

Required Skills and Abilities of Paramedic Students

Qualified applicants are expected to meet all admissions criteria and prerequisites, as well as these essential skills and abilities (technical standards) with or without reasonable accommodations. Students needing a reasonable accommodation to meet these criteria should contact UAF Disability Services.

ESSENTIAL SKILL OR ABILITY	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES
Observation	<p>Use of senses: Ability to use the senses of seeing, hearing, touch, and smell to make correct judgments regarding patient conditions and safely administer pre-hospital emergency care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe lecture and laboratory demonstrations • Receive information via visual observation, assessment, and evaluation of body tissues with regard to normal and abnormal conditions. • Demonstrate normal color vision sufficient to recognize one body fluid from another and identify color changes in skin and/or sclera • Observe and assess the patient's response to anesthesia. • Observe any kind of hazard on scene. • Locate veins to start IV's • Regulate and monitor equipment (monitors, oxygen tanks, suction units, etc.) • Eye-hand coordination to insert airways, set traction and start IV's • Identify and differentiate: heart, lung, and breath sounds • Identify potentially hazardous conditions • Palpate body parts • Use correct precautions and techniques, observing and documenting the effects of the drugs administered
Communication	<p>Ability to communicate effectively/accurately with fellow students, faculty, patients, dispatch, and members of the health team.</p> <p>Communication includes verbal and nonverbal expression, reading, writing, computation, and computer skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate, via in-class and group discussions, in the delivery and receiving of information and in responding to questions from a variety of sources. • Display knowledge of basic written grammar and spelling skills • Identify and interpret non-verbal communication • Report accurately and legibly information in to patient care reports • Understand oral and written policies: instructions, procedures, signs • Recognize and respect the physical and psychological needs of others. • Obtain comprehensive drug history from the patient that includes names of drugs, strength, daily usage and dosage.

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Intellectual, conceptual, and judgment	<p>Ability to identify, assess, and comprehend conditions surrounding patient situation to come to appropriate conclusion or corrected action.</p> <p>Ability to measure, calculate, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate to engage competently in the safe practice of pre-hospital care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculate medication and administer IV medications. • Recognize and initiate interventions per patient status delivery and delegation of care • Identify changes in patient’s condition and initiate appropriate interventions in a timely manner • Safe and therapeutic administration of drugs including narcotics
Motor	<p>Ability to bend, reach, pull, push, stoop and walk, as well as, perform functions requiring fine motor skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be independent in mobility to move quickly in and around the classroom, laboratory, and clinical setting. • Quickly move from different positions, as required, to administer emergency care procedures. • Perform CPR continually without interruption • Be able to lift 50 lbs. (weight of equipment) by self • Be able to lift, position and move equipment • Be able to enter and exit emergency vehicles without assistance • Be able to step up and down at 21/2 feet without assistance
Tactile	<p>Ability and sufficient sensitivity with all digits of both hands to complete pertinent assessment information and provide treatment, as needed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tacitly detect defects in skin temperature, moisture and texture. • Use direct palpation to detect a patient’s pulse or soft tissue damage
Hearing	<p>Demonstrate functional use of hearing to acquire and mentally process information that is heard and to better monitor and assess patient</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hear and obtain appropriate course information from faculty and peers and to process this information for use in laboratory settings and on examinations • Acquire accurate medical history and data collection verbally from patient • Demonstrate the ability to audibly ascertain if a patient is experiencing a medical emergency • Demonstrate ability to auscultate a blood pressure and distinguish between patient blood pressure and outside noise in an ambulance

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Emotional and coping	Ability to determine the mental health necessary to safely engage in the practice of pre-hospital emergency care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid demonstrating personal stress or frustration when interacting with others • Demonstrate professional standards of practice under stressful and ideal conditions
Behavioral	Ability to engage in activities consistent with safe pre-hospital practice without demonstrated behaviors of addiction to, abuse, or dependence on alcohol or drugs that may impair behavior of judgment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept responsibility for actions in delivery of pre-hospital care • Remain drug free in class and at the clinical sites • Able to provide top quality care, concurrently handle high levels of stress, and willing to take on the personal responsibility required of the position.
Physical Requirements	Physical strength, dexterity and the ability to function in very adverse environments with exposure to numerous safety risks typically found at emergency scenes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing, walking and running could be on all types of surfaces, including but not limited to: asphalt, cement, concrete, etc. • Ability to perform physical activities under all kinds of weather conditions • Ability to perform duties under natural and artificial light conditions, vibrations (riding in emergency vehicles), and noise (sirens, and voices) • Ability to perform duties when tired and hungry. • Administer emergency treatment in all weather conditions • Motor coordination sufficient to perform duties on scene or during transport and not jeopardize the patient's, the Paramedic's, or other workers' wellbeing.

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Leadership	<p>Demonstrate competence as a team leader in Advanced Life Support (ALS) emergency patient encounters requiring the following procedures: ECG placement and interpretation, placement of an intravenous or intraosseous infusion, an advanced airway, or medication administration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capable of providing advanced life support emergency medical services to patients including conducting of and interpreting electrocardiograms (EKGs), electrical interventions to support the cardiac functions, performing advanced endotracheal intubations in airway management and relief of pneumothorax and administering of appropriate intravenous fluids and drugs under direction of off-site designated physician • Ability to demonstrate good judgment along with advanced knowledge and technical skills required to direct other team members to assist as needed. • Physical and cognitive ability to use the knowledge and skills acquired in real life threatening emergency situations. • Possess tolerance for high stress, and the ability to meet the physical, intellectual, and cognitive requirements demanded by this position • Physical and cognitive capability to provide emergency care in situations that can be complex and where care of the patient must be started immediately. • In essence, the Paramedic in the EMS system uses advanced training and equipment to extend emergency physician services to the ambulance. The Paramedic must be able to make accurate independent judgments while following oral directives. • The ability to perform duties in a timely manner in life and death situations.