

**Cecil  
College  
Academic  
Program  
Review**



**Emergency Medical  
Technology-Paramedic  
July 2014**

---

Program Review  
Associate of Applied Science  
Emergency Medical Technology-Paramedic  
Summer 2014





## Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Program Description.....	3
Program History.....	4
Relationship to the College’s Mission Statement and Strategic Plan.....	4
Faculty Profile.....	5
Program Curriculum.....	5
Program Educational Outcomes.....	6
Program Statistics.....	6
General Education Outcomes.....	7
Program Evaluation/Program Strengths and Weaknesses.....	8
Adequacy of Available Technology/Facilities.....	8
Articulation Agreements.....	8
Program Goals and Objectives.....	9
Recommendations.....	9
Appendices.....	11



### ***Executive Summary***

The Associate of Applied Science, Emergency Medical Technology, Paramedic degree has been in existence since 1995. The degree was designed to complement Cecil College's continuing education paramedic program, which is offered through a unique partnership between Cecil County Department of Emergency Services and Cecil College. Although the numbers have been small, the degree has provided an educational avenue for paramedic students to obtain an associate degree.

The degree was initially 62-63 credits with 34-35 credits of math, English, social sciences, science and elective coursework, and 28 credits awarded related to credential assessment (current, unencumbered paramedic certification). With the Career and College Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013, the credits associated with this degree were decreased to meet the state standard of 60 credits for an associate degree. The Associate of Applied Science, Emergency Medical Technology, Paramedic continues the Cecil College tradition of facilitating student growth, providing an educational avenue for stackable credentials, and supporting the development of a career ladder.

### ***Program Description***

Emergency Medical Technology, Paramedic, is a rapidly expanding profession involving the provision of immediate care to the critically ill and injured at the scene of an emergency, and the transport of these patients to a hospital. The entry-level workforce in Emergency Medical Technology (paramedic) program in Cecil County is offered through a unique partnership between Cecil County Department of Emergency Services and Cecil College, continuing education division, contains 1000 contact hours of theoretical and clinical instruction, resulting in eligibility to sit for the National Registry paramedic exam. The paramedic program, discipline specific component, is offered through continuing education, and is approved by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) and accredited by Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP) through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education (CAAHEP). Cecil County Department of Emergency Services receives a grant from MIEMSS each year for approximately \$22,000 related to paramedic education, which is the primary funding source for this program. This funding covers the cost of running the program related to faculty salaries and administrative costs. Students are responsible for purchasing textbooks, uniforms, background check and online skills tracking program. The grant was designed to enhance the delivery of emergency services to underserved regions. Since many of the continuing education program graduates volunteer in their communities and choose not to be employed as a paramedic, the community is being served by increased numbers of paramedics (volunteer) thus enhancing emergency services, as intended by the grant.

The Associate of Applied Science, Emergency Medical Technology, Paramedic, was designed for students who wish to continue their education and work towards an Associate of Applied Science degree. To be eligible for this degree option, students must have a current, unencumbered paramedic certification and therefore, may be able to receive credits for the EMT-Paramedic coursework through credential assessment.

### ***Program History***

The Associate of Applied Science, Emergency Medical Technology, Paramedic degree has been in existence since 1995. The degree was designed to complement Cecil College's continuing education paramedic program and to provide opportunities for academic progression as well as facilitation of a career ladder for individuals who have successfully completed a paramedic program and successfully passed the National Registry exam, both the written and practical components.

Although the numbers have been small, the degree has provided an academic avenue for paramedic students. The degree was initially 62-63 credits with 34-35 credits of math, English, social sciences, science and elective coursework and 28 credits of credential assessment. With the Career and College Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013, the credits associated with the degree were decreased to meet the state standard of 60 credits for an associate degree. Based on input from paramedic educators and other stakeholders this revision was accomplished by eliminating sociology, computer concepts, and the 2 credits of activity credit, while adding General Biology, the associated lab, and one credit of 'free' elective (see program curriculum).

