



CATALOG ADDENDUM: DECEMBER 2023

Below are listed additions and corrections to the 2023-24 Bucks County Community College Catalog since its publication. All corrections listed below have been made in the main online catalog sections to which they apply. They do not appear, however, in the PDF version of the full catalog.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION TO BUCKS

The 2025-2026 Academic Calendar has been approved.

2025 Fall Term Start/End Dates

August 20 – December 11	Start/end dates for Fall full term (15 weeks)
August 20 – October 8	Start/end dates for August modular (7.5 weeks)
September 8 – December 11	Start/end dates for September modular (13 weeks)
October 13 - December 11	Start/end dates for October modular (7.5 weeks)

2025 Fall Term

Tuesday, August 19	Fall In-Service Day
Wednesday, August 20	Classes begin, full term and August modular
Monday, September 1	Labor Day (no classes)
Monday, September 8	Classes begin, September modular
Saturday, September 27	Student withdraw deadline, August modular
Wednesday, October 8	Classes end, August modular
Saturday, October 11	August modular final grades due by noon
Monday, October 13	Classes begin, October modular
Friday, November 14	Student withdraw deadline, full term courses
Tuesday, November 18	Student withdraw deadline, September modular
Wednesday to Saturday, Nov 26-29	Thanksgiving break (no classes)
Thursday, November 27	Student withdraw deadline, October modular
Monday, December 1	Classes resume
Monday, December 8	Classes end, full term, Sept. and Oct. modular
Tuesday, December 9	Student Reading/Makeup Day
Thursday, December 11	Term end, full term, Sept. and Oct. modular
Sunday, December 14	Final grades due by noon

NOTE: Fall Term classes end Monday, December 8. Make up/study day is Tuesday, December 9. Final exam period is Wednesday and Thursday December 10 and 11.

2025 Fall Full Term (should be 15 for all)

15 Mondays
15 Tuesdays
15 Wednesdays
15 Thursdays
15 Fridays
15 Saturdays

2025 August Modular (ranges 6-8)

6 Mondays
7 Tuesday
8 Wednesdays
7 Thursdays
7 Fridays
7 Saturdays

2025 September Modular (ranges 12-14)

14 Mondays
13 Tuesdays
12 Wednesdays
12 Thursdays
12 Fridays
12 Saturdays

2025 October Modular (ranges 7-8)

9 Mondays
8 Tuesdays
7 Wednesdays
7 Thursdays
7 Fridays
7 Saturdays

2026 Winter Session (4 weeks)

Monday, December 15, 2025	Classes begin, Winter Session
Monday, January 5, 2026	Student withdraw deadline
Sunday, January 11, 2026	Classes end, Winter Session
Tuesday, January 13, 2026	Final grades due by noon

2026 Spring Term Start/End Dates

January 21 – May 15	Start/end dates for spring full term (15 weeks)
January 21 – March 14	Start/end dates for January modular (7.5 weeks)
February 9 – May 15	Start/end dates for February modular (13 weeks)
March 23 - May 15	Start/end dates for March modular (7.5 weeks)
April 6 – May 15	Start/end dates for April modular (6 weeks)

2026 Spring Term

Monday, January 19	MLK Day of Service holiday
Tuesday, January 20	In-Service day
Wednesday, January 21	Classes begin, full term and January modular
Monday, February 9	Classes begin February modular
Monday, March 2	Student withdraw deadline January modular
Saturday, March 14	Classes end January modular
Monday to Sunday, March 16 - 22	Spring break (no classes)
Monday, March 23	Classes resume
Monday, March 23	Classes begin March modular
Friday, April 17	Student withdraw deadline, full term courses
Monday, April 6	Classes begin April modular
Wednesday, April 22	Student withdraw deadline, February modulars
Sunday, May 3	Student withdraw deadline, March modulars
Wednesday, May 6	Student withdraw deadline, April modulars
Tuesday, May 12	Classes end, full term, February, March, April
modular Wednesday, May 13	Student Reading/Makeup Day
Friday, May 15	Term end, full term, February, March, April modular
Monday, May 18	Final grades due by noon
Thursday, May 21	Commencement (tentative)

NOTE: Spring Term classes end Tuesday May 12. Make up/study day is Wednesday, May 13. Final exam period is Thursday and Friday May 14 and 15.

