

2026 Paramedic Program Admission Requirements

Fall 2026 Paramedic Program Application
Begins: March 2, 2026
Deadline: June 8, 2026

Program Start. August 24, 2026

Check the program web site for information on the application status.
Direct questions to le@harpercollege.edu

STEP I

Submit College Application and Fee

- If you haven't already applied to the College, you will need to do so before completing the following steps. You can apply online at:
https://harpercollege.my.site.com/apply/TX_SiteLogin?startURL=%2Fapply%2FTargetX_Portal_PB

Schedule and take the EMT Validation Exam

- Applicants must demonstrate minimally acceptable EMT knowledge through written pre-testing to be accepted into the paramedic class. **Contact Pamela Ross at 847-618-4482 or email pamela.ross@endeavorhealth.org** beginning March 2, 2026, to obtain the Validation Exam blueprint via email along with the pre-test registration instructions. Testing will be conducted on **May 20th, May 27th, and June 3rd at 9 AM** by appointment. Students scheduled for the last testing date of June 3rd are not able to retest. Questions about the exam can be answered at 847-618-4482.
- A score of 75% or higher is passing. Applicants have one opportunity to retake the exam if their score is less than 75% on the first attempt to ensure eligibility for acceptance. First attempt scores are weighed in the rank order for class acceptance determination.

Applicants who receive a score of 75% or higher on the pretest will receive the following from the EMS Office at Northwest Community Hospital:

Paramedic Program Application and Admission Requirements

Submit the following to Pamela Ross at Endeavor Health Northwest Community Hospital's EMS Office BEFORE submitting the application for the Paramedic Program to Harper College:

- Proof of meeting minimum age requirement of 18 years: Copy of driver's license, passport, or state ID
- Current driver's license
- Current EMT or AEMT license
- Current American Heart Association CPR for Healthcare Professionals card.
- The Paramedic Program **Supplemental Information Form**

STEP II

Complete and submit the Paramedic Program application:

Once you have successfully passed the EMT validation exam with a score of 75% or higher you will receive the link to the Harper College Paramedic Program online application. Complete all fields. Your application will be processed within 5 – 7 business days. Application status will be emailed to you at the email address provided on the application as well as to your Harper College email address.

- NOTE: Please check your spam folder as some emails (g-mail, yahoo) may go to spam.

Submit all documents to Harper College by June 8, 2026

Other prerequisites

Official High School Transcript OR High School Equivalency (HSE) Results MANDATORY (regardless of higher degree)

- Send your official final high school transcripts with the graduation date posted, or, if you are submitting the HSE report, the document must show passing scores. Either document should be sent **directly** from the institution to Harper College.
- The preferred method to send your official transcript is electronically via Parchment or eScrip-Safe.
- Send to: processing@harpercollege.edu OR Via US mail
Attn: Admissions Processing A137c
Harper College
1200 W. Algonquin Rd
Palatine, IL 60067-7398
- Applicants who have completed high school in another country will need to submit a document-to-document evaluation of their high school transcript completed by Educational Perspectives www.edperspective.org, Educational Credential Evaluators, INC (ECE) www.ece.org or World Education Services (WES) www.wes.org specifically stating: **U.S. Equivalence: High school diploma.**

English/Reading Placement – can be satisfied by one of the following options:

- ACT English score of 19 or higher **and** ACT Reading score of 20 or higher; **or**
- SAT Evidence-based Reading and Writing subscore of 480 or higher **or**
- Harper College Writing/Reading Assessment Test results that demonstrate placement into ENG 101 without a reading co-requisite; **or**
- Successful completion of a college level English composition transfer course equivalent to ENG 101 at Harper with a grade of “C” or better
- Aligned high school ENG course with a grade of C or higher from districts 211, 214, or 220, **or**
- Successful completion of a college level, Harper College ENG Dual Credit course, **or**
- Advanced Placement credit with a score of 3 or higher, **or**
- Cumulative unweighted high school GPA of 3.0 (on a 4-point scale) or 4.0 (on a 5-pt scale)

There is no expiration date on the English Composition course or testing requirement.

Please visit <https://www.harpercollege.edu/testing/collegereadyatharper.php> for full list of options and course options.

Academic Standing

- Current or previously enrolled Harper students need to hold a minimum 2.0 grade point average (GPA).
- **Applications submitted for Harper applicants who do not have a 2.0 GPA MAY be reviewed for consideration by the Program Director.**

