1. **What must I do to become a Paramedic?**
   - First, you must feel a strong desire to help people at their time of utmost need. Second, you must complete EMT-B certification and show competence in Math, English and Anatomy & Physiology. Competence is usually met by completing pre-requisite courses which are all offered at the college. Math and English are available online.
   - For course schedules visit: http://www.csi.edu/catalog/.

2. **How long is the Paramedic Program?**
   - The CSI Paramedic Program is three semesters: Fall and Spring for a total of approximately 1600 hours.

3. **Why should I attend the college-based paramedic program at CSI?**
   - The reasons for attending a college-based program are aplenty. Unlike other programs, CSI has a tremendous training facility, state of the art equipment, highly qualified and experienced faculty, financial aid, computer labs, a simulation lab, human cadaver lab, student malpractice insurance, an extensive library, and you can gain college credit for your classes.

4. **Is the CSI Paramedic Program State approved and Nationally accredited?**
   - Yes! The State of Idaho Bureau of EMS has approved all courses since the program’s inception and the program is fully accredited Nationally through CAAHEP and recognized by CoAEMSP.

5. **Is accreditation important?**
   - All Paramedic Programs in the United States are required to be accredited if they are to be accepted by the NREMT. Accreditation assures the program meets the highest standards of paramedic education in the country. Because of our commitment to the highest quality of education, accreditation is of utmost importance to the CSI Paramedic Program.
   - For more information on accreditation visit:
     - http://www.coaemsp.org/
     - http://www.caahep.org

6. **If I am a certified EMT in another state, can I begin the program CSI?**
   - Yes, although you must keep it current throughout the program. For students interested in Idaho certification, visit: http://www.idahoems.org.
   - You are highly recommended to possess a NREMT certification for your clinical and field rotations.

7. **What is the difference EMS Certification Levels?**
   - An EMT course is approximately 150 hours after which the EMT provides basic life support to sick or injured patients.
   - A Paramedic Program is approximately 1,600 hours after which the Paramedic provides Advanced Life Support to sick and injured patients.

   *EMS Personnel Training Levels Description (From the National EMS Scope of Practice Model)*

   - **Emergency Medical Responder**
     - The primary focus of the Emergency Medical Responder is to initiate immediate lifesaving care to critical patients who access the emergency medical system. This individual possesses the basic knowledge and skills necessary to provide lifesaving interventions while awaiting additional EMS response and to assist higher level personnel at the scene and during transport. Emergency Medical Responders function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight. Emergency Medical Responders perform basic interventions with minimal equipment.
CSI PARAMEDIC PROGRAM FAQs

- **Emergency Medical Technician**
  - The primary focus of the Emergency Medical Technician is to provide basic emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system. This individual possesses the basic knowledge and skills necessary to provide patient care and transportation. Emergency Medical Technicians function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight. Emergency Medical Technicians perform interventions with the basic equipment typically found on an ambulance. The Emergency Medical Technician is a link from the scene to the emergency health care system.

- **Advanced Emergency Medical Technician**
  - The primary focus of the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician is to provide basic and limited advanced emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system. This individual possesses the basic knowledge and skills necessary to provide patient care and transportation. Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight.
  - Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians perform interventions with the basic and advanced equipment typically found on an ambulance. The Advanced Emergency Medical Technician is a link from the scene to the emergency health care system.

- **Paramedic**
  - The Paramedic is an allied health professional whose primary focus is to provide advanced emergency medical care for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system. This individual possesses the complex knowledge and skills necessary to provide patient care and transportation. Paramedics function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight. Paramedics perform interventions with the basic and advanced equipment typically found on an ambulance. The Paramedic is a link from the scene into the health care system.

- Each educational level assumes mastery of previously stated competencies. Each individual must demonstrate each competency within his or her scope of practice and for patients of all ages.

9. **What is the job market and pay scale across the Nation for Paramedics?**
- The job forecast for paramedics for the next ten years shows a national shortage of Paramedics across the country. This will mean more jobs and higher pay.
- To see where current openings and pay ranges visit: http://www.emsjobcenter.com
CSI PARAMEDIC PROGRAM FAQs

10. Where do I have to do my internship?
   • Internships are based on student competencies and are conducted in and around Twin Falls along with many other metropolitan areas with high call volumes. This allows students to experience many types of calls in an adequate time frame during the second semester.
   • Currently you will have opportunities to service clinical and field rotations in Idaho and Louisiana.
   • We will set up your clinical and field rotations based on availability of sites and other factors.

11. Do I need health insurance while enrolled in the program?
   • Yes. Students are exposed to many illnesses and dangers and personal health insurance is a requirement.

12. What are the physical and mental requirements of a paramedic?
   • The physical requirements are set forth by the US Department of Transportation. To view them visit: http://hshs.csi.edu/paramedic/Physical_and_sensory_requirements.asp.

13. What are the pre-requisites and application requirements for the program?
   • Current Idaho or NREMT Certification as an EMT and/or AEMT
   • Current BLS/Health Care provider CPR
   • A typed resume
   • Three letters of reference attesting to the applicant’s character, academic abilities and overall experience in EMS.
   • Letter of intent and interest to participate in the program.
   • Description of patient care experience in the medical field, this may be as a volunteer or professional medical provider and/or Idaho/NREMT AEMT certification.
   • Proof of completion of the following pre-requisites (transcripts showing at least a passing grade of “C” or better)
     o Anatomy and Physiology or equivalent
     o College Writing or equivalent
     o College Algebra or equivalent
     o Medical Terminology

14. Can I work full time while in the Paramedic Program?
   • Due to the demands placed on you as a Paramedic student we discourage you working full time. We of course cannot prevent you from working during Paramedic school and have seen some students keep up the rigor of work and class. The most successful students either do not work or work part time.

