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Paramedic Education

The Center for Emergency Medicine has been offering Paramedic education for over 30 years. During that time, our program has undergone changes from curriculum to faculty. One constant has remained the ability to educate competent entry-level paramedics who are able to meet the needs of the ever changing field of prehospital care.

In 2006, The Center for Emergency Medicine and the University of Pittsburgh formed a consortium to offer Paramedic education. The consortium is the operating council for Paramedic Education at the Center for Emergency Medicine and oversees all aspects of the program.

The faculty of the Center for Emergency Medicine consists of experienced educators, prehospital providers, registered nurses, and emergency physicians. We have developed the Center's Paramedic education program to equip students with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to develop as medical professionals. Throughout the program, students receive instruction in the art and science of emergency medicine through lecture, lab, and clinical education in hospital and field settings. The curriculum involves students in these components of education concurrently. This enables paramedic students to master theory and practical application quickly.

The Center's Paramedic Education program is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to provide high quality emergency medical care. Paramedic Education at the Center has received national recognition for its innovative, comprehensive, and well-rounded approach to the education of professionals in out-of-hospital medicine. The Center for Emergency Medicine's Paramedic Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs and by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Health.

DIPLOMA IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

The Center for Emergency Medicine offers a paramedic diploma program designed to prepare paramedics for entry-level positions in urban, suburban, and rural Emergency Medical Services throughout the country. The diploma program is offered in a part-time format. This program requires the student to complete clinical and field rotations on non-class days.

The Center for Emergency Medicine was the first facility in the country to use the 1998 Paramedic: National Standard Curriculum. This is the most comprehensive curricula in the history of EMS and was developed by the Center for Emergency Medicine to prepare advanced level providers for the new millennium. In 2012 the Center adopted the National Education Standards for EMS Education. The Center's course of study meets or exceeds all of the minimum national and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania training requirements. Upon graduation from the program, the students will be eligible to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Paramedic Examination.

DIDACTIC AND PRACTICAL EDUCATION

The course of instruction consists of four phases of education: didactic, laboratory, clinical/field and summative field internship. The Center's program consists of 480 hours of didactic and lab education and 544 hours of clinical and field education. The didactic material provides the foundation for understanding the purpose and objectives of clinical treatments. We believe that this is the distinction between the professional and the technician. This philosophy provides the rationale for the development of a comprehensive classroom curriculum.

Laboratory training provides a safe and effective opportunity for students to develop psychomotor skills and apply concepts to clinical decision-making. The Center maintains an extensive array of training manikins, models and equipment specifically for practice of the psychomotor skills of patient care. The Center also takes advantage of the latest technology for educational purposes. We maintain a state-of-the-art computer laboratory with the latest educational software and Internet access.

FACILITIES

The Center for Emergency Medicine has specially designed classroom facilities for the Paramedic Program. The classroom space was built to permit maximum educational flexibility and versatility. Eight rooms are available for lectures, practical exercises, skills practice, and scenario training. These 'breakout rooms' are furnished with the most advanced medical equipment available. With these resources readily accessible, the student receives both didactic instruction and considerable hands-on practice.

The Center also has a student computer lab and an extensive array of computer-aided instructional programs.

PARAMEDIC PROGRAM

In an effort to meet the needs of the diverse population of EMS providers, the Center reestablished a less than full time paramedic program in 2007. This program allows the student to complete their education over 44 weeks. This is an intensive hands-on program that requires a significant commitment from the student. The program meets at UPMC St. Margaret for the didactic classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6pm – 10pm. Students report to the Oakland campus for practical skills development on Wednesday evenings. **Students will also meet one Saturday (8am – 5pm) per month for 8 hours: typically 4 hours of didactic classes and 4 hours of practical skills development. Students will also meet one Friday (8am – 5pm) a month for 8 hours in September through December.** Students are expected to complete clinical and field rotations on non-class days.

