

DO YOU HAVE NURSING PREREQUISITES & ARE CONSIDERING OTHER PATHWAYS? GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAN HELP!

This is how you could move from nursing prerequisites into emergency and advanced medical career pathways — including Medical Assistant, Community Health Worker, Phlebotomy, EMR, EMT, Paramedic, Flight Paramedic, Physician Assistant, and even begin Medical School.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT (RMA)

TRAINING TIME-FRAME:
49 credit hrs
3 semesters

PREREQUISITES:
None, however, having nursing prerequisites completed will make completion of RMA faster

PHLEBOTOMY (RPT)

TRAINING TIME-FRAME:
10 credit hrs
50 venipuncture success
10 skin puncture

PREREQUISITES:
• None

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

TRAINING TIME-FRAME:
10 credit hrs
1 semester
60 service learning hrs
100 clock hrs

PREREQUISITES:
• None

Program Information



Allied Health
alliedhealth@gcccks.edu
620-276-9560

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER (EMR)

TRAINING TIME-FRAME:
~1–3 weeks (40–60 hrs)

PREREQUISITES:
• CPR certification (often included), high school diploma or GED.
• Nursing prerequisites like anatomy & physiology will make EMR much easier.

ROLE:
• Entry-level certification
• First on scene
• Basic life support
• Scene safety
• Patient assessment
• Connection to Nursing

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)

TRAINING TIME-FRAME:
~3–6 months (150–190 hrs)

PREREQUISITES:
• High school diploma or GED
• CPR/BLS cert
• Often must be at least 18 years old.
• Nursing prerequisites like anatomy & physiology will make EMT much easier.

ROLE:
• Pre-hospital patient care
• Basic airway/CPR
• Splinting
• Medication assistance

PATHWAY OVERLAP:
EMT is often a stepping stone to Paramedic, and it builds strong patient care experience that also benefits nursing, PA, or med school applications.

PARAMEDIC

TRAINING TIME-FRAME:
~1–2 years (1,200–1,800 hrs)

PREREQUISITES:
• EMT certification
• CPR/BLS (and often ACLS, PALS during training)
• Anatomy & Physiology

ROLE:
• Advanced airway management
• Cardiac monitoring
• IV/IO access
• Medication administration
• Advanced trauma care

PATHWAY OVERLAP:
Paramedic-level skills are highly respected for flight paramedic roles and can also strengthen medical or PA school applications.

FLIGHT PARAMEDIC*

TRAINING TIME-FRAME:
Additional training + experience

PREREQUISITES:
• Paramedic certification
• 3–5 years high-volume 911 or critical care transport experience
• Certifications like FP-C (Flight Paramedic Certification) or CCP-C (Critical Care Paramedic)

ROLE:
• Critical care transport via helicopter or fixed wing, often between facilities
• Advanced life support in austere conditions.

PATHWAY OVERLAP:
Many flight medics are also RNs or have additional critical care background.

PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT (PA)

TRAINING TIME-FRAME:
~2–3 years (after bachelor's degree)

PREREQUISITES:
• Bachelor's degree (any major, but must include science prereqs).
• *Courses:* Anatomy & Physiology, Biology, Chemistry, Microbiology, Psychology, Statistics
• Direct patient care experience (often 1,000–3,000 hours) — EMT/Paramedic work counts

ROLE:
• Diagnose, treat, and prescribe under a physician's supervision
• Works in all specialties including emergency medicine.

PATHWAY OVERLAP:
Paramedic → PA is a common route because of the strong clinical experience.

MEDICAL SCHOOL (MD OR DO)

TRAINING TIME-FRAME:
4 years med school + 3–7 years residency

PREREQUISITES:
• Bachelor's degree with pre-med courses (*Biology, Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physics, Math, etc.*)
• MCAT exam

• Clinical exposure (EMT, Paramedic, or nursing experience strengthens applications)

ROLE:
• Full physician authority; can specialize in Emergency Medicine, Trauma Surgery, etc.

PATHWAY EXAMPLES:
• Nursing Prereqs → EMR → EMT → Paramedic → Flight Paramedic
• Nursing Prereqs → EMT → Paramedic → Bachelor's → PA School
• Nursing Prereqs → EMT → Bachelor's → Medical School
• Nursing Prereqs → Nursing (RN) → Flight Nurse OR PA School

Program Information



EMR, EMT, & Paramedic
emsprogram@gcccks.edu
620-275-3202

**GCCC does NOT offer a Flight Paramedic program.*

Program Information



Biology & Life Sciences
biology@gcccks.edu
620-276-9540

Which health hero do you want to be?

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