



# MARITIME SCHOOL OF PARAMEDICINE

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

# PRIMARY CARE PARAMEDIC PROGRAM



Property of:

The Maritime School of Paramedicine  
101 Main Street  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
B2X 1R4

Developed: September, 2001

Revised: August, 2006

2<sup>nd</sup> Revision: June, 2007

3<sup>rd</sup> Revision: June, 2008

4<sup>th</sup> Revision: May 2009



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Note: *The information in this calendar is subject to continual review, and may be subject to change following publication.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Established in 2001, the Maritime School of Paramedicine is owned and operated by the St. John Council for Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Under the structure of the Council, the Maritime School of Paramedicine is responsible for delivering Paramedicine education. The program provides accessible, comprehensive training to ensure that high quality pre-hospital emergency care programs are accessible to those individuals seeking this level of training.

## PROGRAM GOAL & FOCUS

The goal of the Primary Care Paramedic Program is to develop paramedics who possess sound knowledge and skills, an unwavering commitment to excellence in all that they do, and a deep sense of professionalism and caring. The program aims to meet the competency requirements of Emergency Health Services of Nova Scotia; as well as the National Occupational Competency Profile, as established by the Paramedic Association of Canada, for Primary Care Paramedics. Graduates will not only be an asset to the profession of Paramedicine, but to their communities as well.

The program is designed to provide: 1) acquisition of concepts and theories, 2) the mastery of professional skills, and 3) the attainment of a professional attitude.

One of the key objectives of the program is to instill a commitment to lifelong learning. Because the medical field is constantly changing and evolving, an emphasis is placed on the development of self-directed learning skills. In addition to supporting the development of self-directed learning techniques, faculty serves as both academic advisors and facilitators.

The responsibilities of Paramedics have increased dramatically over the years. Consequently, it is no longer acceptable to simply accumulate a set amount of knowledge and skills. Today's students must be inquisitive and dedicated to continuously expanding their expertise and abilities. Such ongoing professional development helps to ensure a lifetime of challenge and enrichment.

## PROGRAM OF STUDIES

The Maritime School of Paramedicine Primary Care Paramedicine Program is a ten-month Diploma program. It is divided into two main components: didactic (in-class instruction) and practicum. The didactic component includes both theory and practical labs. The clinical component encompasses ambulance and hospital clinical placements.

To successfully meet the challenges of the Program, students must allocate time each week to out-of-class study and practice. At a minimum, we recommend that students adhere to the following guidelines:

- For every one hour spent in the classroom, devote an additional half hour to one-and-a-half hours to out-of class study and practice.
- For every two hours of practicum work, spend an additional half-hour on outside study and practice.



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#### **CERTIFICATION**

Upon successful completion of the program, students will graduate with a Diploma in Primary Care Paramedicine from the Maritime School of Paramedicine. The program has been approved by Emergency Health Services Nova Scotia. The Maritime School of Paramedicine is registered under the Private Career Colleges Division of the Department of Education as a Private Career College in Nova Scotia.

#### **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

A variety of career opportunities are available to graduates. These include:

- Ambulance Positions (e.g. with the ambulance service provider for NS or other provincial/state Departments of Health or Emergency Medical Services).
- Hospital Emergency Departments (Triage and Communications)
- Industrial First Response/ Emergency Response Services
- Medical Supply Companies

Upon successful completion of the Primary Care Paramedicine Diploma Program, students will also possess the prerequisites necessary to pursue careers in Emergency Medical Dispatch or Advanced Care Paramedicine. Graduates may also combine the Primary Care Paramedicine Diploma with other skills, experience and/or education to pursue careers at the management level.

#### **STUDENT AID**

The Maritime School of Paramedicine Primary Care Paramedicine Program is registered under the Nova Scotia Private Career College Act. Therefore, students are eligible to apply for student assistance through the Nova Scotia Student Loans (NSSL) and/or Canada Student Loans (CSL) Programs. You may also contact your local bank to discuss possible student funding programs (e.g. low-interest student line of credit).

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES**

The St. John Council for NS/PEI also offers scholarships and bursaries annually. For further information please contact the admissions office.



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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Module 01 EMS Systems, Legalities, Ethics and Professionalism**

In this module, the content is focused on a look at the development of EMS nationally as well as in Nova Scotia from the early days of the Napoleonic Wars to present day. It provides the student with the ability to apply relevant Provincial and Federal legislation and regulations. The student will focus on the accountability and responsibility of his/her own behaviors, by concentrating upon the legalities governing his/her professional duties. The student will understand their role as an advocate for patient rights to dignity, privacy, confidentiality and consent/non-consent to treatment.

