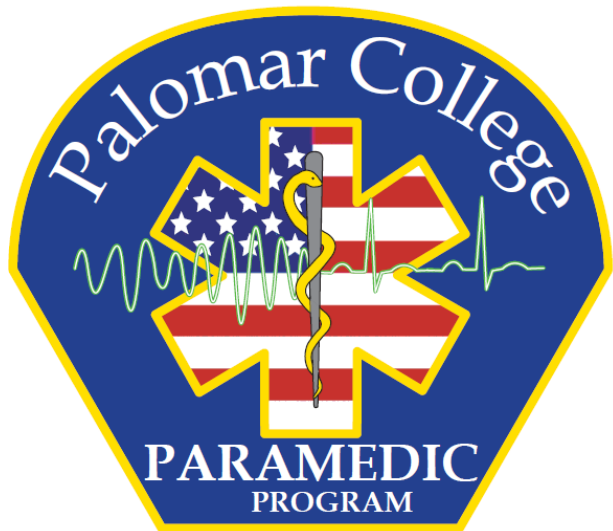


PALOMAR *POWERED*

Suggested Pathway

In the preparation to become a

Firefighter Paramedic



Updated

April 19, 2018

Firefighter Paramedic Career Pathway

Firefighter Paramedic Career Pathway

Palomar College Fire Technology is proud to provide an easy to understand pathway to become a Firefighter Paramedic. Our goal? To have each of our students start a fulfilling career in this exciting area of Public Safety.

Why follow the Palomar College Pathway when other options seem faster?

- **Having both an Accredited Academy and a Paramedic License allows a student to apply anywhere and enhances the ability to get hired in the Fire Service.**
- **The Palomar College Fire Technology and Emergency Medical Education programs have an excellent reputation.**
- Competition for jobs by applicants with minimal experience creates a significant challenge. Applicant pools in large cities can reach approximately 3000-5000 applicants making the chances of obtaining a job reduced (they may hire 120 from that pool).
- Of the 43 or so Fire Departments in San Diego County only about 6-10 will accept new hires with an EMT-B certificate, and these often prefer completion of an Accredited Fire Academy.
- Of those agencies with the minimum entry requirements, they still highly prefer a Paramedic License and a Fire Academy Completion Certificate as minimal attributes.
- According to Fire Training Officers, It is not uncommon for approximately 30% of new hires to wash out. This occurrence can be attributed to sub-standard training programs or poor paramedic skills. Our programs will prepare you for the rigors of being a Firefighter Paramedic and help you be successful in maintaining employment!

Many job openings will be occurring in the next few years, and the competition will be intense. This pathway is designed to make our students ideal candidates for employment.

Initial pathway

Our pathway is a suggested approach and not mandatory. It does, however, clarify a logical, step by step approach to enhance a students' success. It combines Fire and EMS training while obtaining experience working as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Reserve, Volunteer, or Explorer Firefighter.

This program has other benefits which include:

- May obtain up to three Certificates of Achievement while following the pathway.
- The focus of the program is becoming competitive and getting hired.
- After completing the general education requirements, a student could apply for up to three Associate's Degrees!
- Students may continue to attend classes in any order that is desired without following the guideline.

In what courses should a student enroll? The core required courses for Fire Technology and Emergency Management include:

- Fire 100 Fire Protection Organization
- Fire 101 Firefighter Safety
- Fire 118 Fire Prevention Technology
- Fire 120 Building Construction for the Fire Service
- Fire 130 Fire Protection Equipment and Systems
- Fire 165 Fundamentals of Fire Protection Chemistry
- Fire 142 Fire Ethics

These core courses apply to an Associate's Degree in both Fire Technology and Emergency Management and are an excellent start to the program. Elective courses are also required (such as the Fire Academy) to fulfill Certificate and Degree requirements.

If you find the courses you want to take are full or don't match your schedule, you can enroll in any of the core Fire Technology courses or general education classes. The more core Fire Technology classes you attend, the higher your point score when applying to attend the Fire Academy (they are worth 5 points each in the interview).

What If I can't afford to do this?

We want to ensure anyone can pursue their dream of becoming a Firefighter/Paramedic. Therefore, Palomar College has many financial assistance and grant programs available to help students afford the cost of an education. More information can be found at <https://www2.palomar.edu/pages/fa/>, or you can attend a Financial Aid workshop which can be very helpful looking at the possibilities.