15. What is the approximate cost of the Paramedic Program?
   • The estimated cost of the program is $10,000.00.
   • Depending on various factors, your cost may be less.
   • Because the tuition cost at CSI is lower than many other public and private programs you will find your overall cost for Paramedic school is lower.

16. Do paramedic students qualify for financial aid and scholarships?
   • Absolutely.
   • For financial aid information, visit: www.csi.edu
   • For scholarship information, visit: www.csi.edu

17. What are the differences between the Technical Certificate (TC) and the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree?
   • The TC is the paramedic curriculum with the minimum pre-requisites.
   • The AAS includes all of the TC courses, plus a full year of A&P and additional courses in Bioethics, Pharmacology, and Medical Terminology.
   • The state of Oregon requires all new paramedics who practice in the state have an Associate Degree.
   • Many ambulance services and fire departments are beginning to award salary bonuses to employees with degrees.
CSI PARAMEDIC PROGRAM FAQs

18. If I complete a TC, can I complete my AAS at a later date?
   • Yes. Once the remaining AAS courses are completed a student can be awarded the AAS degree.

19. Upon graduation, will I qualify to work in any state?
   • CSI graduates qualify to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician paramedic exam.
   • Successfully completing the Registry certification enables individuals to apply for certification in most states. (Occasionally states require individuals to take an additional state-specific test).
   • For a complete list of state certification requirements, visit: www.nremt.org

20. How have CSI paramedics performed on the National Registry exam?
   • Since the program’s beginning, 90% of all graduates have passed the difficult National Registry exam.
   • Over 80% of graduates have passed the exam on the first attempt, which is higher than the national average and one of the best Paramedic exam performance in the State of Idaho.

21. What certifications do I earn while I am in the CSI paramedic program?
   • ACLS
   • PALS
   • BLS
   • ITLS or PHTLS
   • These courses insure graduates have the latest knowledge and enhance employability.

22. Where are CSI graduates currently employed?
   • Graduates of the program are employed in Idaho, Utah, Oregon, Louisiana, and Nevada; working in Fire Rescue, Ambulance, Emergency Department, and Home Healthcare settings.

23. Upon graduation, will CSI assist me in securing employment?
   • Yes. The Center for New Directions at CSI offers assistance in resume preparation, interviewing skills, and placement assistance.

24. How do I begin my path of study?
   • You should apply to CSI at www.csi.edu and meet with an advisor to determine which prerequisites to take first.

25. How do I apply to the paramedic program?
   • You need to first make the decision that you are willing to commit to an intense program that will be very frustrating at times, but in the end one of the most rewarding accomplishments you will ever do.
   • Once that decision is made you need to apply to CSI at www.csi.edu
   • Now you need to complete your prerequisites through CSI or another accredited institution.
   • If you are unsure if your educational background or experience meet what we are looking for in a student please meet with the HSHS student advisor or the EMS program manager.
   • Once you know you are going to get all your prerequisites completed and are ready to turn in your application to us with all your needed documents either mail, or drop off your packet.
   • We review all application packets in June for our Spring cohort.
   • Call (208) 732-6701 to request an application or click on the program application link http://www.csi.edu/ip/nursing/paramedic/PDF/paramedicapplication.pdf to download an application today.

26. What should I expect?
   • The CSI Paramedic Program is intense and begins with lots of studying.
CSI PARAMEDIC PROGRAM FAQs

- The CSI Paramedic Program require students to be in Department or CSI Paramedic uniform during class and clinical/field rotations.
  - You should plan on purchasing at least 3 CSI Paramedic uniform shirts, 3 CSI Paramedic tee shirts, 3 pairs of required (and approved) uniform pants, duty belt and duty boots
  - We will provide more information on this during orientation.
- The initial months of class are filled with foundational lectures and skills of the Paramedic.
  - These lectures will prepare you for the rest of class and the topics to come.
- As the class progresses you will sign up for your clinical experiences and once you are deemed ready to proceed into the clinical rotations you will be allowed to proceed.
  - During your clinical experience, you will be graded and evaluated by your preceptors on many areas of competency.
  - Clinical experiences will be completed in Emergency Rooms, ICU's, Labor and Delivery settings, and many other in-hospital locations.
- Your classroom sessions will continue throughout your clinical/field rotations and be scheduled so that you do not miss any of your required classroom activities.
- As you finish up your clinical rotations you will then prepare for your EMS/Fire field rides with one or more of our EMS providers.
  - While these agencies expect you to work and perform as a competent Paramedic and EMS Professional they will also be grading and evaluating your skill level.
- There are many online and in class exams along the way, we have an entire online program for all our students.
- So you will need to have access to a great internet connection and a good computer (iPad suggested).
  - We highly recommend you obtain/purchase/get a gift of: Apple iPad or iPad mini with at least 64gb of memory for your program.

27. What can I do if I get tired of being a field paramedic?
- Because the CSI paramedic program is college-based, the courses are all worth college credit. Many of these credits apply toward many other paths of study.
- Many former paramedics have gone on to study medicine, nursing, physician assistant studies, and law.
- Field paramedics also often move into professional positions as managers, educators, and non-traditional paramedic roles in occupational and/or industrial medicine, critical care settings, flight medicine, and emergency department settings.

Do You Have More Questions?
Contact Rene Rambur HSHS Program Advisor
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