



**REGION 11  
CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM  
POLICY**

Title: Paramedic Initial Education Programs
Section: EMS Education
Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
Effective: December 17, 2025

## **PARAMEDIC INITIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

*An accredited Paramedic program shall be conducted only by an EMS System or an academic institution whose curriculum has been approved by the EMS System.*

### **I. PARAMEDIC EDUCATION PROGRAM APPLICATION**

- A. Applications for pre-approval of Paramedic education programs shall be filed with IDPH on forms prescribed by IDPH. The applications shall contain, at a minimum:
1. Name of the applicant, agency, and address;
  2. Lead Instructor's name, license number, address and contact information;
  3. Name and signature of the EMS MD and EMS System Coordinator;
  4. Type of education program;
  5. Dates, times, and location of the education program, including course schedule;
  6. Goals, objectives, and course outline;
  7. Methods, materials and text books;
  8. Content and time consistent with the national EMS education standards and additional course curricula required by IDPH. Initial or modified course syllabi shall be approved by IDPH;
  9. Description of the clinical and field requirements;
  10. Description of evaluation tools (student, clinical units, faculty, and programs); and
  11. Requirements for successful completion.
- B. Applications for pre-approval, including a copy of the course schedule and syllabus, shall be submitted at least 60 days before the first scheduled class.
1. Initial or revised education programs require full submission of all curriculum related educational documents for IDPH pre-approval.
  2. Education programs previously approved by IDPH without changes to curricula or content require submission of the course schedule and syllabus only.
- C. The EMS MD of the EMS System shall attest on the application form that the education program will be conducted according to the national EMS education standards, including all modifications required by IDPH. The course hours shall minimally include 500 hours of didactic education and 500 hours of clinical experience, which includes hospitals plus alternate care facilities and field internship experience,



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including minimum patient care contacts and competency evaluation and measurement as defined in the standards and approved by the EMS MD.

## **II. PARAMEDIC EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Oversight, quality assurance and outcome measurement for the Paramedic education program shall be the responsibility of the EMS MD and the EMS System Coordinator, with cooperation of the educational institution.
- B. The Lead Instructor for the course shall be responsible for ensuring that no Paramedic class begins until after IDPH issues its formal written pre-approval, which shall be in the form of a numeric site code.
- C. The Lead Instructor for the course shall be responsible for ensuring that all materials presented to Paramedic students conform to all curriculum requirements of both IDPH and the EMS System granting its approval. Methods of assessment or intervention that are not approved by both IDPH and the EMS System shall not be taught or presented. All course Lead Instructors must be approved by the EMS MD.
- D. Any change in the Paramedic program's EMS MD, EMS System Coordinator or Lead Instructor, or change in the minimum approved program, shall require an amendment to be filed with IDPH.
- E. A candidate for a Paramedic education program shall have an active Illinois EMT, A-EMT or EMT-I license. All program participants shall maintain their qualifying license throughout completion of the program and successful completion of the licensure examination.
- F. Before a candidate is accepted into the program, documentation shall be submitted that an ALS or Critical Care Transport EMS System vehicle will be available to accommodate field internship needs.
- G. Each education program shall verify a student's qualification to attempt an IDPH-approved licensure examination upon the successful completion of the education program and shall submit a student roster on a form approved by IDPH. The EMS MD or designee may approve students through an on-line verification system.
- H. Paramedic candidates may test for licensure via the NREMT examination (NREMT requires successful completion from an accredited academic institution recognized by NREMT). For Paramedic candidates who have completed and passed all components of the program, and passed the NREMT examination, and who are applying for Illinois licensure, the EMS MD shall submit to IDPH an electronic transaction form provided by IDPH. No electronic transaction form is required for candidates taking the state licensure examination.
- I. All approved programs shall maintain course and student records for seven years, in compliance with the affiliated academic institution requirements as applicable. The course and student records shall be made available to the EMS System or IDPH upon request.