



Mesa Community College / Life Safety Solutions, LLC Paramedic Training Program Applicant Preparation Guide

This guide has been assembled to allow candidates an insight on what can be expected during the entrance selection process. We appreciate your interest in wanting to further develop your level of service to the communities where we work and live. There are two specific areas of evaluation:

Evaluated Areas

- Written Entrance Exam

Pass/Fail – Mandatory Minimum Score 75% in order to move on to oral panel interview process

- Oral Panel Interview

Written exam score will be averaged into the total points available in the oral panel interview process. Applicants will be averaged and ranked according to lowest to highest cumulative score.

Attending a Paramedic Training Program is a major decision and should be discussed with spouses, significant others, and family members to build support and understanding. Think about the commitment involved. Talk with others that have gone through the process. We understand the sacrifice involved to those candidates and their families who are accepted into this Paramedic Program. Let us reassure you, these sacrifices are worth the overwhelming benefits to you, your families, and your professional development.

"Pre-screen" drug testing and DPS background fingerprint clearance is required for each student accepted into the Paramedic training program. Proof of a negative drug screen is required at the first class session.

For the written entrance examination, applicants should study available EMT-Basic textbooks derived from the most current version of the DOT National Standard Curriculum.

The written examination will consist of 150 multiple-choice questions assessing EMT-Basic knowledge, 2010 ECC / AHA CPR guidelines for resuscitation, Haz-Mat first responder and basic mathematical/algebra computation. Applicants should be prepared to answer long hand arithmetic equations.

NO CALCULATORS WILL BE ALLOWED.

Each candidate will have only one attempt to successfully complete the written exam with a minimum score of 75%. Following the written entrance exam; successful applicants will be allowed to proceed through the subsequent oral panel interview process.

Doors will be locked promptly at the beginning of the exam, please be sure to arrive early.

Late applicants will not be admitted

Written exam key areas to focus studies

- a. Respiratory diseases and pathophysiology
- b. Airway management and oxygen therapy devices with percentages
- c. Pediatrics
- d. OB/GYN Emergencies
- e. Trauma
- f. Objectives at the beginning of all EMT-Basic Text Chapters
- g. CPR 2010 ECC / AHA Resuscitation Guidelines including FBAO situations
- h. Review mathematical and simple algebra skills – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of multi-digit numbers. Decimals, fractions and word problems.

Those applicants successfully passing the written exam will be invited to participate in an “Oral Panel Interview” process conducted by a three to four member panel. You should come dressed to impress, Business professional attire is the minimum standard.

Listed below are some sample questions and a copy of the oral panel raters grading sheet. This clearly depicts how you will be graded on your answers and the parameters that they are focusing on.

Prepare and practice for all parts of the testing process, as this will increase your chance for success in the paramedic program. Work hard and stay calm, we all want you to do well through the process.

SAMPLE ORAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

	<p>Warm-up Questions:</p> <p>What is special about <u>YOU</u> as a candidate for this program?</p>
	<p>Education and Work History:</p> <p>Provide a resume or CV and sell yourself to the oral panel members.</p>
	<p>Personal Effectiveness:</p> <p>Everyone has strengths and weaknesses as workers and students. What are your strong points for this program? What would you say are your areas that need improvement?</p>
	<p>Capability:</p> <p>How do you know you want to be a paramedic? If you "want to help people," why not social work? Law? Teaching? Why did you choose EMS?</p>
	<p>Compatibility/Team Work:</p> <p>If your work environment consisted for a 4-person crew and you felt you were doing half of the work, how would you handle the situation?</p>
	<p>Motivation/Initiative:</p> <p>What new skills or capabilities have you developed in the past year?</p>
	<p>Dedication/Determination:</p> <p>How do you feel about the effect of the training program on your daily life?</p>
	<p>Leadership:</p> <p>What have you changed or implemented in your present position?</p>
	<p>Conclusion of Interview:</p> <p>Do you have anything you would like to add on your behalf or any questions you would like to ask before we conclude the interview?</p>

SAMPLE SCENARIO BASED QUESTIONS

- When answering these types of questions, you will be expected to answer them at an EMT-Basic level. However, you should have the ability to articulate your answers based upon clear, concise critical thinking ability and project at a higher level of care.
 - Be thorough in your answers and make sure you are looking at the “big picture”.
 - Listen carefully to the questions, as they have multiple parts. Insure that you truly answer all parts of the question.
1. You are called to the home of a 68-year-old man who is lying on the couch. He is having trouble explaining why he called you. His speech is slurred and he can't seem to find the right words to use. You note he is drooling slightly and is unable to sit up without help. How will you manage this patient?
 2. An elderly woman has called you to her home to treat her husband. You find the husband sitting in a chair in the bedroom next to an oxygen tank. The patient is breathing home oxygen by nasal cannula at 2 L/min. The patient is in obvious distress, laboring to breathe. His wife doesn't remember the name of his illness but says he has breathing problems. The patient's pulse is 90, respirations 36 and labored, BP 140/90. How will you manage this patient?
 3. You are called to the scene of a motor vehicle accident. The driver is conscious and alert, and complaining of chest pain when he inhales. His respirations are rapid and shallow and he is clutching the right side of his chest. How will you manage this patient?
 4. You are called to the scene of a gang fight. A young man has been stabbed in the upper right chest with a knife. When you arrive, the knife has been removed. The patient is pale and having difficulty breathing. Respirations 48, pulse 128, BP 70/40, SaO₂ 82%. How will you manage this patient?

LIFE SAFETY SOLUTIONS, LLC / MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Paramedic Education Program

Oral Interview Evaluation Form

Applicant Name: _____ Date : _____

Panel Interviewer: _____

RATING SUBJECT AREA	POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS AWARDED
Written Examination Score: _____	90-100 = 3 points 80-89 = 2 points 75- 79 = 1 point	_____
Experience	3 years or more = 3 points 2 years = 2 points 1 year = 1 point	_____
Personal Effectiveness	Above Average = 3 points Average = 2 points Fair = 1 point Poor = 0 points	_____
Capability	Above Average = 3 points Average = 2 points Fair = 1 point Poor = 0 points	_____
Compatibility	Above Average = 3 points Average = 2 points Fair = 1 point Poor = 0 points	_____
Motivation Initiative	Above Average = 3 points Average = 2 points Fair = 1 point Poor = 0 points	_____
Dedication Determination	Above Average = 3 points Average = 2 points Fair = 1 point Poor = 0 points	_____