### **Relationship to the College's Mission Statement and Strategic Plan**

#### ***Cecil College Mission Statement***

"Cecil College is a comprehensive, open-admission, learner-centered institution. The College provides career, transfer, and continuing education coursework and programs that anticipate and meet the dynamic intellectual, cultural and economic development challenges of Cecil County and the surrounding region. Through support services and a technologically enriched learning environment, the College strives to empower each learner with skills, knowledge, and values needed for college preparation, transfer to four-year institutions, workforce entry or advancement, and personal enrichment. Further, Cecil College promotes an appreciation of cultural diversity, social responsibility, and academic excellence." *CC Strategic Plan 2010-15*

#### ***Cecil College Strategic Plan***

The Strategic Plan focuses on four strategic initiatives:

1. Emphasis on student completion
2. Increasing opportunities for Bachelors and Higher Degree Programs in Cecil County
3. Creating workforce opportunities related to federal government expansion, and
4. Becoming a regional leader in incorporating innovative technology

Cecil College's Associate of Applied Science, Emergency Medical Technology-Paramedic degree is in direct alignment with the college's strategic plan by providing an avenue for college preparation, transfer to a four-year institution, workforce advancement and/or personal enrichment. As stated earlier, the degree was designed to provide an avenue for degree attainment for the individual who possess skills, knowledge and expertise as a paramedic, but does not hold a degree.

### ***Faculty Profiles***

The courses in the Associate of Applied Science, Emergency Medical Technology-Paramedic are taught by Cecil College adjunct and full-time faculty in the math, English, Science and Social Sciences departments. Please see associated program reviews for these faculty profiles.

The paramedic discipline coursework is taught by experience and qualified paramedic faculty who are experienced paramedics and meet the criteria established by MIEMSS and CoAESMP.

### ***Program Curriculum***

#### ***Associate of Applied Science, Emergency Medical Technology, Paramedic***

	<b><i>General Education and Program Requirements</i></b>	<b><i>Credits</i></b>
BIO 101 or 130	General Biology or Principles of Biology	3
BIO 111 or BIO 131	General Biology Lab or Principles of Biology Lab	1
BIO 208	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	3
BIO 209	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	3
BIO 218	Human Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	1
BIO 219	Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab	1
EGL 101	Freshman Composition	3
EGL 211	Technical Writing	3
MAT 127	Introduction to Statistics	4
PSY 101	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSY 201	Human Growth and Development	3
SPH 121	Interpersonal Communications	3
ELECT	Elective	1
		(32)
	<b><i>Required Occupational courses offered by Cecil County Department of Emergency Services</i></b>	
EMT	EMT – Paramedic – Preparatory Knowledge	5
EMT	EMT – Paramedic – Patient Assessment	3
EMT	EMT – Paramedic – Traumatic Emergencies	5
EMT	EMT – Paramedic – Medical Emergencies	5
EMT	EMT – Paramedic – Special Considerations	4
EMT	EMT – Paramedic – Operations	3
EMT	EMT – Paramedic – Clinical/Field Requirements	3
		(28)

Total Credits Required in Program: 60

A key component of the Associate of Applied Science, Emergency Medical Technology-Paramedic is the credential assessment/portfolio review. Enrolled students are encouraged to submit any documentation to the Dean of Nursing and Health Professions for credential assessment/portfolio review (Appendix A). Verification of credentials and/or portfolio is conducted by the Dean, in consultation with the college registrar and the paramedic program director.



### ***Educational Outcomes***

Students who are enrolled in this degree program are already practicing in their healthcare field as paramedics. The degree is designed to provide students with stackable credentials and/or career ladder opportunities. Educational outcomes for the Associate of Applied Science, Emergency Medical Technology-Paramedic correspond to the educational outcomes in the math, English, Social Sciences and Science programs. Please see the program reviews of those disciplines.

