allow applicants an insight into what can be expected during the entrance selection process. We appreciate your interest in wanting to further develop your level of service to the communities where we live, work and play.

Attending a paramedic education program is a major decision and should be discussed with spouses, significant others, and family members in order to build support and understanding. Each applicant should contemplate about the level of commitment that will be required to be successful. We encourage applicants to talk with others that have gone through the process. We understand the sacrifice involved to those applicants and their families who are accepted into this paramedic program. Let us reassure you, these sacrifices are worth the overwhelming benefits to you, your families, and your professional development.

There are two specific areas of evaluation:

Three Evaluated Areas

- Application Packet

Did the Applicant submit a complete and thorough Application Packet and did they thoroughly answer the essay questions included in the application form. Did the Applicant clearly follow direction and appropriately complete the entire packet.

- Written Entrance Exam

Pass/Fail – Mandatory Minimum Score 75% in order to move on to oral panel interview process

- Oral Panel Interview

Written exam score will be averaged into the total points available in the oral panel interview process. Applicants will be averaged and ranked according to lowest to highest cumulative score.

For the written entrance examination, applicants should study available EMT-Basic textbooks derived from the most current version of the DOT 2011vNational Standard Curriculum. The exam will be generated utilizing the current EMT textbook used in EMT courses here at MCC. In order to best prepare you should review the following reference books:

Brady: Emergency Care 13th Edition, by Limmer/O'keefe
ISBN-13: 978-0-13-402455-4

****YOU MAY ALSO REFERENCE ANY NEWEST EDITION OF EMT-BASIC LEVEL TEXTBOOK CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, YOU SHOULD PAY CLOSE ATTENTION AND MAKE SURE THE TEXT YOU ARE REFERENCING IS COMPLIANT WITH THE NEWEST EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

American Heart Association AHA: BLS for Healthcare Providers (2015 Guidelines)
BLS for Healthcare Providers Student Manual

The written examination will consist of 150 multiple-choice questions assessing EMT-Basic knowledge, 2015 ECC / AHA CPR guidelines for resuscitation.

Each candidate will have only **one attempt** to successfully complete the written exam with a minimum score of 75%. Following the written entrance exam; successful applicants will be allowed to proceed through the subsequent oral panel interview process.

***Doors will be locked promptly at the beginning of the exam,
please be sure to arrive early.
Late applicants will not be admitted!***

Written exam key areas to focus studies

- a. Complete the objectives at the beginning of all EMT-Basic text chapters and chapter review questions
- b. CPR 2015 ECC / AHA Resuscitation Guidelines including FBAO situations

Those applicants successfully passing the written exam will be invited to participate in an “Oral Panel Interview” process conducted by a three to four member panel. **You should come dressed to impress, business professional attire is the minimum standard. DO NOT show up in casual attire, this is an interview process and you should represent yourself accordingly.**

Listed on the following pages are some sample questions and a copy of the oral panel interviewers grading sheet. This clearly depicts how you will be graded on your answers and the parameters that we will be focusing on during the oral panel interview.

Prepare and practice for all parts of the testing process, as this will increase your chance for success in the paramedic program. Work hard and stay calm, we all want you to do well through the process.

SAMPLE ORAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

	<p>Warm-up Questions:</p> <p>What is special about <u>YOU</u> as a candidate for this program?</p>
	<p>Education and Work History:</p> <p><i>Provide a brief Resume or CV and sell yourself to the oral panel members.</i></p>
	<p>Personal Effectiveness:</p> <p>Everyone has strengths and weaknesses as workers and students. What are your strong points for this program? What would you say are your areas that need improvement?</p>
	<p>Capability:</p> <p>How do you know you want to be a paramedic? If you "want to help people," why not social work? Law? Teaching? Why did you choose EMS?</p>
	<p>Compatibility/Team Work:</p> <p>If your work environment consisted for a 4-person crew and you felt you were doing half of the work, how would you handle the situation?</p>
	<p>Motivation/Initiative:</p> <p>What new skills or capabilities have you developed in the past year?</p>
	<p>Dedication/Determination:</p> <p>How do you feel about the effect of the training program on your daily life?</p>
	<p>Leadership:</p> <p>What have you changed or implemented in your present position?</p>
	<p>Conclusion of Interview:</p> <p>Do you have anything you would like to add on your behalf or any questions you would like to ask before we conclude the interview?</p>

SAMPLE SCENARIO BASED QUESTIONS

- When answering these types of questions, you will be expected to answer them at an EMT level. However, you should have the ability to articulate your answers based upon clear, concise critical thinking ability and project at a higher level of care.
 - Be thorough in your answers and make sure you are looking at the “big picture”.
 - Listen carefully to the questions, as they have multiple parts. Insure that you truly answer all parts of the question.
1. You are called to the home of a 68-year-old man who is lying on the couch. He is having trouble explaining why he called you. His speech is slurred and he can't seem to find the right words to use. You note he is drooling slightly and is unable to sit up without help. How will you manage this patient?
 2. An elderly woman has called you to her home to treat her husband. You find the husband sitting in a chair in the bedroom next to an oxygen tank. The patient is breathing home oxygen by nasal cannula at 2 L/min. The patient is in obvious distress, laboring to breathe. His wife doesn't remember the name of his illness but says he has breathing problems. The patient's pulse is 90, respirations 36 and labored, BP 140/90. How will you manage this patient?
 3. You are called to the scene of a motor vehicle accident. The driver is conscious and alert, and complaining of chest pain when he inhales. His respirations are rapid and shallow and he is clutching the right side of his chest. How will you manage this patient?
 4. You are called to the scene of a gang fight. A young man has been stabbed in the upper right chest with a knife. When you arrive, the knife has been removed. The patient is pale and having difficulty breathing. Respirations 48, pulse 128, BP 70/40, SaO2 82%. How will you manage this patient?

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 Paramedic Education Program
 Oral Interview Rater Evaluation Form

Applicant Name: _____ Date : _____

Panel Interviewer: _____

RATING SUBJECT AREA	POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS AWARDED
Written Examination Score: _____	90-100 = 3 points 80-89 = 2 points 75-79 = 1 point	_____
Completion of Foundational Block #1	>3.5 cum GPA Block #1 and >85% on Terminal Competency Examination = 3 Additional Preference Points	_____
Experience	3 years or more = 3 points 2 years = 2 points 1 year = 1 point < 1 year / none = 0 points	_____
Personal Effectiveness	Above Average = 3 points Average = 2 points Fair = 1 point Poor = 0 points	_____
Capability	Above Average = 3 points Average = 2 points Fair = 1 point Poor = 0 points	_____
Compatibility	Above Average = 3 points Average = 2 points Fair = 1 point Poor = 0 points	_____
Motivation Initiative	Above Average = 3 points Average = 2 points Fair = 1 point Poor = 0 points	_____
Dedication Determination	Above Average = 3 points Average = 2 points Fair = 1 point Poor = 0 points	_____

