

North Lake County EMS Paramedic Program at Vista Health

Accredited Program

Since 2012, the North Lake County EMS Paramedic Program at Vista Health has maintained accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP).

CAAHEP

9355 - 113th St. N

#7709

Seminole, FL 33775

Phone: (727) 210-2350

www.caahep.org

CoAEMSP

8301 Lakeview Parkway

Suite 111-312

Rowlett, TX 75088

(214) 703-8445

www.coaemsp.org

The goal of the North Lake County EMS program at Vista Health is to prepare competent entry-level paramedics in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains with or without exit points at the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician and/or Emergency Medical Technician, and/or Emergency Medical Responder levels.

Paramedic Program at a Glance

- The North Lake County EMS Paramedic Program is a hospital based Paramedic Program that maintains affiliation with the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois which awards graduates up to 34 college credits toward the Associate of Applied Sciences (A.A.S.) Degree in Emergency Medical Technology. For more information visit <https://www.clcillinois.edu/programs/emt/options>. Our affiliation with the College of Lake County also provides students with access to veteran's benefits, financial aid, and counseling. Details on these benefits can be found on the College's website.
- The Paramedic Program is held at Vista Medical Center East in Waukegan, Illinois. The program has a prerequisite of a college-level Anatomy & Physiology course (Details listed on the application) with remaining coursework consisting of the following seven modules:
 - EMT 114 EMP Paramedic (Clinical Practicum)
 - EMT 115 EMT Paramedic (Field Experience Practicum)
 - EMT 131 Introduction to Advanced Pre-hospital Care
 - EMT 132 Patient Assessment
 - EMT 133 Medical Emergencies
 - EMT 134 Trauma Emergencies
 - EMT 135 Special Considerations and Operations
- The successful graduate will complete approximately 1088 clock hours distributed through classroom lecture, skills laboratories, in-hospital clinical rotations in various settings, field experience with an ALS provider agency as well as a final capstone field internship.
- The Paramedic Program typically runs 11 months beginning the second week of August and concluding the last week of June. Classes generally meet from 6:00pm to 10:00pm on Mondays and Wednesdays with at least one Saturday commitment each month. Additionally, there are three weekends schedule to complete the specialty courses included in the curriculum.

- In addition to the core curriculum for the Paramedic Program, education as a Paramedic, students will complete and hold certifications in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and International Trauma Life Support (ITLS).
- Candidates should generally expect to need to complete 8-12 hours per week of clinical and field time to finish the course on time.

Paramedic Program Outcomes

CAAHEP Accredited Paramedic Programs and CoAEMSP Letter of Review (LoR) Programs track and report Retention, Written Exam and Positive Placement outcome measures annually.

Retention: Beginning with the 2020 CoAEMSP Annual Report, programs must calculate retention based upon the number of students enrolled after completing the first 10% of the Paramedic program’s advertised total clock hours and completing of all coursework including didactic, lab, clinical, field experience, and capstone field internship. Retention is calculated by determining attrition (the number of students who do not complete course requirements for academic or personal reasons divided by the total number of students enrolled. Once the attrition percentage has been determined, then the retention percentage is 100% minus the attrition percentage.

Written Exam: Shows the percentage of graduates that attempted and successfully passed either the National Registry Paramedic Exam or the State’s Paramedic Certification exam within three attempts.

Positive Placement: Defined by the CoAEMSP as “Employed full or part-time in a related field and/or continuing his/her education and/or serving in the military”. Positive placement is measured at completion of the program.

North Lake County EMS Paramedic Program Outcomes			
Calendar Year	Retention Rate	Written Exam Pass Rate	Positive Placement ³
2020 ¹	100%	73%	73%
2019 ^{2, 4}	68%	100%	100%
2018	89%	100%	83%

1. In April 2020, the State of Illinois switched from a State Certification exam to using the National Registry Exam process as well as COVID related matters related to scheduling timely exams.
2. The 2019 graduating course was a lower enrollment than typical and for unknown reasons saw a greater number of students dropping for personal reasons prior to completing all course requirements.
3. Many graduates due not maintain communication with the program after completing their written exam and therefore the program is not always aware of employment status. The Positive Placement percentage identified is based on graduates that remain local and continue to communicate with the program.
4. The 2019 cohort saw many students leave healthcare after the outbreak of the pandemic in early 2020.

NOTE: The accrediting bodies use a benchmark of 70% for successful paramedic programs.

Paramedic Program Application

The applications for the 2022-2023 paramedic education program are now available. ([Paramedic Program Application 2022-2023](#))

Completed applications must be submitted via mail or in person to Vista Medical Center East at 1324 North Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60085, by 3 PM on May 27, 2022, for the 2022-2023 year-long course (projected start on August 8, 2022). Applications are currently being accepted and early course registration is encouraged. However, acceptance of your application by the North Lake Co. EMS/Vista Health Paramedic Training Program does not guarantee placement in a class; nor does acceptance into the program guarantee graduation.

As part of our affiliation with the College of Lake County and as a nationally-accredited paramedic training program, a college-level Anatomy & Physiology course is a pre-requisite for admittance to all paramedic programs. The required A&P course must be at least the equivalent of BIO 111, "Human Form and Function." offered at the College of Lake County and candidates must obtain a minimum grade of "C.". For course equivalency information, contact Carol Wismer at the College of Lake County (cwismer@clcollinois.edu).

Program Staff

EMS Medical Director: Dr. Jarrod Barker, MD
Program Director: John Lewis, EMT-P
Lead Instructor: David Chase, EMT-P
EMS Educator: Dawn Todd, RN and EMT-P
Administrative Assistant: Valerie Anderson

Contact Us:

For more information, please contact the Paramedic Program Lead Instructor via email at dchase@qhcus.com or call (847) 360-2205.