The Suggested Pathway

Below you will find the suggested pathway for students wishing to become a Firefighter/Paramedic. Some key points:

- **Ensure you are a registered student at Palomar College**
- An attempt should be taken to take the blocks as laid out as they are placed in a logical order in preparation for the two major components: the Fire Academy and Paramedic Training.
- Set an Appointment with the Counseling office to ensure you are taking the appropriate classes.
- Some items can be moved around within a semester using the fast track system utilized by Palomar College.
- After block 2, apply to become Reserve, Volunteer, or Explorer Firefighter with one of our partner agencies. See Appendix A for a list.

The Fire Technology and Emergency Management Program

	Block	Number	Class Title	Units
1 Semester	Block 1	EME 100**	Emergency Medical Responder	3
		Fire 100	Fire Protection Org	3
		Fire 142	Fire Ethics	3
		Fire 160	Wildland Fire Control	3
				12

** Those with Military experience that includes Combat Life Saver, TCCC, or Corpsman may bypass this course.

- Camp Pendleton based active duty military can start taking the core Fire Technology classes on base while serving our country; this will make those individuals more competitive in this process once separation from service occurs.

1 Semester	Block 2	EME 106	EMT-B	full semester	6
		EME 106L	EMT-B Lab	full semester	1.5
		Fire 165	Fundamentals of Fire Protection Fire Chemistry		3
		Fire 51	Fire Academy Preparation		2
				12.5	

- Although not a core course, we HIGHLY suggest students take Fire 51 before the Fire Academy. In this class, students are introduced to the Physical Fitness Exam, introduction to hose and ladder operations, interview prep and other areas. Fire 51 will allow a student realize if they are prepared for the physical rigors of a Fire Academy.
- Consider joining a North County Fire agency as a Reserve, Volunteer, or Explorer Firefighter to start gaining experience. Please see Attachment A for a list of agencies.
 - Explorer Programs are focused on those who are 15 to 21 years of age and provide excellent training to prepare for the Fire Service. There may also be college credit for work experience in the field.
 - Reserve, Volunteer, or Explorer Firefighter experience provides:
 - Mentors to assist with difficult topics.
 - Real life experience, making the college education more realistic.
 - Places the students' name out into the workplace, enhances chances of obtaining a full-time job if a student performs well.

Palomar College Fire Technology, Emergency Medical Education Firefighter Paramedic Career Pathway

- Paramedic Training requires 1040 hours of full-time paid BLS experience to qualify. The BEST approach is working for a fire department based EMT transport service or a private ambulance company. Advantages include:
 - You will gain knowledge in patient transport, working with hospitals, and charting.
 - EMT experience in a Fire Department based program provides experience in fire station life and expectations, training, and exposure to the career of a Firefighter.
 - A strong EMT often performs well in Paramedic Training. Having good EMT skills allows Paramedic Students the ability to focus more on the advanced skills they will be learning.

1 Semester	Block 3	Fire 151	Fire Academy: Full Semester (5) 9 hour days per week	20
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1 Semester	Block 4	Fire 101	FF Safety	3
		Fire 130	Fire Protection equipment and Systems	3
		Fire 118	Fire Prevention Technology	3
		Fire 120	Building Construction	3
				12

- After completion of blocks, one through four a student is eligible for a Certificate of Achievement in Fire Technology.
- Optional block. Take courses in block five after completion of blocks one through four and receive a Certificate of Achievement in Emergency Management

1 Semester	Block 5	Fire 115	Hazardous Materials 1	3
		Fire 131	Emergency Preparedness	3
		Fire 132	Fundamentals of Emergency Management	3
		Fire 133	Disaster Mitigation	3
				12

Paramedic Training Program

1 Semester	Block 6	Bio 145	Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology	3
		Bio 145L	Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology LAB	1
		EME 175	Paramedic Prep	2
		EME 175L	paramedic prep Lab	1
	2 General Education Classes – See General Education near the end of the document			
				7

2 Semesters	Block 7	Paramedic Training		
		EME 206	Introduction to Paramedic Training	5.5
		EME 206 L	lab	1.5
		EME207	Paramedic Medical Training	10
		EME 207 L	lab	2
		EME 208	Paramedic Trauma Training	4.5
		EME 208 L	lab	1
		EME 209	Paramedic OB/Peds Training	2.5
		EME 209L	lab	1
		EME 210	Clinical Internship	4
		EME 211	Clinical Integration I (Taken concurrently with EME (207-208L)	1.5
		EME 212	Clinical Integration II (Taken concurrently with EME (209-210)	1.5
		EME 215	Field Internship	9
				44

- After completion of blocks six and seven, a student is eligible for a Certificate of Achievement in Paramedicine.