2026 Spring Full Term (should be 15 for all)

15 Mondays
15 Tuesdays
15 Wednesdays
15 Thursdays
15 Fridays
15 Saturdays

2026 January Modular (ranges 7-8)

7 Mondays
7 Tuesdays
8 Wednesdays
8 Thursdays
8 Fridays
8 Saturdays

2026 February Modular (ranges 12-13)

13 Mondays
13 Tuesdays
12 Wednesdays
12 Thursdays
12 Fridays
12 Saturdays

2026 March Modular (ranges 7-8)

8 Mondays

8 Tuesdays
7 Wednesdays
7 Thursdays
7 Fridays
7 Saturdays

2026 April Modular (ranges 5-6)

6 Mondays
6 Tuesdays
5 Wednesdays
5 Thursdays
5 Fridays
5 Saturdays

2026 Summer Term Start/End Dates

May 26 – August 14	Summer (12 week)
May 26 – July 3	May Modular (6 week)
June 15 – August 14	June Modular (9 week)
July 8 - August 14	July Modular (6 week)

2026 Summer Full Term (12 week)

Tuesday, May 26	Classes begin
Friday, June 19	Juneteenth (no classes)
Friday, July 3	Independence Day Observed (no classes)
Saturday, July 4	Independence Day (no classes)
Sunday, July 26	Student withdraw deadline
Friday, August 14	Classes end
Monday, August 17	Final grades due by 12noon

2026 May Modular (6 week)

Tuesday, May 26	Classes begin
Friday, June 19	Juneteenth (no classes)
Wednesday, June 24	Student withdraw deadline
Friday, July 3	Independence Day Observe (no class)/Classes end
Monday, July 6	Final grades due by 12noon

2026 June Modular (9 week)

Monday, June 15	Classes begin
Friday, June 19	Juneteenth (no classes)
Friday, July 3	Independence Day Observed (no classes)
Saturday, July 4	Independence Day (no classes)
Friday, July 31	Student withdraw deadline
Friday, August 14	Classes end
Monday, August 17	Final grades due by 12noon

2026 July Modular (6 week)

Wednesday, July 8	Classes begin
Thursday, August 6	Student withdraw deadline
Friday, August 14	Classes end
Monday, August 17	Final grades due by 12noon

2026 Summer Full Term (12 week) (ranges 10-12)

11 Mondays
12 Tuesdays
12 Wednesdays
12 Thursdays
10 Fridays
10 Saturdays

2026 May Modular (6 week) (ranges 5-6)

5 Mondays
6 Tuesdays
6 Wednesdays
6 Thursdays
4 Fridays
5 Saturdays

2026 June Modular (9 week) (ranges 8-9)

9 Mondays
9 Tuesdays
9 Wednesdays
9 Thursdays
7 Fridays
7 Saturdays

2026 July Modular (6 week) (ranges 5-6)

5 Mondays
6 Tuesdays
6 Wednesdays
6 Thursdays
5 Fridays
5 Saturdays

SECTION 2: MAJORS AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

[Paramedic, Certificate Major](#) (Curriculum Code No. 3212): This new certificate program has been approved:

Department of Health Sciences
Founders Hall • Phone 215-968-8353
Curriculum Code No. **3212**

This program prepares students to deliver care in the prehospital setting at an advanced level. On completion a candidate sits for Pennsylvania State EMS Paramedic certification. Must be 18 years old and hold a current Pennsylvania State EMT or EMT-A Certification.

Graduates of this program will be able to:

- Apply didactic knowledge and critical thinking skills to provide competent care of the prehospital patient;
- evaluate the ethical, legal, moral and cultural issues that impact the care of the prehospital client;
- model professionalism; and
- communicate effectively in professional and interpersonal contexts.

