

# Waubonsee Community College

Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic

*Health Science Career Cluster*

## Overview

The Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic program of study at Waubonsee Community College in Sugar Grove, Illinois has a unique partnership with Southern Fox Valley Emergency Management System to support the region’s training and licensing for paramedics. The community college has strengthened this program of study by building a clear pathway from secondary schools up, allowing students to earn Emergency Medical Technician – Basic in high school and then transition to the postsecondary environment to complete the Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic degree. Throughout this program, students develop the foundational academic and technical skills needed to be successful, and are provided with a vast array of work-based learning opportunities, where they can apply their skills and build relationships with potential employers.

Secondary Students EMT-B (20)	Percentage
Male	55%
Female	45%
Minority	20%
Postsecondary Students – EMT-B (133)	Percentage
Male	71%
Female	29%
Minority	30%
Postsecondary Students – EMT-P (31)	Percentage
Male	97%
Female	3%
Minority	6%

## Secondary and Postsecondary Alignment Provides True Pathway to Future

Offered at both the secondary or postsecondary level, the program of study begins with an Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (EMT-B) course. Students may test for this license once they have achieved their high school graduation plus reached 18 years of age. Once they obtain this license, they may apply for admission to the Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic (EMT-P) program.



The EMT-B program is offered across 14 high schools and is strictly aligned to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s national curriculum, and monitored closely by the Southern Fox Valley Emergency Management System (SFVEMS), who approves course syllabi. This ensures that all courses, throughout both secondary and postsecondary, meet the standards set by the industry and that every student has access to the highest quality education.

While enrolled in secondary education, students can earn many of the general education requirements for the degree as dual credit in subjects such as math and sociology. Waubonsee Community College has relationships with 12 public high school districts that support dual credit and articulated credit offerings in areas required for the degree.

Waubonsee Community College has dedicated a High School Partnerships Office to manage and promote these relationships, and to further develop dual credit offerings. This office works closely with Health Professions and Public Service, the college's division that manages the program, and the Valley Education for Employment System (VALEES), which organizes and promotes the articulation agreements when dual credit is not an option.

### Students Apply Knowledge and Skills in the Field

In both secondary and postsecondary, students are exposed to a vast array of real-world experiences. In the EMT-B program, students participate in 20 clinical hours at a hospital; students in the EMT-P track participate in over 550 clinical hours at the hospital and in the field and have over 100 patient contacts. Clinical rotations take place at partnering hospitals such as Rush Copley Hospital, Presence Mercy Hospital and Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital, all of whom also are represented on the program's advisory board. Students can work with over seven different partnering fire departments to meet their field requirements and gain invaluable experience from professionals on the job. Upon completion of the clinical rotation and field training, students are state and nationally certified.

*"I personally have been involved with the paramedic program for over 30 years, and have most appreciated the diversity of students that strive for paramedic certification. From a job requirement to a personal need to help others, students of all ages come to our hospital for experience and real-time application of their classroom teachings. This program provides flexible scheduling while maintaining rigorous expectations. It also uses concrete data to measure the impact of the program on student achievement. This is evident through the skills demonstrated by the students in their clinical rotations at my hospital." – Scott Vance, EMS Coordinator/Emergency Preparedness Officer, Presence Mercy Medical Center*

This ensures students are not only prepared to work in their home state, but also can compete for careers across the nation.

### Success by the Numbers

A rigorous curriculum aligned to responding to industry changes, a variety of real-world learning opportunities and seamless secondary-to-postsecondary pathways has resulted in a remarkably successful program of study.



**60%**

Postsecondary Students Earned  
EMT-B Certificate



**84%**

Postsecondary Students  
Earned EMT-P Certificate



**100%**

Secondary Students Earned  
an Industry-recognized  
Credential

Data based on 2014-2015 school year

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