

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

### **What is the timeline on when this will start?**

We expect the education providers to have the updated EMR, PCP and ACP curriculum requirements in place by 2027. At this time, we do not have a timeline for when a degree program will open to applicants or when graduates with the new bachelor's degree will join the workforce, as talks with education providers to implement the degree program are still underway.

### **What will happen to the existing legacy EMR, PCP and ACP curriculum frameworks?**

The last cohorts from the legacy PCP and ACP frameworks will graduate in 2028 and 2029, respectively. However, the College recognizes that discontinuing the legacy EMR curriculum may have negative ramifications on the EMR workforce and thus will not require education providers to do so. The decision of whether to offer the legacy EMR curriculum in 2027 and beyond will fall to the individual education provider. Future graduates from the legacy EMR curriculum framework and the new EMR curriculum framework will be equally eligible for registration with an EMR designation with the College.

### **Can current EMRs, PCPs and ACPs continue to practice without upgrading?**

Yes, current practitioners will not need to upgrade their education to continue practicing.

### **Will the bachelor's degree become a new requirement to enter the profession?**

No. The proposed framework will allow for a student to “step away” from the program at specific points and become registered as an EMR, PCP or ACP. The full 4-year program will not be a requirement to enter the profession.

### **Can current EMRs, PCPs and ACPs bridge into the program without starting from scratch?**

Yes. We are working on developing pathways into the program that will recognize existing education and training. Current practitioners seeking to join the degree program will not need to start their education from scratch.

### **Can PCPs get the bachelor's degree without upgrading to ACP first?**

No, the program is designed as one fluid path to a degree which involves first completing the ACP component.

### **Will instructors require the degree to teach the new curriculum/continue teaching?**

University transfer courses may require a master's level of education in the subject matter, but, primarily, paramedic-specific courses will only require the instructor to be an ACP in good standing with the College.

**How will the new curriculum improve quality of care and survivability of practitioners?**

Patient care outcomes rely on paramedics demonstrating various key competencies; identifying and robustly teaching those competencies are at the core of the new curriculum. Regarding survivability, the curriculum includes a focus on mental health that will better prepare practitioners for a healthier career and create more mature, informed professionals.

**Does the curriculum include practical, hands-on learning in addition to lecture-based classroom learning?**

Yes, we recognize how important hands-on learning is for preparing students for practice. There is a practicum component in every year of study. The curriculum will place similar focus on lab time, simulation, in-clinic and on-ambulance practicum as on lecture-based learning, which together will ensure that competency profiles are well-developed in students.

**Will the practicums be paid?**

We cannot dictate that education providers must pay students to go on practicum. For students, this decision will be up to the employer hosting the practicum and, for preceptors, it will be up to negotiation between the employer and the collective bargaining of their union.

**Will wages be higher for practitioners who obtain the bachelor's degree? If not, what are the incentives to obtain a degree?**

Any contract talks and collective bargaining for increased wages would be carried out by the unions representing the paramedic profession.

Other incentives for obtaining a bachelor's degree include enhancing one's education and depth of knowledge, opening pathways for upwards mobility into leadership and supervisory roles, increasing interprofessional/interdisciplinary mobility and obtaining pre-requisites for master's degree programs.

**Will previous university education credits transfer to this degree program?****Will the credits from the curriculum's courses be transferable to other degree programs?****Will the degree be recognized as a valid pre-requisite for a master's or post-graduate program?**

Ultimately, the answers to these questions will vary, as they are up to each specific education provider and what they will or will not recognize.

**Are there options for remote/distance learning or evening/weekend classes?**

This will be up to each specific education provider to determine their approach to content delivery. The College will not require all curriculum be delivered in-person only.

**Will there be grants/bursaries available for existing practitioners to upgrade?**

It is outside of our jurisdiction to grant this. There may be opportunities from other institutions. Making the ACP section of the program one year instead of two will reduce some of the involved cost in upgrading.

**Will the future Critical Care Paramedic designation be worked into this program?**

The future Critical Care Paramedic (CCP) designation will be separate from this program. It will be a post-credential certificate course available to all eligible ACPs.