Paramedic Certification Program Requirements

COURSE	CREDITS
<u>COLL101</u> Orientation to College	1
<u>COMP110</u> English Composition 1 ^{A,B}	3
<u>PARA100</u> Introduction to Prehospital Care	3
<u>PARA150</u> Pharmacology and Airway Management ^B	3
<u>PARA170</u> Medical and Trauma Emergencies ^B	6
<u>PARA180</u> Paramedic Field Experience 1 ^B	1
<u>PARA185</u> Paramedic Field Experience 2 ^B	3
<u>PARA187</u> Paramedic Field Experience 3 ^B	3
<u>PARA200</u> Life Support ^B	4

COURSE	CREDITS
<u>PARA210</u> Special Operations and Populations ^B	3
<u>PARA280</u> Special Populations Field Experience ^B	1
<u>PARA285</u> Paramedic Summative Field Experience ^B	1
Total Credit Hours	32

Recommended Semester Sequence

Semester 1

COURSE	CREDITS
<u>COLL101</u> Orientation to College	1
<u>COMP110</u> English Composition 1 ^{A,B}	3
<u>PARA100</u> Introduction to Prehospital Care	3
<u>PARA180</u> Paramedic Field Experience 1 ^B	1
Total	8

Semester 2

COURSE	CREDITS
<u>PARA150</u> Pharmacology and Airway Management ^B	3
<u>PARA185</u> Paramedic Field Experience 2 ^B	3

COURSE	CREDITS
Total	6

Semester 3

COURSE	CREDITS
<u>PARA170</u> Medical and Trauma Emergencies ^B	6
<u>PARA187</u> Paramedic Field Experience 3 ^B	3
Total	9

Semester 4

COURSE	CREDITS
<u>PARA200</u> Life Support ^B	4
<u>PARA210</u> Special Operations and Populations ^B	3
<u>PARA280</u> Special Populations Field Experience ^B	1
<u>PARA285</u> Paramedic Summative Field Experience ^B	1
Total	9

^A Placement Testing required.

^B Prerequisite required.

SECTION 3: COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

[Mathematics for Technology I \(MATH110\)](#): This course has been deactivated.

[Introduction to Prehospital Care \(PARA100\)](#): This new course has been added:

I. Course Number and Title: PARA100 Introduction to Prehospital Care

II. Number of Credits: 3

III. Number of Instructional Minutes: 3000 (1500 theory and 1500 lab)

IV. Prerequisites

COLL101, COMP110 registration is by permission of the Department of Health Sciences.

Corequisites

PARA180

V. Other Pertinent Information

Permission is granted pending verification that students:

1. Are a currently certified Pennsylvania EMT or AEMT
2. Are a minimum of 18 years of age
3. Hold a high school diploma or equivalent.

VI. Catalog Course Description

This course introduces students to the basic duties and competencies of the paramedic role. Students will review the Emergency Medical System (EMS) system with an eye toward an increased scope of practice.

VII. Required Course Content and Direction

A. Course Learning Goals

Students will:

1. Perform a complete patient assessment including mental status, general appearance and vital signs;
2. describe how to use physical assessment techniques to identify and integrate findings from the anatomic region exam into the patient's primary and differential diagnoses;
3. describe techniques that will foster effective communication with patients;
4. explain how a paramedic uses ethical principles in patient care;
5. utilize medical terminology in patient documentation and oral communications with other healthcare professionals; and

6. identify physical, mental and interpersonal conditions which impact a paramedic's ability to render safe patient care.

B. Planned Sequence of Topics and/or Learning Activities

1. EMS Systems
2. Workforce Safety and Wellness
3. Research
4. Medical Terminology
5. Legal and Ethical Issues
6. Communications
7. Documentation
8. Patient Assessment
9. Critical Thinking and Decision Making

C. Assessment Methods for Course Learning Goals

- Unit exams
- Communication lab skill demonstration
- Patient assessment lab skill demonstration

D. Reference, Resource, or Learning Materials to be used by Student:

See course syllabus

[Pharmacology and Airway Management \(PARA150\)](#): This new course has been added:

I. Course Number and Title:

PARA150 Pharmacology and Airway Management

II. Number of Credits: 3

III. Number of Instructional Minutes: 3000

IV. Prerequisites: PARA 100 (B or better), PARA 180 (B or better)

Corequisites: PARA 185

V. Other Pertinent Information

None

VI. Catalog Course Description

This course prepares students to apply concepts of pharmacology and airway techniques to the assessment and management of patients. Students perform respiratory assessments to differentiate the pathophysiology of respiratory emergencies.

