



2026
Cincinnati Fire Department

Paramedic Program

Student Handbook

Mission Statement: To prepare Paramedics who are competent in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains to enter the profession of emergency medical services.

1/05/2026 – 11/21/2026

Table of Contents

1. Overview
2. Purpose
3. Philosophy and Technical Standards
4. Goals and Criteria for Successful Completion
5. College Credit
6. CAAHEP
7. Staff
8. Governing Body
9. Advisory Committee
10. Admissions
11. Class Schedule
12. Testing
13. Student Information (Privacy)
14. Tutoring and Counseling
15. Liability Insurance
16. Infection Control and Post-exposure Plan
17. Discipline and Grievance Policy
18. Dismissal
19. Standard of Conduct
20. Online Education & Distance Learning
21. Grading System

1. Overview

- a. The Cincinnati Fire Department (CFD) has the distinction of being the first professional fire department in the United States. Leading the fire service generates a great deal of pride within this organization. The Fire Chief works diligently to support all aspects of the paramedic program and no available resource is restricted in the pursuit of a quality education and assurance of exceptional service.
- b. Students who successfully complete the program will receive a certificate of completion and terminal competency form signed by the Medical Director. Upon successful completion of the program and application to the State of Ohio, certification as an Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic will be received. The Cincinnati Fire Department Paramedic Program complies with the recommendations of the State of Ohio, Division of Emergency Medical Services, and the recommendations by the Committee on Accreditation for Emergency Medical Services Programs (CoAEMSP).

2. Purpose

- a. The purpose of this program is to provide the opportunity and resources necessary for the paramedic student to develop the skills and knowledge required to function and provide care as a certified paramedic in the State of Ohio.
 - i. The program provides over 1,000 hours of didactic, laboratory, and clinical training in the preparation of paramedics.
 1. These hours are divided between classroom lectures, laboratory exercises, field internship experiences, and hospital clinical experiences.
 2. Every effort is made throughout the program to coordinate the didactic and clinical portions for the most effective learning opportunities.
- b. Didactic, laboratory, and clinical objectives will be discussed further in *Clinical Handbook* and other program documents.
 - i. The didactic portion consists of approximately 660 hours of classroom education. During this portion of the program the student learns the facts, concepts, and principles necessary to function as a paramedic.
 - ii. The clinical portion consists of approximately 410 hours of clinical education. During this portion of the program, the student learns the critical thinking skills, facts, concepts, and principles necessary to function as a paramedic.
 - iii. In addition, the student will learn and practice the psychomotor skills required to function as a certified paramedic in the prehospital setting.

3. Philosophy and Technical Standards

- a. The Cincinnati Fire Department Paramedic Program was developed to provide paramedic education to the members from the Cincinnati Fire Department, other fire departments and private ambulance companies throughout the greater Cincinnati area.
 - i. The program is student oriented and provides an 11-month educational program encompassing the U.S. Department of Transportation Curriculum, Educational Standards for EMS providers, Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines, National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) and Ohio EMS Board recommendations.
 - ii. The administrators, instructors, preceptors, and the office of the medical director continue to strive to meet the health care needs of the community.
 - 1. To support this mission, clinical portions of the training are spent in various local hospitals and area fire departments.
 - a. The EMS Field internship phase includes paramedic student completing rotations at various CFD firehouses and other approved field clinical sites, with all students being afforded the opportunity to spend time on the busiest units.
 - b. These sites are selected to give paramedic students opportunities to increase their competency and confidence in the skills learned in the didactic portion. There are specific objectives for all clinical and EMS Field internship areas to guide the paramedic student. Breakdown of the areas, time spent in each clinical area, and objectives are discussed in the *Clinical Handbook*.

b. Curriculum

- i. The curriculum content must ensure that the program goals are achieved.
 - 1. Instruction must be based on clearly written course syllabi that include course description, course objectives, methods of evaluation, topic outline, and competencies required for graduation/program completion.
 - 2. Instruction must be delivered in an appropriate sequence of classroom, laboratory, clinical and field activities.
 - 3. The program must demonstrate that the curriculum offered meets or exceeds the content and competency of the latest edition of the National EMS Education Standards listed in Appendix B of these Standards.