

College of the Redwoods

North Coast Paramedic Program

The North Coast Paramedic Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (600238). The goal of the program is to prepare Paramedics who are competent in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains to enter the profession, and are eligible to take the national registry paramedic examination to be licensed in the state of California and be certified as a Nationally Registered Paramedic. Students will also be offered the opportunity to be certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS).

The North Coast Paramedic Program consists of at least 1,140 hours: 460 hours of classroom didactic and skills laboratory instruction, 200 hours of clinical instruction, and 480 hours in a field internship. The North Coast Paramedic Program occurs over four consecutive semesters (Fall-Spring-Summer-Fall).

Classes are held at the Main Eureka campus. Clinical learning takes place in various acute care hospitals. These clinical hours will be conducted at hospitals in Arcata, Eureka, and/or Fortuna, along with other locations. Students should expect to be at a clinical location an average of eight hours a week. Clinical learning begins in November and runs concurrently with didactic instruction. The field internship (HO 170C and HO 170D) will be conducted in Advanced Life Support ambulances under the direct supervision of experienced paramedics designated as Field Training Officers. The field internship can be conducted with any ALS transport provider with which the program has an established clinical agreement. It has become common in recent years for providers to charge for accepting paramedic interns. These fees are not charged by all providers and can vary significantly. They are not included in your student fees.

The Paramedic Program is intended as a structured course of study that cannot be divided into separate component parts. Therefore, no advanced placement, credit for experiential learning, or transfer credit is available.

To be eligible for the North Coast Paramedic Program all applicants must submit proof of the following:

- High school or general education equivalent
 - High school graduation must be verified by submitting official documentation consisting of an official/unopened (in a sealed envelope) high school transcript. A student may show equivalency by passing the GED (General Education Development Examination) or California High School Proficiency Exam and submitting an official/unopened (in a sealed envelope) certificate. To obtain an official copy of your High School Equivalency, please request the record from the organization you tested with.

➤ Test taken through Pearson Vue Educational Testing (ETS) , go to:

https://ged.com/life_after_ged/

➤ Test taken through HiSET ETS, go to: <https://hiset.ets.org/after/request-transcript>

High school education from outside the United States must be evaluated to be equivalent to United States high school education either by GED or an International Evaluation Service. International Students webpage:

<https://www.redwoods.edu/services/admissions/international.php>

Approved services are listed at:

State of California Commission on Teacher Credentialing - Foreign Transcript Evaluation

- An applicant who holds a degree from an accredited college or university may submit proof of degree as posted on official college transcripts.
- Current EMT-1/B certificate, NREMT registration or California advanced EMT certificate
- Valid basic life support card according to current Emergency Cardiovascular Care Standards at the healthcare provider level.
- Health Occupations Physical exam and proof of immunizations (completed during the first five weeks of the Fall semester). See page 4 - Program Requirements
- Proof of current COVID-19 vaccination or declination is required.

Curriculum Pattern

North Coast Paramedic Program

First Semester		Units
HO 170 A	North Coast Paramedic I	11.0
Second Semester		
HO 170 B	North Coast Paramedic II	13.0
Third Semester		
HO 170 C	North Coast Paramedic III	1.0-4.0
Fourth Semester		
HO 170 D	North Coast Paramedic IV	5.0-8.0
Program Total		<u>33.0</u>

* Curriculum may vary due to changes in requirements at College of the Redwoods and/or state regulations and policies.

General Information

1. The North Coast Paramedic program begins in the fall semester. The field experience begins in the following summer session.
2. Evaluation of the paramedic student is based on theoretical knowledge, manipulative skill proficiency, and the application of both in the clinical laboratory setting. For Paramedic program progression and completion, a grade of 'C' or better is required for all courses except HO 170C & HO 170D (P/NP). In addition, a cumulative 2.0 GPA must be maintained for the associate degree with all program and General Education requirements at C or better grades.
3. In laboratory and field courses with a clinical component, students must receive a satisfactory clinical evaluation to pass the course and progress in the program.
4. Clinical agencies require students to complete a criminal background check. If a student's background check (criminal record) does not satisfy the requirements of the agency, or the agency refuses access to patients for any other reason, the program will not be able to provide alternate experiences, and the student must then withdraw from the program or receive an F grade.
5. A Livescan fingerprint background check is required as part of the state licensing procedure ("The student must not be excluded from eligibility to be issued a license due to past

criminal conviction as explained in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Article 9”) This is a regulation, and additional information can be found at: <https://emsa.ca.gov/Paramedic/>

