

**M A S S A C H U S E T T S**  
**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENT MANUAL**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 27, 2024      **AUTHORIZATION:** Susan Lewis, NRP, Director

**TITLE:** Minimum Skill Requirements for Paramedic Training

**SUPERSEDES:** 4/2020

**PURPOSE**

To define the minimum clinical and field experience/internship skill performance requirements for paramedic students trained at Massachusetts Department of Public Health (Department)-accredited EMT training institutions (ATIs) at the paramedic level.

**ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN CLINICAL AND FIELD INTERNSHIPS**

**Only paramedic students participating in a training program at a Department-accredited training institution** may participate in clinical and/or field experiences/internships. The paramedic student must meet the following prerequisites: 1) maintain current Massachusetts, out-of-state, or National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) certification or licensure as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) at any level below paramedic that is recognized by the state; 2) maintain current card documenting successful completion of a course meeting, at a minimum, the standards established by the Committee on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiac Care of the American Heart Association in Basic Cardiac Life Support health care professional cardiopulmonary resuscitation; 3) maintain current card documenting successful completion of a course meeting, at a minimum, the standards established by the Committee on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiac Care of the American Heart Association in Advanced Cardiac Life Support cardiopulmonary resuscitation; 4) successfully complete training prerequisites; and, 5) receive authorization from the program's medical director, program director, clinical and/or field coordinator to initiate the clinical and/or field experience/ internship.

Training prerequisites for **clinical experience** include successful completion of didactic training, lab training, all cognitive and psychomotor examinations, and student minimum competencies (SMCs) for skill(s) to be performed. The training program must have a valid affiliation agreement with the clinical site(s) and ensure the training program, clinical site(s) and students are covered by malpractice insurance.

Training prerequisites for **field experience and capstone internship** include successful completion of didactic training, lab training, all cognitive and psychomotor examinations, SMCs, and clinical experience. The training program must have a valid affiliation agreement with the field experience/internship site(s) and ensure that the training program, field site(s) and students are covered by malpractice insurance.

**PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

Paramedic students must perform a minimum number of required competencies and skills on patients in their clinical and field experiences/internships, in accordance with standards set by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)'s Committee on Accreditation of Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP), and their ATIs and SMCs, defined by the ATI's advisory committee and medical director, and the Department. Each paramedic student must complete clinical and field skills in the presence of a qualified preceptor. During the field experience and capstone internships, the student must always serve in addition to the minimum staffing of the ALS ambulance, in accordance with 105 CMR 170.305. Only one student is allowed on the ALS ambulance at a time.

**PRECEPTOR QUALIFICATIONS**

ATIs operating initial paramedic training programs must develop their own policies for preceptor experience and provide appropriate ongoing supplemental training to ensure preceptor competence.

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ATIs are required to maintain documentation and/or portfolios of each paramedic student's performance during clinical and field experiences/internships, in accordance with CAAHEP/CoAEMSP's as well as NREMT requirements. ATIs shall also maintain documentation of their preceptors' training and current qualifications.