

Welcome to the 2021-22 Vermont Technical College Paramedic Program!

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I would like to congratulate you on taking this step to increase your knowledge and skills, making the communities you serve safer, and increasing your leadership skills. Becoming a paramedic is an incredible journey, we are grateful that you chose to learn with us.

I would like to share some vital information before classes begin, to help you get organized and ready. Our first day face-to-face, August 26, will be an orientation day. Please bring your books and your laptop.

1. **COVID SCREENING and VACCINATIONS**

- a. Please pay careful attention to the information being posted for incoming students on the Vermont Tech website. This will give you the most up-to-date plans and requirements.
- b. <https://www.vtc.edu/presidents-statement-on-opening-for-fall-2021/>

2. **Orientation**

- a. We will be notifying you of on-campus and online orientation dates shortly. They are being confirmed.

3. **Student ID Badge**

- a. Please see the information posted here: <https://www.vtc.edu/admissions/accepted-students/id-photos/> to obtain your student ID badge. These are required.

4. **Laptop computer**

- a. Our program requires you to have a laptop computer that is **not a chromebook**.
- b. It must also have **a webcam and a microphone**.
- c. The college offers free software to students (including Microsoft Office) here: <https://www.vtc.edu/support/>

5. **Advising**

- a. I am your advisor.
- b. My contact information:
llyuce@vtc.vsc.edu
(802) 430-4607 is my cell. Please feel free to call during normal business hours and text any time. Please identify yourself if you text. I will get back to you as soon as I can.
Do not use social media to contact me for school related issues. I prefer to keep my work life and social life separate.

6. **Financial Aid**

- a. Please complete your Financial Aid-Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) even if you do not intend to apply for any loans
- b. Vermont Student Assistance Program-VSAC has additional grants and scholarships that you may qualify for that will cover the cost of books, etc.
- c. Student accounts is working very hard to secure funding for in-state students. They are contacting admitted students with updates.

7. The PORTAL: Your hub for all things Vermont Tech related

- a. Go to portal.vsc.edu
- b. Enter your Vermont Tech credentials (xxx01230)
- c. This houses your **email access** (upper left), your **student account information** (right), your **advisor information** (right), and your **Canvas access** link (middle)

8. Learning management system

- a. We use Canvas to host our course shells. This is accessible through the VSC Portal
 - i. Go to portal.vsc.edu and enter your Vermont Tech login information
 - ii. There is also a Canvas App that I highly recommend for on-the-go check-ins and portability
- b. We use jblearning for the bundled texts
- c. Your math is an online program through FA Davis

9. Zoom

- a. We will hold meetings and offer extra help at times over zoom
- b. These are to check in with the Program Director, Medical Director, and Clinical Coordinator
- c. You will need a camera and microphone on your laptop

10. Classes (didactic).

- a. You should be registered for the following fall courses:
 - i. EMS 1111: Principles and Practices of Paramedicine I
 1. All Fall program materials will be posted in this Canvas course
 - ii. You will also see that you have been placed in a lab (EMS 1111L) session that designates which campus you will be on.
- b. Courses will be open on Canvas, JBLearning, and DavisEdge by Sunday, August 22 and technical the first day of "classes" is Monday, August 23. Online work will be assigned for the week beginning this day.
- c. Your classes (didactic/lecture) are 100% online and asynchronous (there will be no other required days or times for you to listen to live lecture or join class other than in person on our Thursday lab days).
- d. You will have weekly assigned readings and recorded lectures. These must be completed, as well as any homework, prior to the day of class. Most deadlines are midnight on Wednesday for Thursday labs. Be sure you check the calendar on the right side of your Canvas for due dates.

11. Labs

- a. Labs are on Thursdays, 0800-1700. You are registered to either attend the Bennington campus, Williston campus, or as part of the National Guard cohort this year.
 - i. **Bennington: 105 Union Street, Bennington.** Please park in the large lot in one of the spaces designated for Vermont Tech. Use the back entrance and come up to the 4th floor.
 - ii. **Williston: 141 Lawrence Place, Williston.** Please park in the designated Vermont Tech/student parking. There are other businesses there which we share

parking with. We are scheduled to be in room 124. We will let you know if that changes.