VII. Required Course Content and Direction

A. Course Learning Goals

Students will:

1. Describe the characteristics of drugs as related to various body systems;
2. Explain the responsibilities of the paramedic with respect to administering medications;
3. Describe unintended adverse effects of drug administration;
4. Explain the pathophysiology of respiratory disorders commonly seen in the prehospital environment; and
5. Demonstrate techniques of basic and advanced airway management.

B. Planned Sequence of Topics and/or Learning Activities

1. Principles of pharmacology
2. Pharmacodynamics
3. Medication administration principles
4. Pathophysiology of respiratory diseases
5. Airway management
6. Ventilation
7. Respiratory emergencies
8. Cardiac arrest

C. Assessment Methods for Course Learning Goals

- Unit exams
- Skill checklists
- Practical exam

D. Reference, Resource, or Learning Materials to be used by Student:

See course syllabus.

[Medical and Trauma Emergencies \(PARA170\)](#): This new course has been added:

- I. Course Number and Title:** PARA170 Medical and Trauma Emergencies
- II. Number of Credits:** 6 credits
- III. Number of Instructional Minutes:** 5250
- IV. Prerequisites**
PARA 150 (B or better), PARA 185 (B or better)
Corequisites
PARA187

VI. Other Pertinent Information

None

VII. Catalog Course Description

This course provides the paramedic student with knowledge and principles associated with the acute management of medical or traumatic emergencies.

VII. Required Course Content and Direction

A. Course Learning Goals

Students will:

1. Explain the pathophysiology of disorders commonly seen in the prehospital environment;
2. Interpret patient assessment findings to develop a management plan for patients in the prehospital environment;
3. Interpret EKG rhythms; and
4. Correlate patient presentation with advanced cardiac interventions (pacing, defibrillation, and cardioversion).

B. Planned Sequence of Topics and/or Learning Activities

1. Cardiac arrest and cardiovascular emergencies
2. Shock and hemorrhage
3. Soft tissue injuries
4. Burns
5. Spinal and thoracic injuries
6. Musculoskeletal injury
7. Endocrine emergencies
8. Allergic or anaphylactic reactions
9. Gastroenterological emergencies and abdominal trauma
10. Renal or urologic emergencies
11. Environmental and behavioral emergencies
12. Infectious and communicable diseases
13. Respiratory emergencies
14. Gynecological, neonatal and pediatric emergencies
15. Childbirth and childbirth emergencies
16. Emergencies relating to abuse or assault
17. Patients with physical, mental, social and financial challenges
18. Acute deterioration of the chronic care patient
19. Patients with suspected head injury
20. Patients with neurologic emergencies.

C. Assessment Methods for Course Learning Goals

- Unit exams

- Skill checklists
- Practical exam

D. Reference, Resource, or Learning Materials to be used by Student:

See course syllabus.

[Paramedic Field Experience I \(PARA180\)](#): This new course has been added:

I. Course Number and Title: PARA180 Paramedic Field Experience 1

II. Number of Credits: 1 credit

III. Number of Instructional Minutes: 90 clinical hours

IV. Prerequisites

COLL101, COMP110

Corequisites

PARA100

V. Other Pertinent Information

None

VI. Catalog Course Description

This course provides students with an opportunity to perform patient assessments and documentation in an emergency setting. Students communicate with other healthcare providers such as emergency room employees and 911 emergency call center staff.

VII. Required Course Content and Direction

A. Course Learning Goals

Students will:

1. Use the appropriate techniques to obtain a medical history from a patient;
2. Follow an accepted format for dissemination of patient information in verbal form;
3. Demonstrate teamwork with a focus on interdisciplinary situations; and
4. Effectively document the essential elements of patient assessment, care, and transport.

B. Planned Sequence of Topics and/or Learning Activities

1. 80 hours of field clinical
2. 10 hours in a 911 call center

C. Assessment Methods for Course Learning Goals

- Skill checklist completion
- Evaluation from clinical preceptors
- Evaluation from faculty

D. Reference, Resource, or Learning Materials to be used by Student:

See course syllabus.