STEP III

Admission Selection Decisions

- **Program capacity:**
This is a **limited-enrollment program**. Meeting all requirements (**Step I and Step II**) **does not guarantee acceptance**. The number of candidates accepted depends on available clinical sites, field internships, classroom space, and student-instructor ratios.
- **NWC EMSS–affiliated applicants:**
 - Defined: those employed by and assigned to vehicles in the NWC EMSS with verified field internship preceptors
Priority is given to affiliated applicants once all requirements (**Step I and Step II**) are met.
- **Unaffiliated applicants:**
 - Defined: EMT applicants that are not employed by an agency/assigned to vehicles in the NWC EMSS.
- Selection of unaffiliated applicants is competitive and score-based. Unaffiliated applicants are ranked primarily by (**Step I**) **EMT Validation Exam scores**→ starting with highest first-attempt scores.
Additional final ranking factors may include:
 - Date the file was completed (**Step II**)
 - EMS and/or military experience (preference points)
 - Interview score
 - The **top 50 ranked candidates** (based on exam scores and preference points) will participate in **in-person small-group interviews** during **the weeks of June 15th and June 22nd**. Candidates will be contacted between **June 8th through June 10th** by EMS Resource staff to schedule interview date, time, and pertinent details.
- **Agency matching (for the field internship) is handled only by the program:**
Unaffiliated Applicants who have preferences for agency assignment must communicate so on the **Paramedic Supplemental Information Form (Step II)**.
 - All matching is done **exclusively through the Paramedic Program** after ranking.
 - Applicants **must not contact EMS agencies directly**.
- Completion of all requirements (**Step I, II and III**) is mandatory for consideration and must be on file by June 8, 2026 to be considered.
- **Final selection timeline**
Class selection decisions are expected during the **last week of June 2026**, determined jointly by **NCH and Harper College**.

Additional Admission Notes

- **Conditional Acceptance for unaffiliated applicants**
 - **Unaffiliated applicants are conditionally accepted**, pending:
 - A final agency match assigned by the **Paramedic Program**, and
 - Formal approval by an **authorized agency administrator** (Chief or EMS CEO).
 - **Individual agency members may not independently agree** to host a student.
 - All agency placements are coordinated **exclusively through the Program**.
- **Health, Physical Ability & Insurance Requirements**
 - Paramedic student candidates must provide **proof of health insurance coverage**.
 - Candidates must successfully complete **all health clearance requirements**, including:
 - A physical examination verifying the ability to meet the **essential job functions of an EMS clinician**
 - Confirmation of adequate **physical, psychological, social, and emotional capacity**
 - Students must be able to participate in **all academic and clinical activities without restriction**.

- **Accommodations are very limited**, as students must demonstrate the same functional abilities required in clinical and field settings.
 - The official **functional job description** is provided by the **NCH Paramedic Program**.
- **Immunizations, Background Check & Drug Screening**
 - Students must meet **all immunization requirements** by program-established deadlines or **forfeit their seat**.
 - Final enrollment is contingent upon:
 - A **criminal background check** compliant with the **Illinois EMS Act and Rules**
 - A **clean drug screen** meeting **federal and program requirements**
 - Detailed instructions for these requirements are provided **after program acceptance**.
- **Program Compliance & Academic Standards**
 - Applicants must meet **current admission standards** at the time of acceptance.
 - Students are required to follow the **Program curriculum and policies**, including any changes driven by:
 - National standards
 - State regulations
 - Program-level updates during enrollment
- **Required Documentation at Orientation**
 - Enrolled students must agree to and sign the following forms at **Program orientation**:
 - Student Agreement
 - Academic Release Form
 - Photo Release Form
 - Invasive Procedure Release Form
 - Emergency Preparedness Exercise Participation Release Form
- **Reapplication Policy**
 - Applicants who are **not accepted** and wish to be considered for a future class **must submit a new application** for the following year.

RESOURCES FOR PARAMEDIC PROGRAM APPLICANTS

For questions regarding:	Contact:	Phone number and/or email address:
Paramedic application process, requirements and deadlines	<u>Harper College</u> Health Careers Division Office, X250 (Cathie Borst/Imazul Garcia)	847.925.6533 le@harpercollege.edu
Validation exam, supplemental information form, opening applicant files at NCH	NCH Paramedic Program Admin Assistant Pamela Ross	847.618.4482 pamela.ross@endeavorhealth.org
Course schedule, content, requirements during the program	Paramedic Program Lead Instructor: Michael Gentile	847.618.4490 michael.gentile@endeavorhealth.org
EMS Education Programs, EMT and Paramedic Certificate and Associate degree requirements	EMS Education Program Director Kourtney Chesney	847.618.4488 kourtney.chesney@endeavorhealth.org
Academic advising, possible academic standing waiver, if needed	<u>Harper College</u> Academic Advising and Counseling - A364	847.925.6220 LEAdvisors@harpercollege.edu

2026 NCH/Harper College Paramedic Program Admission Requirements

Assessment testing for English / math placements	<u>Harper College</u> Assessment and Testing Center - A148	847.925.6541 testing@harpercollege.edu
Tuition, billing, 3 rd party payment, deferred payment program	<u>Harper College</u> Business Office (Ruth Sanders)	847.925.6497 sr13100@harpercollege.edu
Health Requirements (after admission)	Paramedic Program Lab and Clinical Coordinator: Britney Brichetto	847.618.4486 britney.brichetto@endeavorhealth.org
Address or phone number changes, transcripts, financial aid	<u>Harper College</u> One Stop Office A250	847.925.6710
Proficiency credit	<u>Harper College</u> Assessment and Testing Center - A148	847.925.6541 testing@harpercollege.edu