

## CRITICAL CARE PARAMEDIC

### ***Course Information***

Thank you for your interest in the Online Critical Care Paramedic course offered at Creighton University EMS Education. This course is designed to prepare paramedics for advanced critical care during inter-facility and scene transports. Upon successful completion of the course, you will receive a certificate of completion, 108 hours of continuing education and preparation for the Certified Critical Care Paramedic (CCP-C®) and Certified Flight Paramedic (FP-C®) Exams administered by the International Board of Specialty Certifications (ISBC®). These exams are considered the gold standard and only acceptable certifications for the accrediting body for critical care transport agencies.

### ***Course Objectives***

Upon completion of the course, successful Critical Care Providers will be able to:

- \* Demonstrate skill competency while performing surgical and needle cricothyrotomy, chest tube insertion, pericardiocentesis, central venous access and intraosseous access.
- \* Interpret diagnostic laboratory, CT, x-ray and FAST exam results.
- \* Correctly assess and package a critically ill patient for safe transport.
- \* Identify correct methods for the administration of blood, blood products, TPN, peritoneal dialysis, hyper and hypotonic intravenous fluids.
- \* Comprehend the purpose and maintenance of chest tubes, central lines, intravenous pumps, mini-med pumps, hemodynamic monitoring devices and equipment.
- \* Recognize proper mechanical ventilator settings, modes, and parameters.
- \* Apply a Transport Ventilator with proper settings.
- \* Interpret 12-Lead ECGs.
- \* Interpret invasive and noninvasive hemodynamic pressure waveforms and values.
- \* Maintain patients on an IABP and ventricular assist devices (LVAD's, etc.).
- \* Comprehend the actions and appropriate administration of vasoactive, antibiotic, anticoagulant, antiepileptic, immunological, and fibrinolytic pharmaceutical agents.
- \* Assess and manage common critical care conditions in all patient populations including, but not limited to adult, pediatric, OB/GYN, neonatal, and others.

### ***How the Course is Conducted***

The course is divided into 15 separate modules. The first 12 modules are didactic in nature. Each module starts with required reading assignments. After completing the required reading, the content material is delivered via a lecture capture system or narrated PowerPoint. You have both options available to you. The lecture capture system option is lectures that were captured live from the on campus Critical Care Paramedic course. You will hear some of the questions that you may have asked throughout the course. These lectures are also available through a video podcast enabling you to listen to them while you are on the go. After completing the lectures, you then have a homework assignment in each module. Some of these are simple crossword puzzles or game

show question and answer boards. Others are written assignments that you will hand in to an electronic submission box. After completing the homework, each module also has a discussion board for you to post to and respond to your fellow students. The moderator will also make posts to challenge you in the course. After completion of all the content in the module, there is a short quiz that you take online. Once completed, you are ready to move on to the next module.

The final 3 modules are the invasive skills lab, the clinical portion of the course and the final exam. The invasive skills lab is conducted during the 4<sup>th</sup> month of your course. It is conducted at Creighton EMS Education in Omaha, Nebraska. It is conducted on a Thursday from 8:30 am to 5 pm and Friday from 8 am to 3 pm. It is required to attend the invasive skills lab for completion of the course. We are currently exploring opportunities to conduct this in other locations, but none have been made at this time. After completion of the lab, there is a short quiz similar to the other quizzes you have taken. The clinical rotation is 36 hours of clinical experience in an ICU or CCU setting. With your assistance to set up a clinical agreement, it may be possible to complete the clinical near your hometown. Several students have opted to bookend the invasive skills lab with their clinical rotations in Omaha. Either option is available. After completion of the clinical rotation, you will submit a presentation of one of your patients. The final module is the final exam. The exam is 125 questions and you have 2½ hours to complete the exam. It is online in the same format as your quizzes.

### ***Frequently Asked Questions***

*“What textbook are you currently using?”*

There are several recommended textbooks, but the only required textbook at this time is *Critical Care Transport* published by Jones & Bartlett and authored by AAOS. You can find it at the following link:

[Critical Care Transport, AAOS, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition](#)

*“What if I am unable to complete the invasive skills lab on the set date?”*

We conduct the course 3 times per year. You will have to opportunity to make it up at a later date. Additionally, we have the capability to conduct a 1-on-1 session at the instructor’s convenience and for an additional fee.

*“If I have questions during the course, how easy is it to get help?”*

The instructor has virtual office hours twice per week that allows video conference access and computer sharing if needed. Additionally, the instructor answers e-mail, text messages and phone calls from 8 am to 9 pm central standard time 7 days per week.

*“How do I sign up for the course?”*

You can visit <https://www.creighton.edu/academics/programs/critical-care-paramedic> to register online. Additional document requirements and instructions are available online and in the application.

*“Is the course available for college credit?”*

Yes, it is. The course is offered and approved by Creighton University, University College as a 6-credit hour course. Credit students are billed at the current Creighton University per credit hour rate that is different than the flat rate charged to certificate students. For more information contact the Creighton University EMS Education office at 402.280.1280.

*“After I sign up, what should I expect?”*

Once we receive your completed application and accompanying documents, we will review the application and notify you of any missing requirements. After application review, we will set you up for enrollment in the course. You will receive an e-mail a week or two prior to class at your personal e-mail address advising you on how to log in to the course. From there, all information will be contained within the course content.

*“Are you affiliated with UMBC’s CCEMTP Course?”*

No, Creighton University has no affiliation with the CCEMTP course offered by UMBC. Creighton University EMS Education believes that developing an understanding in Critical Care Paramedicine with the ability to incorporate it into your practice is not possible in a two-week course. This is the reasoning behind this course taking up to 5 months to complete. Additionally, it is our belief that the CCP-C® and FP-C® exams offered by ISBC® are the gold standard exams in the industry and will become similar to the National Registry of EMT’s® exam for all other levels of EMS.

*“Can I be licensed as a Critical Care Paramedic in my state?”*



Currently, very few states offer licensure or certification as a Critical Care Paramedic. For those states that do, we will work with the state EMS agency to provide them with the information they require for certification or licensure from an educational standpoint. We have done this successfully in the past and will be more than happy to work on it if your state, province or country recognizes critical care paramedics.

*“How long do I have to complete the course?”*

The course is self-paced to a certain point. You have a week or two to complete the first module. After that, we start closing one module per week until the course is complete. Some students have opted to work ahead at their own pace. Students have advised us it takes on average 8 – 20 hours to complete a module. Some students take longer than others, but each module does take a significant amount of time.

*“What are the computer requirements?”*

You can find the technology requirements for online students at Creighton University at: <https://www.creighton.edu/student-technology-requirements>

*“What if I have more questions?”*

If you have any more questions about the course, we are more than happy to answer them. You can contact Creighton EMS Education at 402.280.1280. If you would like to contact the Critical Care Paramedic Education Coordinator directly, you may contact Rick Erickson at 402.280.3684 or by email at [rickerickson@creighton.edu](mailto:rickerickson@creighton.edu). He will return your call or e-mail at the earliest convenience.



Thanks again for your time and interest in the Online Critical Care Paramedic course offered by Creighton University EMS Education. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in the online course!