[Paramedic Field Experience 2 \(PARA185\)](#): This new course has been added:

- I. Course Number and Title:** PARA185 Paramedic Field Experience 2
- II. Number of Credits:** 3 credits
- III. Number of Instructional Minutes:** 270 clinical hours Includes 180 hours of field work and 90 hours of hospital experiences.
- IV. Prerequisites**
PARA100 (B or better), PARA180 (B or better)
Corequisites
PARA150
- V. Other Pertinent Information**
None
- VI. Catalog Course Description**
Students rotate through the prehospital and hospital settings to gain experience in assessing and treating patients.
- VII. Required Course Content and Direction**
 - A. Course Learning Goals**
Students will:
 1. Integrate pathophysiological principles of pharmacology and the assessment findings to formulate a field impression and implement a pharmacologic management plan;
 2. Prepare medications under the supervision of a preceptor;
 3. Use the appropriate route to administer medications (including IV, IM, ET, IO and SC) under the supervision of a preceptor;
 4. Establish and/or maintain a patent airway through BLS and ALS principles;

5. Select and use appropriate airway adjuncts and ventilate neonates, infants, children and adults; and
6. Evaluate patient condition pre- and post-intervention.

B. Planned Sequence of Topics and/or Learning Activities

1. Emergency Room
2. Intensive Care Unit
3. Operating room
4. Field clinical

C. Assessment Methods for Course Learning Goals

- Skill checklist completion
- Evaluation from clinical preceptors
- Evaluation from faculty

D. Reference, Resource, or Learning Materials to be used by Student:

See course syllabus.

[Paramedic Field Experience 3 \(PARA187\)](#): This new course has been added:

- I. **Course Number and Title:** PARA187 Paramedic Field Experience 3
- II. **Number of Credits:** 3 credits
- III. **Number of Instructional Minutes:** 270 clinical hours Includes 180 hours of field work and 90 hours of hospital experiences.
- IV. **Prerequisites**
PARA150 (B or better), PARA185 (B or better)
Corequisites
PARA170
- V. **Other Pertinent Information**
None
- VI. **Catalog Course Description**
Students continue to rotate through the prehospital and hospital settings to gain experience in assessing and treating patients at a higher level of responsibility.
- VII. **Required Course Content and Direction**
A. Course Learning Goals
Students will:

1. Integrate pathophysiological principles of medical and trauma patients and the assessment findings to formulate a field impression and implement an appropriate treatment algorithm;
2. Demonstrate expected professional attitudes and attributes of paramedics;
3. Work as a functioning member of the prehospital team; and
4. Continue primary and secondary assessments and apply appropriate interventions.

B. Planned Sequence of Topics and/or Learning Activities

1. Field experiences
2. Labor and Delivery
3. Emergency Room
4. Cardiac Catheterization lab
5. Behavioral health

C. Assessment Methods for Course Learning Goals

- Skill checklist completion
- Evaluation from clinical preceptors
- Evaluation from faculty

D. Reference, Resource, or Learning Materials to be used by Student:

See course syllabus.

[Life Support \(PARA200\)](#): This new course has been added:

- I. **Course Number and Title:** PARA200 Life Support
- II. **Number of Credits:** 4 credits
- III. **Number of Instructional Minutes:** 3000
- IV. **Prerequisites**
PARA 210 (B or better), PARA 280 (B or better)
Corequisites
PARA 285
- V. **Other Pertinent Information**
Students must pass the AHA and exams to receive a card for ACLS and PALS. Students must pass the NAEMT exam to receive a card for PHTLS. Course fees may apply.
- VI. **Catalog Course Description**

This course provides the paramedic student with the knowledge and principles of advanced life support. Students will obtain certification in ACLS, PALS and PHTLS.

VII. Required Course Content and Direction

A. Course Learning Goals

Students will:

1. Demonstrate effective teamwork during all life-support events;
2. Demonstrate the qualities of team leader for life-support events; and
3. Incorporate knowledge of pharmacology and pathophysiology to the care of patients in life-support events.

B. Planned Sequence of Topics and/or Learning Activities

1. Advanced Cardiac Life Support
2. Pediatric Advanced Life Support
3. Prehospital Trauma Life Support

C. Assessment Methods for Course Learning Goals

- Skill demonstration
- Exams

D. Reference, Resource, or Learning Materials to be used by Student:

See course syllabus.

