



# MARITIME SCHOOL OF PARAMEDICINE

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

### PRIMARY CARE PARAMEDIC PROGRAM







# MARITIME SCHOOL OF PARAMEDICINE

## Primary Care Paramedic (P1) Program

### COURSE CALENDAR

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



**MARITIME SCHOOL OF PARAMEDICINE**  
**Primary Care Paramedic (P1) Program**  
**COURSE CALENDAR**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Maritime School of Paramedicine is owned and operated by St. John Ambulance, Canada's leading and largest provider of First Aid and Medical First Response Training. Established in 2001, the School's Primary Care Paramedic (P1) Program exemplifies the St. John Ambulance commitment to education, professional development and training excellence.

## PROGRAM GOAL & FOCUS

The goal of the Primary Care Paramedic (P1) 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 P1 Program is a ten-month Diploma program. It is divided into two main components: didactic (in-class instruction) and clinical. The didactic component consists of approximately 708 class hours, and includes both theory and practical labs. The clinical component, approximately 654 hours, 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 one to one-and-a-half hours to out-of class study and practice.
- For every two hours of clinical 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 (P1) 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 Emergency Health Services 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 (P1) 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 (P1) Diploma with other skills, experience and/or education to pursue careers at the management level.

#### **STUDENT AID**

The Maritime School of Paramedicine Primary Care Paramedic (P1) Program is registered under the Nova Scotia Private Career College Act. Therefore, students will be 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**

St. John Ambulance NS/PEI Council offers two Paramedicine Scholarships annually: the Dr. J. E. Harris Miller Scholarship and the Dr. George Dewar Scholarship. Valued at \$2,500 each, these scholarships are awarded to students who have exhibited strong academic abilities in conjunction with leadership skills and a commitment to community involvement.

Five \$1000 bursaries, the St. John Ambulance Bursaries for Studies in Paramedicine, are also available to eligible students.



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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Module 01 History, Legalities and Professionalism

#### Section 01 History of EMS

A look at the development of EMS national as well as in Nova Scotia from the early days of the Napoleonic Wars to present day.

#### Section 02 Medical Legal Issues in Health Care

This course is designed to provide 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.

#### Section 03 Study and Research

This course helps identify basic concepts in collecting information for the purpose of professional study. Focuses of this course include written material; internet resources and how to identify legitimate information.

#### Section 04 WHMIS

This course focuses on the concepts as provided by the Occupational Safety and Health Association. The student will be familiarized with the guidelines of WHMIS, classification of pertinent products, symbol recognition as well as how to find pertinent information on safety labels.

#### Section 05 Physical Education

This training is designed to assist the student in obtaining a general and job-specific level of fitness. All students will take part in a four-hour introduction to proper body mechanics and lifting procedures as required in the EMS field. The objective is to encourage students to develop the strength and agility they will need to work in the field of EMS.

#### Section 06 Professionalism and Leadership Issues

This course is 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.



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#### **Section 07 Professional Well Being**

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 02 Medical Terminology and Anatomy**

##### **Section 01 Medical Terminology**

This course focuses on developing through listening, observation, reading, speaking, writing, and the use of medical terminology.

##### **Section 02 Communications for Health Care Workers**

This course focuses on developing: listening, observation, reading, speaking, writing, and use of information technology, teamwork and self assessment skills. Students will research, analyze, discuss and write about a variety of issues related to the health care field and will present reviews of professional journal articles. A strong emphasis will be placed on medical terminology and the principles of accurate incident report writing. Letters of application and resumes will also be covered.

##### **Section 03 Instructor Certification Program**

This course focuses on developing the student as a first aid and CPR instructor for St. John Ambulance. Through this program the student will also learn the value of developing a lesson plan and speaking to a group of people. The focus of this program is to help develop the students' ability to present topics in class. The topic "Respect in the Organization" is also covered during this session and will aid the student by providing them some basic concepts of perception in the work force. Topics covered through example during this portion of the program include sexual discrimination and harassment.

