

# Frequently Asked Questions

## About the Northwest College Paramedic Program

- 1. Are you accredited?** Not yet. We are at the end of the process for initial accreditation called receiving a 'letter of review' from the Committee on Accreditation for EMS Programs. We anticipate this process being completed by the end of June. The director of CoAEMSP, Dr. George Hatch, has given us permission to begin allowing students to enter into our program in anticipation of the accreditation. We will notify everyone when we receive the official letter.
- 2. What does the schedule look like?** For your first year Paramedic core classes: you will meet every Wednesday from 7a to 5p. Labs will be held the last Sunday of each month from 8a to 4p. Occasionally, there will be some adjustments to the weekly schedule to accommodate special required trainings (such as wilderness training, ACLS, PALS, etc.) for which you will be notified on the first day of class and can plan accordingly. Second year students will be meeting every Tuesday from 7a to 5p with labs the last Saturday of every month from 8a to 4p. Spring 2022 will be the capstone for the first cohort in which the student schedules their own clinicals to achieve 20 team leads. The time this takes is variable depending on the student.
- 3. What do clinicals look like?** Clinicals for the program are spread out through the four semesters. During the first three semesters, the majority of this is experiential culminating to approximately 36-72 hours of self-scheduled time. We have a schedule posted online where students can go and pick out shifts that work for them. With COVID, the ability to extend timelines for clinicals will be considered. We may save clinical time for the Summer when you do not have classes.
- 4. Do I have to come to class?** Ideally, having students in their seats in the classroom is the best way to ensure everyone is on the same page with knowledge. Our classes have been highly interactive in the past and missing these components can be a detriment to your learning. With COVID, however, the EMS Program is highly conscious of social distancing requirements and will likely be utilizing distance learning solutions to allow students to access lectures from home.
- 5. Where can I do clinicals?** We have agreements in place with Cody, Powell, Casper, and Cheyenne to accomplish your required clinicals.
- 6. How do you teach?** I believe in the flipped classroom approach to learning and have been trained in that as a National EMS Instructor. I expect you to read and do your homework previous to class beginning, then come to class prepared to cement these ideas and questions you may have be answered.
- 7. Where is the class located?** We will be holding Paramedic core classes out of the Cody Center.
- 8. Why do you require students complete a degree?** All major EMS licensure authorities, including NAEMT, NAEMSE, and NREMT, have voiced their support for degree requirements of all paramedics by 2025. That means if you want to practice as a Paramedic by then, you must have an associate's degree. This is in a format similar to nurses and is an effort to push the Paramedic role into a more respected profession with higher wages. Most of the classes you will take alongside your Paramedic core classes are required to be a paramedic anyway and are often a pre-requisite to being accepted into the program – Math, A&P 1&2. I will work with you to design your schedule once you are accepted.