



Admission Requirements Policy  
Primary Care Paramedic Program

The following list of requirements have been approved for entry into this program. Conditional acceptance may be offered if students can demonstrate a plan to obtain any missing requirement(s) prior to the commencement of in-class training or can demonstrate an equivalency through our Prior Learning and Recognition (PLAR) program. Please contact the Paramedic Program Coordinator to discuss this further if either may be needed.

- **Minimum 19 years of age by program start date**
- **Current 'Emergency Medical Responder' (EMR) certification**
  - Certification can be from any EMALB approved program.
  - Must include full schedule 1 and schedule 2 endorsements. (Or separate EMR Scope Update/Gap training course completed.)
  - Visit [columbiaparamedic.ca](http://columbiaparamedic.ca) to learn more about specific requirements to our EMR prerequisite. (Effective Jan. 1, 2024.)
- **'Basic Life Support' (BLS) CPR certification**
  - Formerly known as 'Health Care Provider (HCP)' level CPR certification.
- **British Columbia grade 12 completion, or equivalent**
  - Applicants must have completed grade 12 in British Columbia or equivalent or be a Mature Student (see below).
  - Documentation must be provided (high school transcript or copy of Dogwood certificate).
- **Physically able to perform the tasks required of a paramedic**
  - Formal documentation from a medical expert is not required, however applicants must complete a Statement of Fitness to self-certify that they are physically able to perform the tasks required of a paramedic. This requires a healthy level of:
    - Aerobic fitness (eg. climbing stairs with equipment when elevator not accessible)
    - Muscular endurance (eg. performing prolonged CPR on a patient)
    - Muscular strength (eg. lifting and carrying patients)
    - Flexibility (eg. treating patients on the floor or in difficult to reach situations)
- **Criminal Record Check**
  - Must be completed through BackCheck to ensure final report includes all information and checks required by BCEHS for students to be placed on ambulance for precepting



- **Two Confidential Letters of Reference**

- Applicants must submit two reference letters that should highlight the applicant's ability to work as a paramedic.
  - One professional (eg. supervisor, teacher, coach, counsellor)
  - One personal
- Must use confidential recommendation form supplied by Columbia Paramedic Academy

- **Immunizations**

The following immunizations must be completed for any students completing an on-car practicum:

- **Mantoux:** (TB test)-a baseline 1-step test or a test in the last 6 months
- **Hepatitis B:** Series of 3 injections at 0 month, 1 month and 6 months and antibody testing 2-3 months post 3rd injection
- **MMR (measles, mumps, rubella):** Childhood series and a second injection for measles
- **Tetanus/Diphtheria:** Booster every 10 years

It is also recommended, but not required, that all students have baseline blood tests completed before practicum for:

- **Hepatitis B antibody-post vaccine series**
- **Hepatitis C antibody**
- **HIV antibody**