Once completed a student has acquired the attributes that provide the most job opportunities in Fire/EMS and can meet any Fire Departments minimum requirements for hiring.



For more information on the Fire Technology and Emergency Medical programs At Palomar, please visit our websites located here:

For Fire Technology: <https://www2.palomar.edu/pages/fire/>

For Emergency Medical: <https://www2.palomar.edu/pages/eme/>

Additionally, a student can speak with, online chat, or set an appointment with the counseling office at <https://www2.palomar.edu/pages/counseling/>

General Education toward an Associate's of Science Degree

While getting hired in the Fire Service is the primary goal of this program, obtaining an Associate's Degree is an important next step. There are many paths a student may travel when receiving an education which is often based on individual preferences. We have suggested courses that best support your Fire Service Education and will assist our students when on the job. Degrees are essential as there is an increasing trend requiring an A/S Degree to promote to Fire Captain, and a Bachelor's Degree for promotion to Chief Officer Rank. We have ensured that all suggested General Education courses meet A/S Degree requirements and many are transferable to a CSU level College.

We strongly encourage students to finish the general education requirements to obtain one or more Associates Degrees.

One more reason for obtaining degrees: Many agencies offer a percentage over base pay for each level of degree acquired. A degree often equates to a higher annual salary, along with a higher hourly rate when overtime is worked. A small investment in obtaining an Associate's Degree will rapidly pay off, so don't delay the completion of the program!

Below you find a suggested general education path tailored to the educational needs of the Fire Service. As in the Fire Fighter / Paramedic Pathway, this approach is not required but will significantly enhance the career of a Firefighter.



Firefighter Paramedic Career Pathway

Suggested General Education Requirements

Area A: Language and Rationality

Area A1: English Composition

ENG 100

Area A2: Communication and Analytical Thinking

MATH 56, 60 or higher

Area B: Natural Sciences Area

BIOL 145/145L

Lab component optional
but meets Paramedic prerequisites
as seen in Block 6

Area C: Humanities Area

Select a class that fulfills the multicultural
requirement.

Area D: Social Sciences

POSC 102

Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development

HE 100

Suggest District Requirements

Competence in American History and Institutions/California Government

Check AAGE worksheet (POSC 102 fulfills only
2/3 of the requirement)

Competence in Health and Fitness

HE 100 or BIOL 145, PSYC 100 and HE 165)
(Fire Academy fulfills fitness activity)

Competence in Mathematics

Math 56, 60 or higher

Multicultural Requirement

Select an approved multicultural class from
Area C:

Firefighter Paramedic Career Pathway

Attachment A

Partner Agencies with indications if they have a Reserve, Volunteer, or Explorer Program

Programs Offered

Partner Fire Agencies	Website	Phone	Reserve	Volunteer	Explorer	EMT Xport
CAL-FIRE	https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sdcfa/volunteer-program/become-a-volunteer.html	858-974-5999	X			
Carlsbad	http://www.carlsbadca.gov/services/depts/fire/programs/explorers.asp	760-931-2141			X	
Del Mar	https://www.delmar.ca.us/134/Fire-Department	858-755-9313				
Escondido	https://fire.escondido.org/explorers.aspx	760-839-5400			X	
Encinitas	http://www.ci.encinitas.ca.us/Government/Departments/Public-Safety/Fire-Operations-Suppression-EMS	760-633-2800				
North County FPD	https://www.ncfireprotectiondistrict.org	760-723-2005		X	X	
Oceanside	http://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/gov/fire/specialops/explorerprogram.asp	760-435-4100			X	
Pala	http://www.palatribe.com/public-safety/pala-fire-department/	760-742-1632	X			
Pauma	http://www.paumatribes.com/government/tribal-services/	760-742-1488				
Poway	https://poway.org/194/About-the-Fire-Department	858-668-4460				
Rancho Santa Fe FPD	https://www.rsf-fire.org/	760-744-2186		X		
Rincon	https://www.rinconfire.net/	760-297-2300				
San Marcos	http://www.san-marcos.net/departments/public-safety/fire-department	760-744-1050 EX 3410				X
Solana Beach Fire	http://www.ci.solana-beach.ca.us/index.asp?SEC=61BB125B-D48D-452B-BAC4-DA1A85ED4AF0	858-720-2410				
Valley Center FPD	http://www.vcfpd.org/	760-751-7600	X		X	
Vista	http://www.cityofvista.com/residents/fire-department-1266	760-643-2801				