

Critical Care Paramedic Certificate

Introduction

The field of Critical Care Transport is a growing branch of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The advancements in medicine, combined with the specialization of many tertiary care facilities, have created the need for specially trained paramedics who are able to provide advanced care for critically ill and injured patients. In these changing times, it takes more than basic paramedic training to adequately meet these demands. Consequently, critical care and flight programs are requiring advanced training and Critical Care Certification for their paramedics.

The University of Florida's Critical Care Paramedic Certificate program will provide paramedics with high-level instruction in all aspects of critical care transport. Our instructors are experienced clinicians, physicians, and professors who are recognized experts in their fields of practice. The program is unique in that it combines didactic instruction with hands on labs and clinical rotations.

Curriculum Overview

The University of Florida's Critical Care Paramedic Certificate Program is a rigorous 16-day (140 hour) course that will provide instruction in all aspects of Critical Care Transport. Instructors include flight paramedics and nurses, physicians, and professors from the UF College of Medicine and the College of Pharmacy.

The areas covered include:

Critical Care Pharmacology
Hemodynamic Monitoring
Advanced 12 Lead EKG and Capnography with Bob Page
Intra-aortic Balloon Pump
Left Ventricular Assist Device
Neonatal and Pediatric Transport
Advanced Trauma Skills
Cadaver Lab
Transport Ventilators

Clinical Rotations at Shands @ UF's ICUs and the ShandsCair Flight Program

The student will be required to pass a comprehensive final exam at the end of the course to successfully obtain their CCP certification.

Admission Requirements

In order to register for this CCP course, you are required to be a clinician holding: Current Paramedic certification. The Paramedic certification can be from the State of Florida, the National Registry, or any State.

Current Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)
Current Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) *
Current Trauma Certification (ITLS and/or PHTLS) *

In addition, you are also required to have at least one year of paramedic experience.
All the above requirements must be met by the start of the CCP course.

*** These courses will be offered throughout the year on an as-needed basis. Please contact ufccp@dcp.ufl.edu.**

Below is a list of college level courses that would be beneficial to the Critical Care Paramedic:

CHM 2045 Chemistry I
BSC 2010 Core Biology I
MCB 2010 Microbiology
PSY 2012 General Psychology
SPC 2608 Public Speaking
BSC 2085/2086 Anatomy and Physiology

Recertification

The UF Critical Care Paramedic Certificate is good for a period of 4 years. Recertification will require a total of 100 CEU's covering Critical Care Topics.

Registration

Begin CCP Registration by [clicking here](#).

The cost of the course is \$1,000.00.

The student is responsible for obtaining all required and optional texts.

Required texts:

Critical Care Transport, Jones and Bartlett, 2011

ISBN-13: 9781449642587

Pharmacology, Lippincott's 5E, 2011

ISBN/ISSN: 9781451113143

Optional Text:

12-Lead ECG for Acute and Critical Care Providers, Bob Page, 2005

* Information about a publisher's textbook discount will be e-mailed to the student upon successful completion of course registration.

If you have any further questions, please contact us at ufccp@dcp.ufl.edu.

Frequently Asked Questions

There are a lot of “Critical Care” courses out there. Why should I take this one?

Yes, there are several courses from which to choose. Since there is not an accrediting body overseeing this aspect of pre-hospital care yet, it is important to ask yourself why you are taking the course and what you expect to get out of it. You should look at the educational institution is attached to the course and what qualifies them to conduct the course. The University of Florida is a benchmark university and a highly respected academic and research institution. Second, you want to look at the time commitment. A course that has less than 90 contact hours is not going to be considered sufficient by most flight and critical care service providers. Lastly, you want to look at who is teaching the course and what are their qualifications. The UF CCP course is taught by experienced clinicians from the transport and ICU setting, physicians and professors from the UF College of Medicine, and professors from the UF College of Pharmacy.

What are the advantages of the UF CCP Program?

We already mentioned the advantages of taking the course through the University of Florida and the high level of instruction that is provided. We also offer aspects not seen in most other Critical Care courses. We require our students to complete at least 35 clinical hours in the Intensive Care Unit, cadaver lab, advanced airway lab, and an opportunity to fly along with the ShandsCair Flight Program. This gives the student an opportunity to see and do many of the advanced concepts taught in the classroom setting.

Do I have to be a Paramedic to take the course?

Yes. Only state or national registered paramedics are eligible to become certified. Registered nurses have their own Critical Care Certifications, but if you are an RN and hold a Paramedic certification we would welcome your attendance.

What other certifications do I need to have?

You need to be current in AHA ACLS, AHA PALS or PEPP, and ITLS or PHTLS by the start of the course.

I just graduated Paramedic school. Can I enroll in the course?

No. We have found that paramedics who have over a year of experience have a higher rate of success than newer paramedics. This is a rigorous course that covers advanced topics not covered in paramedic school. It is assumed that you have a strong baseline of experience in the 911 setting.

How much does the course cost?

Tuition is \$1000 for the 16-day course. You have several payment options on the registration link of the website.

Can you hold me a spot and I will pay at a later date?

Payment must be made in full before your spot can be reserved.

I want to take the course, but I cannot make some of the dates. Can I register anyway?

There is a 100 percent attendance policy to qualify to sit for the final exam. If you take the course and miss a day for any reason, you will have to make up that day at the next course and then you will be eligible to sit for the final with that class.

Are the books included in the tuition?

All students are given a manual for the course, but they will be required to purchase the following books: Jones and Bartlett Critical Care Transport text and Lippincott's Pharmacology 5th edition. You can find these books at various on line books stores.

What can I do to prepare for the course?

Start off by getting at least 1 year or more of strong 911 experience. Attend as many critical care classes or conferences as possible. For example, the ShandsCair Flight Program holds an annual Critical Care Conference in May.

I am now registered. Is there anything I need to do to prepare for the course?

Yes. Once you receive your Lippincott's Pharmacology book, you will need to read Chapters 1-7, 9, 11, 13-19, 22, 27, 28, 30-32, 41, 43. This reading is essential to understanding the pharmacology of the course. There will be a pre-test on this material on the first day of the course.

How long is my certification good for?

Your certification will be valid for 4 years and can be recertified in one of three ways:

Obtain 100 CEU's in Critical Care Topics
Hold a current FP-C or CCP-C certification through the BCCTP
Retake the final exam and pass with a grade of 70% or better

Can you bring the course to my county/town/department?

No. We would like very much to be able to come and travel the course, but all of our resources and labs are here in Gainesville at the University of Florida and Shands Hospital. Moving the class off site would diminish the high level course that we are putting on and we are not prepared to make that sacrifice.

Any additional questions?

Contact us via ufccp@dcp.ufl.edu.