- b. We will meet every Thursday, in person, except for the two vacation weeks scheduled at the beginning of October and the week of Thanksgiving.
- c. Please wear your uniform to class. We will provide you with a uniform shirt. You may wear your clean EMS pants from home. We want you to experience the skills, scenarios, and simulations in a realistic manner, including clothing. Bring your stethoscope, a penlight, pen, small pad of paper, trauma shears, etc. Whatever you would wear to work.
 - i. Please bring a cloth mask with you in case it is required.
 - ii. Please email me your UNISEX polo (3 button) shirt size. We will issue you two uniform shirts for class and clinical/field. If you would like to purchase additional shirts, a job shirt or any other items, we can provide you with the contact information of our embroiderer.
- d. We will be LOGGING your lab skills weekly in a program called FISDAP. This also will serve as our calendar and scheduler for clinical and field time, and it comes with study tools and practice exams for you.
 - i. PLEASE bring your laptop to class/lab every week.
 - ii. Go to <https://www.fisdap.net>.
 - iii. Click the "Create an Account" button.
 - iv. Enter the product code into the field and follow the prompts to purchase an account.
 - v. Product Code: VTC2305-PXYH
Purchase link: <https://members.fisdap.net/account/new/index?code=VTC2305-PXYH>

12. **Books**

- a. Your textbooks are mandatory.

FALL 2021 list

American Heart Association (2020). *2020 Handbook of ECC*. American Heart Association.

- AHA Product Number 20-1100
- ISBN: 978-1-61669-766-2
- List price: \$30.00

Beasley, B. M. (2019). *Understanding EKGs: A practical approach* (5th ed.). Pearson Brady.

- ISBN-13: 978-0-13-521341-4
- List price: 53.32

FA Davis

- Dosage Calc360 (digital math program) online access code
- **JOIN Class ID: A4CDFECA19**
- ISBN-13: 978-0-8036-7713-5
- *This is available from the FA Davis website as an instant access product for a 20% discount*

Pollak, A. N. (2018). *Nancy Caroline's Emergency care in the streets* (8th ed.). Jones and Bartlett Learning.

- You must have the **AVANTAGE ACCESS PACKAGE with online access code**
 - *The student workbook is optional.*
- ISBN-13: 978-1-28-445702-5
- List price: \$590.95

SPRING 2022 list

American Heart Association (2020). *ACLS Provider Manual*. American Heart Association.

- AHA Product Number: 20-1106
- ISBN: 978-1-61669-772-3
- List price: \$42.00

American Heart Association (2020). *PALS Provider Manual*. American Heart Association.

- AHA Product Number: 20-1119
- ISBN: 978-1-61669-785-3
- List price: \$50.00

SUMMER 2022 list

- TBD

13. Clinical and Field Information

- a. In order to attend clinical and field experiences, you will need to complete a few steps for clinical clearance. Please pay careful attention to these instructions, as they are specific in nature and there is no “wiggle room” for missing documentation.

i. Health Screening and Medical Clearance

1. You must use this form. It must be completed, dated, and signed by a licensed provider (NP, PA, MD/DO).
 - a. <https://mk0vermonttechn1rsw8.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2021-Health-Professions-Student-Health-Form.pdf>
 - b. A copy of this form **MUST** be uploaded to CastleBranch in addition to sending it to the student health center.
2. Take the Health Professions Student Health Form to your primary care provider. If you have had a physical exam within the past year, you may not need a new one. Otherwise, schedule an exam and have the form completed. Make certain that the provider name, address, phone, and signature are complete and legible.
3. You will need proof of immunizations, including titers in some cases
 - a. COVID Vaccine (fully vaccinated)
 - b. 2 MMR doses or titer
 - c. 2 Varicella doses or titer
 - d. 3 HBV doses
 - e. Tdap
 - f. Seasonal influenza vaccine

4. You will need a TWO STEP PPD. This is TWO PPD tests 2 weeks apart, or a single negative QuantiFERON gold blood test. If you have had a positive PPD in the past, you need a letter from your physician that you have been screened (Chest Xray) and are negative.
 5. Upload the completed form into CastleBranch
- ii. **CastleBranch**. This is our “clearing house” online secure management system that will provide criminal background checks, FBI fingerprinting, and store all of your documents including copies of your licenses and immunization records.
 1. https://www.castlebranch.com/online_submission/package_code.php
 2. Our code is **VE59** for CastleBranch and **VE59cbwc** for CB Bridges.
 3. There is typically a 24 hour wait period between registering and when you can begin logging.
 - a. Upload copies of your BLS, EMT, and NREMT cards (Front and Back).
 - b. Completed health forms and vaccines or titers
 - c. FBI Fingerprint results once you have them emailed back to you
 - iii. **VOSHA Training**: Complete the VDOL VOSHA training on PPE and list Vermont Tech as the employer. Save your certificate as a PDF
 1. https://labor.vermont.gov/sites/labor/files/doc_library/Protecting%20the%20Safety%20and%20Health%20of%20Workers%20VOSHA%20COVID%20FI%20NAL%20%2805.04.2020%29%20.pdf
 - iv. Each clinical site has unique paperwork, clinical clearance forms, screening requirements, etc. We will work on these the first day of class. These are also stored in your EMS 1801 Canvas course.
 - v. **Each student will need to provide evidence of N95 Fit Testing and have a properly fitted N95 mask for clinical and field rotations in the event that it is necessary.**