6. Students transferring from other paramedic programs who apply to the program are offered educational mobility opportunities that consider their previous education. Where applicable, academic credits shall be evaluated and applied to program requirements. Individual counseling and/or testing for advanced placement is available to help students make appropriate academic decisions.
7. The Program does not have a specific work experience prerequisite; however, all students must provide documentation of their involvement on scene and while in transport to the hospital with at least forty (40) patients. For students currently employed by an ambulance provider, this verification can be provided by the employer. Students not currently employed by an ambulance provider, or without previous ambulance transport experience, will be required to ride along with an ALS ambulance to obtain this experience as part of their clinical rotations. The hours required to gain this experience will be in addition to all other clinical hours and do not count toward the field internship.
8. Applicants who have previously enrolled in the College of the Redwoods paramedic program must apply for readmission by consulting with the Dean of Health Occupations. Only one readmission to the paramedic program is possible.
9. All students must possess sufficient computer literacy skills to complete Internet research, communicate by email, scan documents, and enter data in the Platinum Planner © clinical tracking program and other computer instruction and word processing. Those without these skills are encouraged to take CIS 1 before enrollment in the program.
10. Availability of field experience necessitates admitting a limited number of students to each class. Therefore, applications will be accepted on a first come, first served basis during the Enrollment Period. We encourage students waiting for admission to take additional required general education courses toward an Associate of Science degree.
11. The demands of the paramedic program are many. Most students find it difficult to carry the load of the program and work more than part time. Financial aid and several scholarships have been available each year. Contact the Financial Aid Office. Personal life issues need to be in balance to be successful. One must have reliable transportation, reliable childcare (if applicable), and an ability to be punctual to assigned classes and clinical locations. Tardiness is not an acceptable performance standard in this professional career.

1. Students interested in being eligible for the RN Program may want to plan enrollment in the following courses

- BIOL 6 (Anatomy),
- BIOL 2 (Microbiology)
- BIOL 7 (Physiology)
- HO 15 (Nutrition),
- COMM 1 (Public Speaking) or COMM 6 (Small Group Communication) or COMM 7 (Interpersonal Communication)
- English 1A,
- PSYCH 1 Intro to Psychology) or Psych 11 (Growth and Development),
- SOC 1 (Intro to Sociology) or ANTH 3 (Anthropology) or SOC 2 (Social Problems).

- Additionally, BIO 1 is a prerequisite for the pre-nursing biology courses, and BIO 2 has a pre/co-requisite of CHEM-2.

Please consult the current College of the Redwoods catalog for details. These courses and Nursing Program courses are required by the California State Board of Registered Nursing for RN licensure.

If you would like to review program requirements you should meet with an Academic Advisor.

**You may contact Counseling and Advising or
Alex Wright at 707-476-4288 or Alex-Wright@redwoods.edu**

Program Requirements:

1. To protect the public's safety and health, applicants must be in good health and be able to perform the physical and mental work required in the program. **To participate in clinical learning experiences all students must submit (instructions as to how to submit will be provided the first day of class) the following documents before being assigned to any agency or field experiences:**
 - a. Proof of tetanus, measles, rubella, and varicella immunity must be documented on the Health Occupations Student Health Form. Hepatitis B is highly recommended, but a signed waiver is possible for this immunization only. The vaccines are available from your Primary Care Provider or Public Health.
 - b. TB blood test (QuantiFeron-TB Gold) is required. TB skin tests are no longer sufficient.
 - c. A College of the Redwoods Department of Health Occupations Physical Examination and Health History Form completed by a MD, PA, or FNP. Students must meet established physical and emotional requirements for safe clinical practice. Any concerns regarding health status issues should be forwarded to the Director of Nursing and Health Occupations.
 - d. A drug screening may be required based on where you're placed for clinicals.
 - e. Current, active CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) certification, including adult, infant, and child CPR, for both one-rescuer and two-rescuers CPR This can be satisfied as follows:
 - ❖ American Heart Association – Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR Health Care Provider.
 - ❖ American Red Cross – CPR for the Professional Rescuer course.
 - ❖ American Safety and Health Institute - BLS Program
2. All students must be free of alcoholism, drug abuse or emotional illness that could jeopardize the student's ability to provide safe client care. Students are advised to seek voluntary aid for conditions that could, if left unattended, lead to disciplinary action.