##### **Section 04 Anatomy**

This course 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.

#### **Module 03 Patient Assessment**

##### **Section 01 Patient Assessment**

In this course, 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.



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#### **Section 02 Patient Care Procedures and Lab**

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. This course is divided into two sections to allow the student to enter into the Institutional setting during the program.

**Section A** In this course, students apply selected assessment and intervention skills for the provision of pre-hospital emergency care in simulated laboratory settings. The focus is on CPR, vital signs, bandaging and splinting, spinal immobilization, lifting techniques, oxygen therapy, primary and secondary patient assessments, and other basic skills. At the end of the course, the student will be able to integrate skills, recognize and minimize complications, and provide comprehensive and accurate reports following simulated scenarios.

**Section B** This course presents the student with tutorial materials which require problem solving skills. The learning in the course is contingent on the student's input which is derived from their hospital and ambulance clinical rotations, as well as other self directed study. Case study presentations will be based on a patient complaint-basis approach. Some example topics include: the unconscious patient, the patient with chest pain, the patient with dyspnea, and the patient with abdominal complaints.

#### **Module 04 Respiratory, Cardiovascular and Shock**

##### **Section 01 Respiratory**

This course 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.

##### **Section 02 Cardiovascular**

This course 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.

##### **Section 03 Shock**

This course focuses on the etiology, pathophysiological processes, resulting features, complications, and patient management for a patient experience shock.

#### **Module 05 Musculoskeletal, Pharmacology and Neurovascular**

##### **Section 01 Musculoskeletal Injury and Trauma**

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



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student will be familiarized with the common mechanisms of trauma and focus on patient assessment in these situations.

#### **Section 02 MCI and Triage**

This course focuses on the skill of assessing multiple patients during a mass casualty setting. The student will be introduced to the concept of triage and the common structure of most mass casualty emergency groups.

#### **Section 03 Pharmacology**

This course 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.

#### **Section 04 Neurovascular disease and Injury**

This course 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 06 Abdominal, Endocrine and Reproductive**

#### **Section 01 Abdominal**

This course 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.

#### **Section 02 Endocrine**

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

#### **Section 03 Reproduction**

This course 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 and the delivery of a baby.

### **Module 07 Integumentary & Senses**

#### **Section 01 Integumentary**

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



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#### **Section 02 Senses**

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

### **Module 08 Special Patient Presentation, Environmental & Poisons**

#### **Section 01 Special Patient Populations**

This course focuses on the special patient populations that the student may encounter in the emergency setting. Populations covered during this module include the neonatal and pediatric patients, geriatric patients, terminally ill and patients with mental or physical disabilities. The course integrates these populations into the normal assessment and treatments regimes.

#### **Section 02 Environmental**

This course 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.

#### **Section 03 Poisons**

This course focuses on the etiology, pathophysiological processes, resulting features, complications, and patient management for various types of poisons. Also covered in this course are some of the common antidotes available for some poisons. Topics include intentional and unintentional overdoses and specific information for each toxidrome.

### **Module 09 Crisis Intervention & Psychopathology**

#### **Section 01 Crisis Intervention**

This course is designed to familiarize the student with crisis intervention models, basic intervention skills, and local community crisis centres and resources. Students also gain an understanding of cumulative and critical incident stress as it applies to self and/or colleagues and family.

#### **Section 02 Psychopathology**

This course provides knowledge of the basic concepts, diagnosis, and theories of abnormal psychology. Students examine a classification model, learn to observe behaviour, describe specific disorders, and some treatment strategies of mental health practitioners/professionals.

### **Module 10 Comprehensive Review**

#### **Section 01 Paramedic Comprehensive Review**

This course provides integrated review of clinical and fieldwork. The student will relate and integrate theoretical concepts previously learned in clinical field placements.