Study and research along with leadership and communication skills are covered during this module as well.

This module is also designed to develop the student's critical thinking skills in identifying issues surrounding the paramedic profession. Issues include medical ethics, professionalism, management/union relations, and the development of new technology, shift work, and continuing education, to name a few. The student will gain an understanding of the importance of an integrated emergency response system and will be introduced to related professions such as fire, police, air ambulance and various community services.

With the highly stressful pace of emergency health care, this course is designed to develop the student's skills in identifying issues surrounding stress and the difficulties it may cause. The student is familiarized with common techniques to control stress through diet, extra curricular activities and the resources available to them in the daily activities of the job.

### **Module 2 – Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology**

This module on anatomy and physiology examines the structure and function of the human body as an integrated whole. The content provides an overview of basic body chemistry, cell structure, and organ systems. The course provides the basis of subsequent study of pathophysiology. This is a basic introduction and is used to build on material through out the course as the student learns more about each individual body system.

### **Module 3 – Infectious Diseases and Safety**

This module focuses on Infectious Diseases and safety for the health care provider. Immunology, infectious diseases and how to be safe in the pre-hospital and hospital settings are the focus of this module.



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#### **Module 4 – Patient Assessment Lab**

In this module, the student learns selected theory behind assessment and intervention skills required for the provision of pre-hospital emergency care. It also covers the theoretical basis and application of equipment found in an ambulance.

In this practical lab course, students acquire the skills necessary to provide advanced assessment and intervention for both trauma and critically ill patients. This includes starting and monitoring IV's; Semi-Automatic Defibrillation; and administering Symptom Relief drugs such as epinephrine, glucagon, ASA, nitroglycerine, and ventolin. Students will also become familiar with equipment used by Advanced Paramedics.

#### **Module 5 – Airway Control**

In this module students will deepen their knowledge and understanding of airway anatomy. They will learn how to properly support and control the airway of a patient who is unable to maintain their own. This course prepares the student to enter the clinical setting to perform airway management on patients.

#### **Module 6 – Introduction to Pharmacology**

This module is designed to provide the student with a basic knowledge of pharmacokinetics; pharmacodynamics; drug categories and classification; drug interactions and adverse reactions; medications in geriatric patients; paediatric medications; and intravenous therapy. The student will also become familiar with drugs employed by Advanced Paramedics.

#### **Module 7 – Intravenous Cannulation and Phlebotomies**

The focus of this module is on shock and its management. Vascular anatomy is covered so students can learn how to perform intravenous cannulation. The human body's fluids, electrolytes and acid-base balances are covered during this module with the aim of having the student understanding and applying the appropriate use of IV fluids.

#### **Module 8 – Trauma**

Appropriate pre-hospital care for the trauma patient is covered during this module. Kinetics and principles of trauma care are covered as they relate to head, thoracic, abdominal and pelvic trauma. Students will also learn more about MCI, triage and critical incident stress debriefing during this module.

#### **Module 9 - Respiratory Disease**

This module focuses on the etiology, pathophysiological processes, resulting features, complications, and patient management for various diseases and injuries commonly seen in emergency medicine involving the respiratory system.



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#### **Module 10 – Cardiovascular Disease**

This module focuses on the etiology, pathophysiological processes, resulting features, complications, and patient management for various diseases and injuries commonly seen in emergency medicine involving the cardiovascular system. Students will learn how to perform 3 and 12 Lead ECG's.

#### **Module 11 – Neurological Disease**

This module focuses on the etiology, pathophysiological processes, resulting features, complications, and patient management for various diseases and injuries commonly seen in emergency medicine involving the neurological system.

#### **Module 12 – Musculoskeletal and Burns**

This module focuses on musculoskeletal, soft tissue and burn related injuries. Students have the opportunity in both the classroom and practical labs to complete musculoskeletal and integumentary assessments and the management for related injuries.

#### **Module 13 – Digestive and Endocrine**

This module focuses on the etiology, pathophysiological processes, resulting features, complications, and patient management for various diseases and injuries commonly seen in emergency medicine involving the abdominal system and endocrine systems.

#### **Module 14 – Genitourinary and Specific Injury**

This module focuses on the etiology, pathophysiological processes, resulting features, complications, and patient management for various diseases and injuries commonly seen in emergency medicine involving the genitourinary system.

It also covers off the etiology, pathophysiological processes, resulting features, complications, and patient management for various diseases and injuries commonly seen in emergency medicine involving the senses (ears, eyes, nose).

#### **Module 15 – Environmental**

This module focuses on the etiology, pathophysiological processes, resulting features, complications, and patient management for various injuries commonly seen in emergency medicine involving the environment. Topics would include hypothermia, hyperthermia, drowning and burns.