TYPICAL PLAN OF STUDIES

BLOCK 1 – DIDACTIC

Foundations of Emergency Care (4 clock hours per week)
Pathophysiology (4 clock hours per week)

BLOCK 1& 2 – PRACTICAL

Medicine Administration (2 clock hours per week)
Physical Exam Lab (2 clock hours per week)

BLOCK 2 – DIDACTIC

Intro to Physical Assessment (4 clock hours per week)
Cardiology and Respiratory(4 clock hours per week)

BLOCK 3 – DIDACTIC

Pharmacology (4 clock hours per week)
Adult Medical Emergencies (4 clock hours per week)

BLOCK 3 & 4 – PRACTICAL

Cardiology Lab (2 clock hours per week)
Assessment Based Management (2 clock hours per week)

BLOCK 4 – DIDACTIC

OB/GYN, Newborn, and Pediatric Care (4 clock hours per week)
EMS Operations (4 clock hours per week)

*Schedule subject to change

SPECIALTY CERTIFICATIONS

As part of the curriculum design, the didactic and practical experiences allow the students to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to obtain certification/successful course completion in the following specialty courses:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- International Trauma Life Support (ITLS)
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
- Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS)

CLINICAL EDUCATION

Clinical and field training provide an opportunity to develop and apply clinical knowledge and skills to the actual treatment of emergency patients. Students are required to average 16 clinical and field hours per week. As students are instructed in the theoretical practice of emergency medicine, they participate in various supervised clinical experiences. These experiences are designed to refine the skills involved in patient care. During clinical and field training, students have an opportunity to rotate through some of the nation's most respected emergency medical services and health care facilities. While in training, each student completes in-hospital clinical experience in the following areas:

- Emergency Department
- Critical Care (Coronary Care Unit, Trauma ICU, SICU, Cardiac Cath Lab, etc.)
- Burn Care
- Anesthesia Department
- Psychiatric Emergency Department
- Intravenous Team
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics/Gynecology (Labor Suite, Delivery Room, Newborn Nursery, etc.)
- Trauma Team
- Respiratory Care
- Communications Center

FIELD ROTATIONS

At the successful completion of the didactic and clinical courses, students are required to complete a 120 hour Summative Field Evaluation. This summative evaluation provides students the opportunity to serve as a team leader and to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in the role of an entry level paramedic.

As part of the program, students complete field clinical course work with a number of excellent emergency medical services agencies in the metropolitan Pittsburgh area including the City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Safety, Bureau of EMS, and STAT MedEvac. The field and clinical training enables students to apply their knowledge and clinical skills in the out-of-hospital environment. Each student is assigned an experienced paramedic who will serve as a preceptor and mentor during each term.

ACCREDITATION

The University of Pittsburgh, including its School of Medicine, is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. In addition, the School of Medicine is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education of the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association and by the Executive Council of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

University of Pittsburgh
Emergency Medicine Program
Walt Alan Stoy, PhD, Program Director
230 McKee Place, Suite 500
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

The Center for Emergency Medicine is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP).

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
1361 Park Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
727-210-2350
www.caahep.org

To contact CoAEMSP:
8301 Lakeview Parkway Suite 111-312
Rowlett, TX 75088
214-703-8445
FAX 214-703-8992
www.coaemsp.org

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

The Center for Emergency Medicine and the University of Pittsburgh School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences offers a Bachelor of Science Degree in Emergency Medicine. This program is designed to prepare leaders for emergency medical services throughout the country. Students who complete any of the Center for Emergency Medicine's diploma programs can apply their education toward a bachelor's degree at any time in the future. Students interested in pursuing their paramedic certification as part of a bachelor's degree are encouraged to contact the University of Pittsburgh at 412-647-4547 or <http://www.shrs.pitt.edu/EM/> for more information.

FACULTY

Walt Alan Stoy, PhD, EMT-P, CCEMT-P, Program Administrative Director

Walt Alan Stoy, PhD, EMT-P, CCEMT-P is Professor and Director of Emergency Medicine at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh and the Director of Educational and International Emergency Medicine at the Center for Emergency Medicine. Dr. Stoy has a proven track record for national project design, development, implementation and evaluation. Dr. Stoy has served as the Project Director of the 1998 EMT- Intermediate & Paramedic: National Standard Curricula Revision Project. He was the Principal Investigator for National Guidelines for the First Aid Training Curriculum. He has served as Principal Investigator to the 1994 EMT- Basic: National Standard Curriculum and Project Director to the 1995 First Responder: National Standard Curriculum. His revision to and adoption by the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of these curricula are internationally recognized.

