



Advanced Placement Policy

The Century College Paramedic Program has a policy of advanced placement for firefighters, whereby it formally recognizes specific firefighter credentials. This recognition allows for the student to “place out” of the operations component of program. This results in some acceleration through the core program among students in the Paramedic Fire Science AAS track. This alternative pathway to completion qualifies the candidate to be eligible for the National Registry of EMT’s paramedic level examination.

This policy is in compliance with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) standard V.A.2. of the *Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in the Emergency Medical Services Professions*.

Eligibility

Paramedic student applicants who have completed Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, and Hazardous Materials Operations training are eligible for the Paramedic Fire Science AAS track of study.

No advanced placement is available for the non-paramedic fire track as students come in with such varying levels of credentials that consistency, an important element of academic success, would not be maintained. Advanced placement provides a uniform experience in the Paramedic Fire Science AAS as meeting the firefighter requirement is required for all students in that cohort.

Rationale

The combination of Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, and Hazardous Materials Operations has been evaluated and determined to meet and exceed the operational content of the paramedic curriculum. Thus, the Hazardous Materials Operations course is not required, although operations-type skills and proficiency will still be a heavy part of the scenario-based learning. Additionally, most fire departments train their firefighters as EMTs before firefighter training, due to the level of difficulty. For this reason, the majority of applicants to this program tend to be experienced EMTs, which allows for basic life support skills (BLS) to be woven into scenario-based learning rather than re-teaching those BLS psychomotor and cognitive components.

Conditions

1. The student must produce a current certification or license for Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, and Hazardous Materials Operations training.
2. The student must transfer in the credits or present their credentials to the transfer office for prior learning credit, if education was non-credit. The credits received and placed on transcript must be Firefighter 1 for two credits, Firefighter 2 for five credits, and Hazardous Materials Operations for three credits (10 credits total).
3. The student must produce evidence that Incident Command System (ICS) 100 and 200 were included in the course of study. This should be accomplished by presenting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) certificates of completion for ICS 100 and 200. ICS 100 and 200 need not appear on an official college transcript. Some fire programs require these certificates while others do not, so this must be completed to meet all competencies and objectives of the program.

Experiential Learning

At this time, students with medical training, including nursing and military medical training, are not given advanced placement in either track of the paramedic program.