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#### **Module 16 – Obstetrics, Gynecology and Neonatal Assessment**

This module focuses on the etiology, pathophysiological processes, resulting features, complications, and patient management for various diseases and injuries commonly seen in emergency medicine involving the reproductive system. Topics would include pregnancy, the delivery of and care provided for a neonatal patient.

#### **Module 17 – Pediatric, Geriatric and Special Needs**

This module focuses on the special patient populations that the student may encounter in the emergency setting. Populations covered during this module include the pediatric patients, geriatric patients, terminally ill and patients with mental or physical disabilities. Hematology and oncology emergencies are presented.

#### **Module 18 Clinical Experience (Hospital and Ambulance)**

Practical experience will be provided in clinical settings (Hospitals, VON, Nursing Homes, Communications center). Students will be expected to apply the knowledge and skills they have obtained in the didactic and lab settings to the various practical settings. This is a great opportunity for the students to interact with other health care professionals as they continue their journey to becoming paramedics.

Practical experience will be provided in the ambulance setting as well. During this training the student is provided with a concentrated period of field experience to further develop the ability to assess and meet the needs of the patient. Under the direct supervision of a paramedic preceptor, the student will progressively acquire more responsibility in patient care. This experience is designed to help the student to make the transition from study to practice.

#### **Module 19 – Short Course Offerings**

While enrolled in the Primary Care Paramedicine program the student will take several mandatory short courses. Those courses include the following:

- Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Operators Course 3 (Ambulance) – CEVO3
- Non-Violent Crisis Intervention – NVC
- Neonatal Resuscitation Program – NRP
- Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale – CTAS
- Medical Terminology and Documentation
- Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation – Health Care Provider – CPR HCP
- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System – WHMIS
- Harassment Workshop
- Making Your Mark Workshop



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Module	Topic	In class/lab	Total
1	EMS System, Legalities, Ethics and Professionalism	55/0	55
2	Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology	28/0	28
3	Infectious Diseases and Safety	18/0	18
4	Patient Assessment Lab	23/69	92
5	Airway Control	12/6	18
6	Introduction to Pharmacology	12/6	18
7	Intravenous Cannulation and Phlebotomies	18/12	30
8	Trauma	16/6	22
9	Respiratory Disease	22/6	28
10	Cardiovascular Disease	40/18	58
11	Neurological Disease	40/9	49
12	Musculoskeletal and Burns	16/6	22
13	Digestive and Endocrine	24/6	30
14	Genitourinary and Specific Injury	16/6	22
15	Environmental	18/6	24
16	Gynecology and Obstetrics	18/12	30
17	Pediatrics, Geriatrics and Special Needs	28/12	40
19	Short Course Offerings		
	a) Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Operators Course 3 Ambulance	10/0	10
	b) Non-Violent Crisis Intervention	9/0	9
	c) Neo-natal Resuscitation	In Mod 16	In Mod 16
	d) Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (Combined Adult/Paediatric)	6/0	6
	e) Medical Terminology and documentation	19/0	19
	f) Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (Health Care Provider)	In mod 10	In mod 10
	g) WHMIS	In mod 1	In mod 1
	h) Harassment Workshop	In mod 1	In mod 1
	i) Making Your Mark	In mod 1	In mod 1
	j) Physical Education	32	32
	Total in class/lab	480/180	480/180
	Exam Week	30	30
	<b>Over all Total In class (didactic/lab/exam)</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>690</b>
<b>Clinical Settings</b>		<b>Hours</b>	
1	Emergency Department (minimum)	72	72
2	Recovery Room/Operating Room (minimum)	4	4
3	Triage (minimum)	24	24
4	VON Rotation	8	8
5	Seniors Complex – Nursing home	8	8
6	EHS Communications	4	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Ambulance Practicum</b>		<b>Hours</b>	
	<b>Total Ambulance Practicum (13 weeks at 42hrs/week)</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>546</b>
<b>Total training hours</b>			<b>1356</b>
Vacation hours during program (stat holidays 9 X12 hrs/day)		108	<b>108</b>
Admin./Program Summary hours		30	<b>30</b>
<b>Total hours for the 10 month period (44 weeks)</b>			<b>1494</b>



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#### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To apply to the Maritime School of Paramedicine Primary Care Paramedic program, a candidate must meet the following prerequisites:

- Successful completion of Grade 12 (Diploma or GED), with Math at the grade 11 or 12 university preparatory level and one science at the grade 11 or 12 university preparatory level.
- Be physically and mentally able to perform all required duties
- Be willing to do shift work and work weekends and holidays
- Be in good health with all appropriate immunizations as verified by a completed immunization record (provided in application package)
- Supply a current copy of his/her Driver's Abstract, and
- Have no record of criminal offences, as verified by a criminal record check. (A copy of the criminal record check must be supplied by the applicant. It can be obtained from the RCMP or any local police detachment.)