Dr. Stoy is internationally renowned for his efforts in EMS and is recognized by his peers and colleagues as a groundbreaker and national leader in the field of EMS education. He has shared his views of EMS education in all areas of EMS to the National Association of State EMS Directors, the National Association of EMTs, the National Association of EMS Physicians, the National Association of EMS Educators, and the National Council of State EMS Training Coordinators. He has over 25 years of experience in EMS. He was awarded his Doctorate of Philosophy in Education from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Education in instruction and learning with a concentration in instructional design technology. Dr. Stoy served as the founding President of the National Association of EMS Educators.

Owen T. Traynor, MD, Program Medical Director

Dr. Owen Traynor is a board certified emergency physician. He completed his medical training at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. He completed his emergency medicine residency training and an EMS Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to medical school, Dr. Traynor worked as a paramedic in New York City. In his role as Medical Director, Dr. Traynor oversees all aspects of the didactic paramedic education. Dr. Traynor is an attending physician and Instructor for the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. In addition to his clinical responsibilities and program responsibilities, Dr. Traynor also serves as an EMS Medical Director for several local EMS agencies.

Nicole M. Cecchini, BS, NRP, Program Director

As the Program Director, Mrs. Cecchini oversees all aspects of the Paramedic Education Program; she also coordinates labs and the EMS Operations class. She is also the Clinical Coordinator of the program and manages all aspects of the prehospital and hospital clinical education for the Paramedic Program. She is also an instructor for the program and has a faculty appointment with the University of Pittsburgh's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. In addition to her responsibilities at the Center, Mrs. Cecchini functions as a Paramedic for Mutual Aid Ambulance Service. Mrs. Cecchini has a bachelor's degree in Emergency Medicine from the University of Pittsburgh and has more than 10 years of experience in the Pre-Hospital setting.

Thomas E. Platt, EdD, NRP, Program Faculty

Thomas Platt, EdD, is a faculty member in the Emergency Medicine Program, University of Pittsburgh. He has more than 25 years of experience in EMS and has served as principal investigator for the Pennsylvania Department of Health Bystander Care Project and the U.S. Department of Transportation First Responder National Standard Curriculum Project. Dr. Platt completed his undergraduate degree in public administration at the University of Pittsburgh, a master's degree in adult education at Penn State and a doctoral degree in instructional design at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Education.

Dr. Platt has also served as project manager for international development projects. He has authored numerous ancillary products and texts for EMS education and has served as a paramedic for EMS agencies, as a flight paramedic for STAT MedEvac, and as a volunteer firefighter.

N. Alex Cutsumbis, BS, NRP, Medical Education Coordinator

As Coordinator of Medical Education, Mr. Cutsumbis teaches, coordinates and runs most of the medical education programs offered by the Center for Emergency Medicine. He is responsible for coordination of the ACLS, CPR, ITLS, AMLS and EVOC courses. He is a lead lecturer and lab instructor for EMT-Basic classes. Mr. Cutsumbis also manages and maintains all equipment used in practical lab sessions.

He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Medicine from the University of Pittsburgh and is a graduate of the Center for Emergency Medicine's paramedic program. Prior to entering EMS as a career Mr. Cutsumbis held various jobs in the IT field, this technology experience combined with EMS and education has provided a strong background in healthcare simulation.

Benjamin D. Ellis, BS, NRP, Clinical Education Coordinator

Prior to college, Mr. Ellis attended the EMT program at the CEM where he obtained my EMT-B. He worked as an EMT-B as he attended The University of Pittsburgh majoring in Emergency Medicine. During my schooling, he served as a student instructor of freshman seminar for science majors, and lead instructor for EMT-B Lab and CPR. He then obtained my Paramedic through the CEM Emergency Medicine program, followed by his Critical Care, and EMS Instructor certifications. As he finished my degree, he worked full time as a Paramedic while teaching EMT-B lab and functioning as primary author in IRB approved Pain Management Research. After graduating, he continued to work full time as a Paramedic and part-time as an instructor for the CEM until recently joining the CEM as Clinical Educator Coordinator and an EMT-B Lead Instructor. It is his responsibility to manage the continued education programs through the CEM, as well as the annual Tools & Talent Conference.