Outcomes associated with the field of specialty in health care have already met by verification of attainment of national certification or portfolio review for each student applying for this degree (see Appendix A).

### ***Statistical Data Associate of Applied Science, Emergency Medical Technology, Paramedic Student Demographics***

**Table 1: Gender**

	<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>Female Student</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>Male Students</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
FY 2009/2010	19	12	63%	7	37%
FY 2010/2011	12	6	50%	6	50%
FY 2011/2012	11	6	55%	5	45%
FY2012/2013	15	7	47%	8	53%
FY2013/2014	14	7	50%	7	50%

**Table 2: Ethnicity**

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Ethnicity</b>														
	<b>Total Enroll</b>	<b>African-American</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>American Indian</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Two or more races</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>%</b>
FY 2009/2010	19	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	19	100%	0	0%	0	0%
FY 2010/2011	12	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	12	100%	0	0%	0	0%
FY 2011/2012	11	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	9%	10	91%	0	0%	0	0%
FY2012/2013	15	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	20%	12	80%	0	0%	0	0%
FY2013/2014	14	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	21%	11	79%	0	0%	0	0%

**Table 3: Age**

Academic Year	Age										
	Total Enrollment	Less Than 25	% of Total	26-30	% of Total	31-40	% of Total	41-50	% of Total	51 and over	% of Total
FY 2009/2010	19	8	42%	1	5%	5	26%	4	21%	1	5%
FY 2010/2011	12	4	33%	1	8%	5	42%	2	17%	0	0%
FY 2011/2012	11	4	36%	1	9%	4	36%	1	9%	1	9%
FY2012/2013	15	8	53%	2	13%	2	13%	3	20%	0	0%
FY2013/2014	14	10	71%	2	14%	1	7%	1	7%	0	0%

**Table 4: Enrollment and Degrees Awarded**

Academic Year	Total Enrollment	Degrees Awarded
FY 2009/2010	19	1
FY 2010/2011	12	2
FY 2011/2012	11	0
FY2012/2013	15	0
FY2013/2014	14	1
Total		4

**Table 5: National registry exam results (continuing education, paramedic program)**

Academic Year	# enrolled at start date of paramedic education	# Completed	Successful on National Registry exam
2008/2009	15	10	8
2009/2010	19	11	11
2010/2011	16	12	10
2011/2012	16	10	10
2012/2013	15	13	11
2013/2014	17	15	TBA

### ***General Education Objectives***

Please see program reviews in math, English, Social Sciences and science disciplines.

***Program Evaluation***  
***Program Strengths and Weaknesses***

A significant challenge for this program is the lack of dedicated full-time faculty. Paramedic education is provided by adjunct faculty in conjunction with Cecil county DES. The program director and associate director are both employed by Cecil county DES with responsibility for the paramedic program as either a part-time employee or in addition to numerous other responsibilities. The Health care careers division of continuing education assists in providing the administrative support for the program. When students decide to complete the degree portion, students rely on college advisors, the Director of Health Care Careers and the Dean of Nursing and Health Professions for advice and guidance. This can be difficult. Additionally, the lack of full-time dedicated faculty also limits the growth potential for this degree.

Another challenge for this program is the continuing assessment, evaluation and reporting that is required to maintain accreditation. Students are required to complete an accredited program to be eligible to sit for the National Registry exam. With no full-time faculty or program administrator, much of this work divided between various individuals (paramedic program director and associate director, Director and Support specialist for Health Care Careers, and the Dean and Administrative Assistant for Nursing and Health Professions). While this group works very well as a team, there are limitations, such as no one individual with a consistent responsibility for managing and monitoring the data collection. Additionally, assessment and evaluation can also be difficult.

An obvious program strength is the option for credential stacking, providing the bridge between continuing education and credit education for students. This bridge, with 28 credits awarded in response to a credential assessment, recognizes the expertise and knowledge that a paramedic student already has and provides an avenue towards a degree. This flexible option, where students can attend full-time or part-time, can facilitate opportunities regarding career growth and/or future education.

