

Thank you for your interest in the 2023-2024 NCH Paramedic Program!

Please read this message and the attachments completely as they provide key information about applying for the paramedic class that starts in the Fall of 2023.

STEP 1: READ attachments **#2 2023 Harper College EMS Admission Requirements** and **#3 the Essential job functions for a paramedic** thoroughly to determine your eligibility.

If you meet the **eligibility** requirements:

STEP 2 Contact Kathy Fitzpatrick (kfitzpatri@nch.org or 847-618-4480) to open a file and **schedule an EMT Validation Exam test date.**

- **Testing is available by prior appointment only:** Every Tuesday morning at 9 AM from **February 14** until **June 27, 2023**. Space may be limited as testing capacity is shared with System entry candidates. Call or e-mail early to schedule a date.
- **Submit to Kathy prior to testing:** Completed **Supplemental Information form** (Attachment #4). It is a fillable document in Word format so you can open, type in your responses, save and return the form electronically.
Also attach copies of your IDPH EMT or AEMT license; current CPR card, and driver's license.

Test information:

- **Structure:** 100 multiple-choice questions written in a format similar to the NREMT exam. Treatment questions are keyed to the 2022 NWC EMSS SOPs available on the **NWC EMS System website:** www.nwcemss.org under the Standards of Practice tab. See **Attachment #5 Preadmission Exam BP (Blueprint) F23** for the distribution of topics to be tested. **Please study using the blueprint as a guide - first-attempt scores count!**
- **Timing:** One minute per question (100 minutes) is allowed to complete the exam.
- **Passing score: 80%.** If you score below 80% on the first attempt, one retake is allowed.

STEP 3: On the day of testing

- **Location:** NWC EMSS offices (NCH 901 Kirchoff Center) | **See Attachment #6 - Map** for location, parking, and building entry directions
- **Time to report:** 8:45 am
- **PPE:** With the current increase in persons with infectious respiratory diseases, all hospitals have invoked special precautions and we appreciate your understanding and compliance. You must wear a **CDC-approved surgical or N-95 mask** to enter the building and remain masked while here.

We will visually observe you perform timed 20-second hand hygiene prior to entrance into the testing environment.

If you have any S&S of illness on the day of testing or have tested positive for an infectious disease and remain in the isolation period, DO NOT report for testing. Call Kathy in advance to reschedule.

- Do not bring anything with you to the test environment other than two # 2 pencils.

You may not have any electronic devices with you during the exam. Please leave them in your vehicle.

STEP 4: If you pass the EMT Validation exam, you will be given information for filing an Application with Harper College.

General Course Information

- We usually accept 24 students per year, but that depends on the number of field experience positions made available by our provider agencies. Unaffiliated applicants ARE NOT to seek out an affiliation relationship with ANY EMS agency. They are matched using a process defined in the System Pooled preceptor policy.
- **Class dates:** September 11, 2023 to June 7, 2024
- **Academic calendar and curriculum design:** Classes are generally conducted face-to-face in the EMS classrooms at Northwest Community Hospital. Hospital clinical rotations are offered at each of the six hospitals that are affiliated with the NWC EMS System. The field Capstone experience occurs at NWC EMSS Agencies that agree to host students. Participants are considered full-time students for the fall and spring Harper semesters and part-time for the summer semester. See the previous academic calendar posted to the EMS website for a template of the anticipated sequencing of courses.
- **Course tuition and fees** are set by Harper College per credit hour and NCH based on prerequisite requirements and are available upon request. All NCH paramedic students riding with EMS System member agencies are eligible for Harper College in-district tuition.

Admissions decisions: We do NOT have early or rolling admissions. Class selection will occur in early July 2023 and applicants will receive e-mail correspondence from Harper College relative to their acceptance status. **NOTE:** For those NOT employed by an NWC EMS System Provider Agency and assigned to an NWC EMSS vehicle, **first-attempt exam scores and the date of Harper College application file completion are used to rank applicants for selection decisions into the program.** See the Harper College document for how admissions decisions are made.

Full information about our program is posted on the EMS System website: www.nwcemss.org under the Education tab. Please feel free to check us out at any time!

Let Kathy know via e-mail if you have any questions. We look forward to meeting you!

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