John Pierce, MBA, NRP, Associate Director of Office of Education

Mr. Pierce, MBA, NREMT-P serves as Instructor, Department of Emergency Medicine, School of Health and Rehabilitation Science at the University of Pittsburgh and Associate Director of the Office of Education at the Center for Emergency Medicine

John received his MBA in 2011 from the University of Phoenix having five years professional experience as an EMS manager and administrator in industry. John has been providing pre-hospital patient care continuously for 18 years, 13 of which at the Advanced Life Support level. He has served in various capacities as instructor and educator delivering AHA, ASHI, VFIS, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine ASLS and DOT EMS curriculums.

John is active as an advocate of EMS at the local, state and federal levels with a focus on leadership and management education and development. He most recently was a member of the Medical Advisory and Operations Committee of the Chester County EMS Council and attended NAEMT's EMS on the Hill Day as a Pennsylvania delegate.

S. Robert Seitz, MEd, RN, NRP, Program Faculty

Mr. Seitz is an Assistant Professor in Emergency Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Mr. Seitz received a bachelor's degree in emergency medicine from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's degree in adult education from the Pennsylvania State University. Mr. Seitz is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Rehabilitation Science from the University of Pittsburgh.

Sheila G. Roth, PhD, LCSW Program Counselor

Dr. Roth provides counseling and support services for students enrolled in the Center's Paramedic Program. Dr. Roth received her Master's in Social Work and her Doctorate in Administrative and Policy Studies.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

General requirements for students interested in applying for admission include completion of the entire application and completion of all pre-screening requirements. Any student failing to submit required pre-screening or clearance requirements within four weeks from the start of the program will be subject to dismissal from the program.

ADVANCED STANDING/TRANSFER CREDITS

It is the policy of the Center for Emergency Medicine to evaluate requests for academic and clinical credit on an individual basis and grant credit accordingly. Please see your advisor for the appropriate paperwork.

Credit by examination refers to credits earned by passing an examination administered by the Center, in the absence of registering for the course. A particular course cannot be taken by a student as credit by examination if that student has previously taken the same course. Students must apply for credit by examination and take the examination early in the term. If a student fails the credit by course examination, he/she will be required to register for the course. A particular credit by course examination may only be taken once.

COLLEGE CREDIT

College credit is available for all Center for Emergency Medicine EMS courses. Students interested in earning college credit should contact the University of Pittsburgh - Office of Admissions for admission requirements. They can be reached at 412.647.4547 and www.pitt.edu/admissions.

TUITION/FEES

Tuition for the full time program is based on residency. The cost of the entire nine month program is:

In Region Residents ¹	\$6,600
In State Residents	\$8,650
Out of State Residents	\$14,750

Uniforms, fee for CertifiedBackground.com, housing, books, transportation, food, health insurance, and parking during the course are the financial responsibility of the student. Residency is determined by the student's permanent address 6 months prior to the start of the program. Tuition for this class includes instruction, use of Center facilities, disposable training equipment, and other services/equipment provided by the Center.

Tuition is subject to change.

¹ The EMSI Region consists of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Paramedic Education Program at the Center for Emergency Medicine is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). This programmatic accreditation does not permit the Center for Emergency Medicine to participate in Title IV funding (no FAFSA).

The Center's Paramedic Program is eligible for Veterans Administration Educational Benefits. The Veterans Administration makes the final determination of eligibility for funding. Students are responsible for the entire tuition balance regardless of any financial aid received.

No other financial aid is available through the Center.

The Allegheny County EMS Council offers the Allen S. Schnattner, MD Memorial Scholarship for qualified students. Please see their website: <http://www.acemscouncil.org/schattner.htm>.