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Through a complaint-based approach, students will present and be presented with multidimensional case studies. The emphasis is on contextual learning and the format is such that the student will work forward in the solution to a clinical problem, not backward from diagnostic learning.

#### **Module 11 Clinical & Practical Experience**

##### **Section 01 Ambulance Vehicle Operations and Safety**

In this course, both theory and in-vehicle driving sessions emphasize driver communications, perception, effective vehicle operation, hazard avoidance and skid control.

##### **Section 02 Institutional Clinical Exposure**

Practical experience will be provided such that the student will apply the knowledge and skills related to emergency patient care in a controlled and supervised environment. Rotations will be provided in both adult and paediatric emergency departments, obstetrics, and other selected sites. In addition, the student will gain an understanding of the role of hospital staff in the continuity of care for pre-hospital patients.

##### **Section 03 Ambulance Practicum Experience**

This course provides students with a practical experience in ambulance and dispatch services. Under direct supervision of a paramedic crew, the student will participate in, analyze and review emergency and non-emergency situations that form a basis for professional practice in the future.

##### **Section 04 Ambulance Practicum Consolidation**

This course provides the student 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 crew, the student will progressively acquire more responsibility in patient care. This experience is designed to help the student make the transition from study to practice.



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### Didactic (in class) time Requirements

Please note that for every in class hour it is recommended that the student completes one half hour of study at home.

Module	Topic	In class	Self directed	Total
1	History, Legalities and Professionalism	42	21	
2	Medical Terminology and Anatomy	59	29.5	
3	Patient Assessment	66	33	
4	Respiratory, Cardiovascular and Shock	96	48	
5	Musculoskeletal, Pharmacology and Neurovascular	66	33	
6	Abdominal, Endocrine and Reproductive	36	18	
7	Integumentary and Senses	24	12	
8	Special Patient Presentations, Environmental and Poisons	59	29.5	
9	Crisis Intervention and Psychopathology	21	10.5	
10	Comprehensive Review	24	12	
	<b>Total Didactic</b>	<b>493</b>	-	
	Total Self directed		<b>246.5</b>	
	Over all total			<b>739.5</b>
<b>Practical lab's</b>		<b>Hours</b>		
1	Patient Care Procedures – Lab	171		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>		
<b>Clinical Settings - Adult</b>		<b>Hours</b>		
1	Adult Emergency Department	60		
2	Recovery Room	8		
3	Triage Department QE II Emergency Dept.	24		
4	Labor and Delivery	12		
5	VON Rotation	8		
6	Seniors Complex – Nursing home	8		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>		
<b>Clinical Settings – Pediatric</b>		<b>Hours</b>		
1	Daycare Facility	7		
2	Car Seat Safety Program	19		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>		
<b>Vehicle Orientation</b>		<b>Hours</b>		
1	Ambulance Vehicle Operation and Safety	6		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>		
<b>Ambulance Practicum</b>		<b>Hours</b>		
1	Ambulance Clinical Practicum (13 weeks at 39 – 42 hrs/week)	546		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>546**</b>		
<b>Total training hours</b>		<b>1362</b>		
Vacation hours during program		72		
Admin./Program Summary hours		30		
<b>Total hours for the 10 month period</b>		<b>1464</b>		

\*\*please note that the student must achieve a minimum of 504 hours in the Ambulance Clinical Practicum but the schedule allows for 13 weeks working a 42 hour schedule rotation with their preceptor.



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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 Standard 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.

#### 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:



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- 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 20 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 \$40**
- **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 **Standard First Aid certificate**
- Photocopy of **Basic Cardiac Life Support or CPR Level “C” certificate**, and



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#### 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), ride along time with EHSNS, 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  
88 Slayter Street  
Dartmouth, NS  
B3A 2A6

Office: (902) 463-5646  
Fax: (902) 469-9609  
Toll-Free: 1-800-565-5056  
Email: paramedicine@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**