***Adequacy of Available Technology/Facilities***

The Associate of Applied Science, Emergency Medical Technology-Paramedic degree program has the same facilities and technology as the other courses at Cecil College. This includes access to Blackboard ® as well as college computer labs, Math lab, Reading and Writing lab, and access to tutors in all subject areas. There are no specific technology or facility requirements for this degree.

***Articulation Agreements***

There are no specific articulation agreements for the Associate of Applied Science, Emergency Medical Technology, Paramedic . Students are often already employed in their field of practice as a paramedics upon successful completion of the National Registry exam and return to Cecil to complete the degree requirements for career mobility and enhancement. Those who are not employed, volunteer in the county as Paramedics. Anecdotally, students who have completed this degree state it has increased their job security and/or provided opportunities for increased salary or promotion.

### ***Program Goals and Objectives***

The following goals and objectives have been established for the upcoming five years.

<b><i>Goal(s)</i></b>	<b><i>Timetable for Completion</i></b>	<b><i>Required Resources</i></b>	<b><i>Obstacles to Completion</i></b>
Continue the option for an Associate of Applied Science, Emergency Medical Technology, Paramedic for students.	ongoing	none	Student interest; employment opportunities in region
Maintain standards consistent with upholding accreditation with CoAEMSP and approval from MIEMSS.	ongoing	Staffing to ensure that all assessment metrics are met.	Resources of time and staff to complete requirements for accreditation. There are no dedicated personnel for the paramedic program to ensure accreditation standards and metrics are met.
Assist in the exploration and development of an articulation with a four-year institution for a Bachelor's degree	ongoing	none	Willing four-year institution partner

### ***Recommendations***

There are no recommendations specific to the Associate of Applied Science, Emergency Medical Technology, Paramedic degree.

# Appendix A

### Cecil College Evaluation of Credit through Credential Assessment

Credits for prior learning may be awarded for national and/or state certification or licensure. To earn credit through this option, students must submit documentation validating national and/or state certification or licensure to the department chair or administrator of the program for evaluation of credentials. Credentials must be current and demonstrate that the student is in good standing with the certification and/or licensing agency. Credits awarded through this process will be recorded on the student's academic record (transcript) with a grade designation of TR.

#### Demographic Information

_____	_____	_____
(Last name)	(First Name)	(Middle Name)
_____	_____	_____
(Street)	(City)	(State) (Zip Code)
_____	_____	_____
Home Telephone Number	(Work Telephone Number)	(Email Address)
_____	_____	_____
(College ID Number)	(SS Number - optional)	(Birth Date)

I am applying for evaluation of credentials to the following degree program at Cecil College:

- ☐ EMT-Paramedic Degree -  
EMT 101 (5 credits), EMT 110 (3 credits), EMT 210 (5 credits), EMT 220 (5 credits), EMT 230 (4 credits), EMT 240 (3 credits), and EMT 290 (3 credits)
- ☐ LPN to RN Degree -  
NUR 101 (2 credits), NUR 104 (5 credits), NUR 105 (4 credits), NUR 114 (2 credits), and NUR 115 (4 credits)
- ☐ Medical Assistant to Healthcare Sciences Degree – Healthcare Sciences Electives (12 credits)
- ☐ Sonography to Healthcare Sciences Degree – Healthcare Sciences Electives (12 credits)

---

#### Review of License or Certification by Authorized Cecil College Evaluator

___ Yes ___ No	Current unencumbered license/certification: list documents reviewed, with current license number if applicable. LPN – must hold a Maryland practical nurse license. Documents Reviewed: _____ _____
	License Number: _____
___ Yes ___ No	Admitted to the program of study at Cecil College _____

_____	_____	_____
Signature of Evaluator	Title of Evaluator	Date

---

Approved by Registrar: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_