Public Notice/Nondiscrimination: All classes are open to those who have met the academic prerequisites. College of the Redwoods does not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, color or disability in any of its programs or activities. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities. Upon request, this publication will be made available in alternate formats.

Cost of the Program and Licensing Fees (approximately \$4,000 total)

** The costs listed are approximate and may change at any time ***

Enrollment fees		X33	
	\$46 per unit	units	\$1,518.00
Books, supplies and materials fees			\$600
Required fees for certification in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS). The combined cost of these certification classes is approximately \$60.			\$60.00
Students must have uniforms and a watch with a second hand			\$100.00
Immunizations for students who do not have the required immunity to several communicable diseases. These can be completed with your Primary Care Provider or Public Health. Please begin this process as soon as possible because some immunizations require more than one injection. (approximate cost)			\$220
Background checks and American Databank (Complio) immunization tracking			\$130.00
Application for National Registry Exam			\$175.00
State of California License application			\$300.00
Local EMS agency accreditation fees	Varies by region		\$150.00
EMS Testing			\$105.00
Platinum Planner ©			\$95.00
	APPROXIMATE TOTAL		\$3,453.00

Application Steps and Eligibility

- **College Application and Student Email:** All applicants must have applied to the College of the Redwoods and have a CR student ID number.
- **Apply for admission to College of the Redwoods** <https://www.redwoods.edu/apply.php>.
- If you have not attended classes at College of the Redwoods for two or more semesters you are required to re-apply. This must be completed prior to submitting your application.
- **Ensure your College of the Redwoods email address is current** and active throughout the application cycle. All communication regarding your application and admission status will be sent your College of the Redwoods email. **PERSONAL EMAILS WILL NOT BE USED FOR CORRESPONDENCE.** You receive your College of the Redwoods email address and student ID when you apply to be a student at College of the Redwoods.
- **Name/Address Changes:** If there have been any changes to your name, address, email, or phone number after submitting your application, you must update this information immediately by emailing to: HealthOcc@redwoods.edu . Updating your information in College of the Redwoods Admissions alone will not update your application.
- **Check CR Email Frequently:** Check your College of the Redwoods email for the Important Dates. **We DO NOT** use personal email accounts, so please ensure your CR email is active and up to date.
- The application will only be accepted electronically via the link on the Paramedic Program webpage or directly through Etrieve by signing in to your student portal. If you need assistance accessing the portal you may visit the Welcome Center or contact the help desk via the website <https://www.redwoods.edu/support.php> .
- The application link will be available March 1st on the Paramedic webpage <https://www.redwoods.edu/academics/paramedic.php> and will remain open until the class is full.

1. Transcript Submission

High School or GED Transcripts are required for the Paramedic Program.

Official/unopened (in a sealed envelope) or electronic transcript of high school graduation or equivalent must be included with your application, or it will be considered incomplete and disqualified.

- An electronic or official/unopened (in a sealed envelope) certificate verifying earning a GED (General Education Development Examination) or passing the California High School Proficiency Exam.
Please log on to one of the following web sites:
 - www.ged.com
 - <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/cp.asp>
- Any high school education from outside the United States must be evaluated

for equivalency to a United States high school education. Approved evaluation services are found at:
<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl635.pdf>

- OR...a student may take the GED exam in lieu of the evaluation. The evaluation or the GED certificate must be included in the application to the Program. Documents must be official and must be submitted in an unopened/sealed envelope.

College transcripts- *if applicable*

- Official, current transcripts from all colleges attended if applicable.
- Must be from regionally accredited US colleges or universities.
- Transcripts submitted previously showing in-progress coursework need to be resubmitted when the course is completed to be considered eligible.
- Transcripts for coursework taken at College of the Redwoods do not need to be submitted.
- Submit Official transcripts with your application to HealthOcc@redwoods.edu.
 - ***DO NOT SUBMIT TO GENERAL COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS ADMISSIONS OFFICE.***
- You may submit most transcripts electronically through a service such as Parchment (there are other electronic submission company's) to HealthOcc@redwoods.edu. The Parchment default is the admissions office. You can specify the email at the bottom of the page. If you are having issues, please contact the service directly.
- If submitting a paper transcript, it must be in sealed envelope. You must contact Health Occupations (707-476-4216) to arrange a time to hand deliver the transcripts.
- Mailed transcripts will **not** be accepted.

*Foreign/International transcripts must be formally evaluated by a foreign transcription service. For more information, please visit:

[https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/foreign-transcript-evaluation-\(cl-635\)](https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/foreign-transcript-evaluation-(cl-635))