Scholarships are also available through BoundTree Medical for qualified students. Please see their website: <http://www.boundtree.com/training/scholarships/>.

HOUSING

The Center for Emergency Medicine is located in Oakland, PA, a neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh is a thriving commercial and residential area. Art museums, history centers, prestigious universities, grand architecture, quaint coffee shops, international cuisine, arcades, art cinemas, live entertainment, and two main thoroughfares all describe the hustle and bustle that is Oakland. In short, Oakland is the cultural, medical, educational, spiritual, and technological center of Pittsburgh, boasting many world-renowned institutions and attractions. Many Oakland residents are students at the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, or Carlow University, creating a diverse student/residential body that is comprised of individuals from at least 90 nations. Numerous off-campus apartments are located within close proximity to the Center for Emergency Medicine. Please contact us for more extensive housing information.

APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE CLASS OF 2018!

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 1, 2017.

Since admission to the Center for Emergency Medicine Paramedic Program is competitive, seats are limited. We highly suggest that you apply early. To be eligible for enrollment in the Center for Emergency Medicine's Paramedic Program, the applicant must be:

- 18 years of age or older
- A High School graduate (or equivalent)
- Currently certified as an EMT in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or a Nationally Registered EMT¹
- Capable of all duties and requirements as described on the *Functional Job Description of the Paramedic*²

To apply to the program, the candidate must submit a **completed** application. A completed application will include:

- Official High school and/or college transcripts. If applicants have earned more than an equivalent of 60 college credits, a high school transcript is not necessary.
- Two **sealed** letters of evaluation on the recommendation forms
- Copy of current EMT certification and CPR certification.¹

Students are admitted to the program based on their academic history, personal statement, two letters of evaluation, and a phone interview conducted by faculty from the Center after **all application material has been received**.

After you have been formally accepted by the Center, you will be contacted by mail as to your acceptance into the training program. If you are accepted, a \$300.00 deposit will be required to hold your seat in class. This deposit will be put toward your tuition and is non-refundable. **You are required to be certified as an EMT (Pennsylvania required) and have a physical exam (including blood work) completed to start the program.** If you are not accepted into the program, a letter of explanation will be sent. Most applicants will be given the opportunity to resubmit an application for acceptance into a future paramedic-training program.

Students with EMT certification from other states must apply for Pennsylvania certification. The reciprocity process typically takes 6-8 weeks to complete. Depending on the origin of the student's certification, it may be necessary for students to take a state-administered written and/or practical exam. **Out-of-state students should contact: Emergency Medical Services Institute (412) 242-7322 immediately upon being admitted to the Center.**

¹If you are currently in an EMT Program, you can still submit your application and write "pending" where the application asks for your EMT Certification number. Prehospital experience is strongly recommended but not required

²In accordance with the State of Pennsylvania EMS training guidelines, the student must possess the sensory acuity and the physical ability to perform all of the diagnostic, therapeutic, and communication functions of a paramedic. Please contact the Center for a *Functional Job Description of the Paramedic* and a detailed list of the sensory and physical requirements for the Paramedic program.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

APPLICATION DEADLINE is April 1, 2016.

International students are welcome in all Center for Emergency Medicine programs. If you are not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, you must complete a *Supplemental Application for International Students*, which includes a *Financial Support Statement*, for admission to the Center for Emergency Medicine. Your I-20 form will be processed accordingly. **THERE WILL BE A \$250.00 APPLICATION FEE FOR ALL I-20'S PROCESSED (\$200.00 APPLICATION FEE AND A \$50.00 ADMINISTRATIVE FEE).**

ACADEMIC CALENDAR – PARAMEDIC PROGRAM

PROGRAM CALENDAR

Orientation – August 29, 30, and 31, 2017 (tentative)

First Day of Class – September 5, 2017 (tentative)

Summative Field Evaluation – TBD

Comprehensive Final Weekend – TBD

State/National Testing – TBD

Recognition Day – TBD

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Center for Emergency Medicine, as a health care provider, educational institution, and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, the Center prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era.