**In addition**, candidates *must* possess the following qualifications *either* at the time of application or before the final date for acceptance into the program:

- Be eligible for a Nova Scotia Class 4 Driver's License (or equivalent from other provinces), and
- Current Emergency First Aid certification with Basic Cardiac Life Support; i.e. CPR Level "C" (You may contact St. John Ambulance to inquire about courses in your area.)

**Note:** To receive a Driver's Abstract, you must contact Access Nova Scotia. Out-of-province applicants should contact their provincial/state Department of Transportation or Motor Vehicles.)

**Ability to Travel:** Students accepted into the program must be willing and able to travel and/or reside in other locations in Nova Scotia during their clinical placements. The School will make every effort to accommodate student requests for placements so that students may reside with friends or family.

**Evaluation:** In addition to the minimum eligibility requirements listed above, applications for admission will be evaluated on a number of criteria. These include extracurricular activities, recreation/community involvement, and employment/work experience. Resumes should be well-organized, providing an accurate and comprehensive account of applicants' achievements, skills and interests.



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#### MATURE STUDENT POLICY

Applicants who do not meet the basic admission requirements as detailed in Section 8 of the General Regulations of the Private Career Colleges Regulations Act and the Maritime School of Paramedicine Policies and Procedures Manual may be admitted to a program under Mature Student status provided the following are met:

- 1) The applicant is at least 21 years of age and has been out of school for a minimum of one year.
- 2) The applicant participates in an interview process with a designated admissions representative of the Maritime School of Paramedicine. In the process of the interview, the applicant will be required to provide the following supporting documentation:
  - a. School transcripts
  - b. Letter outlining future plans and the reasons they expect to successfully complete the program of studies.
  - c. Personal resume
  - d. Three (3) letters of reference.
- 3) The Maritime School of Paramedicine reserves the right to ask the applicant to participate in a standardized admission test in accordance with the admissions requirements for any of the Paramedicine programs offered by the school. The standardized test (e.g. the Canadian Adult Achievement Test “CAAT” or Test of Adult Basic Education “TABE”) must be one that is approved through the Canadian Adult Test Centre. Confirmation of approval of the test must be forwarded to the Department of Education.

#### ADMISSION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Admission to the Program is very competitive, with enrollment limited to 30 students per course. Therefore, meeting minimum requirements will not guarantee acceptance. A waiting list will be maintained, recognizing that some candidates may change plans, opening seats for other applicants. Short-listed applicants will be contacted and must be available to participate in a final selection interview. Interviews will be designed to meet individual scheduling considerations.

**In order to be considered, applications must be received with *all required* documentation attached.**

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS *must* include the following:

- Completed **application form**
- Completed **immunization record**
- **Personal resume**
- Two **reference forms**
- Copy of **criminal record check**
- **Application Fee of \$60**



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- **Official High School transcript** and/or transcripts from other post-secondary institutions (i.e. universities or colleges if applicable). Please note that an official transcript is sent directly from the institution in a sealed envelope.
- Copy of Driver's Abstract (from Access Nova Scotia)
- Photocopies of current **Emergency First Aid certificate**
- Photocopy of **Basic Cardiac Life Support or CPR Level "C" certificate**, and

#### SELECTION PROCESS:

Those candidates who have submitted the required information with their application will be invited to the school for the selection process. During the selection process candidates will complete a written test on First Aid/CPR and Math/Comprehension; as well as an interview with the faculty, all of which are scored. Candidates will also be awarded points for volunteer work (i.e. Firefighting, Life Guarding, or other community work), and instructor qualifications (instructor certificates must be provided and in good standing). Those candidates who receive the top overall marks will be selected for entrance to the school. Each year there is a tight competition for the seats, so candidates should prepare for the selection process.



**To obtain an application package, contact:**

Maritime School of Paramedicine  
101 Main Street  
Dartmouth, NS  
B2X 1R4

Office: (902) 464-5288  
Fax: (902) 434-2242  
Toll-Free: 1-800-565-5056  
Email: [admissions@msop.ca](mailto:admissions@msop.ca)

Or you may download all forms and information from our website:

**[www.msop.ca](http://www.msop.ca)**

**The Maritime School of Paramedicine will develop graduates who possess sound knowledge and skills, a deep sense of professionalism and caring, and an outstanding commitment to excellence -- delivering the highest standard of care to the public**