Intensive Care Paramedic Technician: AAS Degree – 72 Credit Waiver Rationale

The Minnesota EMS Regulatory Board requires the EMS Education Standards be adopted by all Paramedic training programs. These new Education Standards will require didactic, laboratory and clinical coursework.

Students who do not complete a program adhering to these Education Standards are not allowed to sit for the National Registry certification exam, which is required for National and State certification. Students who do not sit for and pass the National Registry exam may not practice in Minnesota. Once the National Registry Exam is passed, Minnesota will grant State Certification.

Program Comparison:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Name</th>
<th>Degree Offering</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Century College</td>
<td>Paramedic Technology</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester Community and Technical College</td>
<td>AS – Intensive Care Paramedic</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesabi Range Community &amp; Technical College</td>
<td>AAS – Paramedic</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Central College</td>
<td>AAS – Intensive Care Paramedic Technician</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Cloud Technical &amp; Community College</td>
<td>Paramedicine</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northland Community &amp; Technical College</td>
<td>AAS – Intensive Care Paramedic</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The National Registry also requires that Paramedic programs must be nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAAHEP) to be allowed to sit for the National Registry certification exam. In addition, Minnesota Statutes 144E.285 require that, in order to be state certified, the Paramedic Program must be accredited by CAAHEP. CAAHEP guidelines recommend a minimum of 1300 hours of core content for the paramedic.

Paramedic Employer surveys are required as part of the CAAHEP accreditation process. Employer feedback indicates the need for instruction in paramedic skills above those required for general entry level competence as assessed through national certification exams. Due to the advanced level of practice by ambulance services in Minnesota, employers expect graduates to have received training on advanced equipment and skills used by these services but not generally included in basic paramedic curriculum. Employers indicate a desire for more highly educated and competent paramedic program graduates, not less. Our Advisory Committee fully supports our employers and strongly recommended we continue with our current program design.

South Central College supports the need for liberal arts coursework for paramedics and feels it is pivotal to the advancement of the EMS profession. When combined with current accreditation requirements for paramedic core content, these liberal arts requirements are necessary credits required even if the program is over 60 credits.

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