[Special Operations and Populations \(PARA210\)](#): This new course has been added:

I. Course Number and Title: PARA210 Special Operations and Populations

II. Number of Credits: 3 credits

III. Number of Instructional Minutes: 2250

IV. Prerequisites

PARA 170 (B or better), PARA 187 (B or better)

Corequisites

PARA 280

V. Other Pertinent Information

None

VI. Catalog Course Description

This course provides knowledge and skills for dealing with patients who may need extra attention due to age, mental status or other conditions.

Students will also review operation of EMS Principles when performing air transport, working with hazardous materials, and mass casualty events.

VIII. Required Course Content and Direction

A. Course Learning Goals

Students will:

1. Demonstrate professional attributes and skills in the care of patients with special conditions;
2. Integrate the principles of the Incident Command System and Multiple Casualty Incident management techniques in order to function effectively and safely;
3. Identify techniques to manage on scene decontamination for hazardous material exposures; and
4. Utilize principles of incident awareness to safely extricate, package, and rescue patients.

B. Planned Sequence of Topics and/or Learning Activities

1. Neonatology and pediatrics
2. Geriatrics
3. Abuse, neglect and assault
4. Physically challenged patients
5. Mentally, emotionally or developmentally disabled patients
6. Chronic conditions
7. Ground and air medical operations
8. Rural environments
9. Multiple casualty incidents
10. Hazardous materials
11. Crime Scene awareness
12. Responding to terrorist acts

C. Assessment Methods for Course Learning Goals

- Exams
- Capstone presentation

D. Reference, Resource, or Learning Materials to be used by Student:

See course syllabus.

[Special Populations Field Experience \(PARA280\)](#): This new course has been added:

- I. Course Number and Title:** PARA280 Special Populations Field Experience
- II. Number of Credits:** 1 credit

- III. Number of Instructional Minutes:** 90 clinical hours
- IV. Prerequisites**
PARA170 (B or better), PARA187 (B or better)
Corequisites
PARA210
- V. Other Pertinent Information**
None
- VI. Catalog Course Description**
Students focus on field experiences dealing with pediatric and geriatric patients. Students may rotate to a hospital agency to acquire experiences.
- VIII. Required Course Content and Direction**
- A. Course Learning Goals**
Students will:
1. Demonstrate key concepts, cognitive domains and psychomotor skill sets required to care for neonate and pediatric patients;
 2. Demonstrate key concepts, cognitive domains and psychomotor skill sets required to care for geriatric patients;
 3. Continue working as a functioning member of the prehospital team;
and
 4. Continue primary and secondary assessments and apply appropriate interventions.
- B. Planned Sequence of Topics and/or Learning Activities**
1. Field experiences
 2. Geriatric patient care
 3. Pediatric/neonatal patient care
- C. Assessment Methods for Course Learning Goals**
- Skill checklist completion
 - Evaluation from clinical preceptors
 - Evaluation from faculty
- D. Reference, Resource, or Learning Materials to be used by Student:**
See course syllabus.

[Summative Field Experience \(PARA285\)](#): This new course has been added:

- I. Course Number and Title:** PARA285 Summative Field Experience
- II. Number of Credits:** 1 credit

III. Number of Instructional Minutes: 90 clinical hours

IV. Prerequisites

PARA280 (B or better), PARA210 (B or better)

Corequisites

PARA200

V. Other Pertinent Information

To be counted as a Team Lead the Paramedic student must conduct a comprehensive assessment, establish a field impression, determine patient acuity, formulate a treatment plan, direct the treatment, and direct and participate in the transport of the patient to a medical facility, transfer of care to a higher level of medical authority, or termination of care in the field.

VI. Catalog Course Description

Students will serve as team lead during field experiences.

VII. Required Course Content and Direction

A. Course Learning Goals

Students will:

1. Continue primary and secondary assessments and apply appropriate interventions; and
2. Serve as Team Lead.

B. Planned Sequence of Topics and/or Learning Activities

1. Field experiences

C. Assessment Methods for Course Learning Goals

- Skill checklist completion
- Evaluation from clinical preceptors
- Evaluation from faculty
- Successful completion of 10 Team Lead experiences

D. Reference, Resource, or Learning Materials to be used by Student:

See course syllabus.