



COURSE SYLLABUS

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COURSE: EMS 130 PHARMACOLOGY

HOURS: Lecture: 3 Lab/Shop: 3 Work Exp/Clinical: 0 Credits: 4

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces the fundamental principles of pharmacology and medication administration and is required for paramedic certification. Topics include medical terminology, pharmacological concepts, weights, measures, drug calculations, vascular access for fluids and medication administration and legislation. Upon completion, students should be able to accurately calculate drug dosages, properly administer medications, and demonstrate general knowledge of pharmacology.

PREREQUISITE(S): EMS 110

COREQUISITE(S): None

TEXTBOOK(S) & OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Sanders, Mick. Sanders' Paramedic Textbook 5th Ed. Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning, 2019.
ISBN: 9781284166095

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the completion of the course, the students should be able to demonstrate satisfactory progress by earning a grade of 70% or higher on the final written exam and by successfully applying knowledge of the course content in a practical exam of patient care scenarios, which will be evaluated using National Registry standards.

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain how pharmacology relates to paramedic clinical practice.
2. Describe the regulatory measures affecting medications administered in the prehospital setting.
3. Outline reliable sources of medication information available to paramedics.
4. Discuss requirements for medication storage, security, and accountability.
5. Describe the pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties of medications in general as well as those routinely administered by paramedics.
6. Identify situations where medication effects will be altered by the age, sex, weight, and other characteristics of a particular patient.
7. Identify situations where medication effects will be altered by the age, sex, weight, and other characteristics of a particular patient.
8. Present steps to reduce the incidence of medication errors and limit the severity of harmful effects associated with medication administration.

9. Select the optimal medication and method of medication administration for patients with a particular clinical condition or situation
10. Discuss the prevention, recognition, and management of adverse medication reactions.
11. Describe specific medications used by paramedics in the prehospital setting.
12. Explain the “six rights” of medication administration and describe how each one relates to EMS.
13. Describe the role of medical direction in medication administration, and explain the difference between direct orders (online) and standing orders (off-line).
14. Discuss the circumstances surrounding the administration of medication, including patient-assisted medication and paramedic-administered medication.
15. Discuss the advantages, disadvantages, and techniques for performing intravenous (IV) therapy.
16. Describe complications that can occur as a result of IV therapy.
17. Describe special considerations when performing IV therapy on a pediatric or geriatric patient.
18. Discuss the advantages, disadvantages, and techniques for establishing an intraosseous (IO) IV line
19. Discuss the systems of weights and measures used when administering medication.
20. Discuss the advantages, disadvantages, and techniques for administering a medication orally, subcutaneously, intramuscularly, sublingually, intranasally, via inhalation, intravenously and by the interosseous routes

EXPLANATION OF SYLLABUS:

The Student Learning Outcomes listed in this syllabus are those required actions that a student who successfully completes the course must be able to perform or exhibit. The educational experience, however, is a two-way, interactive process involving both the student and his/her instructor. The student must play an active role in the learning process in order to be successful. Each Instructor will provide an Instructor’s Course Requirements document at the first class meeting explaining how he/she measures each of the Student Learning Outcomes listed in the syllabus. A student who is unable to accomplish the outcomes will not receive a passing grade in the course.

The information in this RCC Syllabus may not be accurate beyond the current semester. Textbooks and other course materials are subject to change. Students should verify the textbooks at the first class meeting with their instructor prior to purchasing.

RCC ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular attendance is considered essential to realize course outcomes. Rules on attendance, tardiness, and leaving class early are addressed in each Instructor’s Course Requirements document.

No matter the basis for absence, students are held accountable for academic activities, and faculty may require special work or tests to make up for missed classes.

When courses are delivered through online instruction (DL or Distance Learning) or through a combination of traditional classroom and online instruction (hybrid), class participation is no less important, though its measurement may be somewhat different.

The Nursing Department's requirement related to attendance exceeds the college policy. Nursing students are required to attend 90% of classes, labs, and clinicals. At the discretion of the instructor, a written assignment or makeup clinical may be given for hours missed determined to be unavoidable.

RCC GRADING SYSTEM:

Richmond Community College employs a system of letter grades and corresponding quality points per grade to evaluate a student's performance in meeting the stated goals and objectives for each course.**

SECURITY AND SAFETY PROCEDURES:

RCC's upgraded security procedures require all doors to be locked at class start-time.

All students, faculty, staff, and visitors must wear visible identification (ID) badges. Identification badges should be worn on the front of clothing. RCC employees can stop, restrict, and remove from any school-related activity or function anyone who does not display an ID badge.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Richmond Community College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which require that no qualified student with a disability be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of any services, programs or activities on the basis of his or her disability. If accommodations in the classroom and/or in extracurricular activities are required, the student is encouraged to contact the Disability Services Counselor in Student Services prior to the start of the semester; however, a student may request accommodations at any time. Reasonable accommodations may take up to three (3) weeks to implement. Richmond Community College is committed to providing support and services to students with disabilities to help them obtain a quality education and to reach their goals. Assistance is provided, as necessary, and is intended to help students participate in and benefit from the programs and activities enjoyed by all students.

WITHDRAWAL:**

Students may withdraw from Richmond Community College curriculum courses up to the published Last Date to Withdraw (90% point of the section term). The student will receive a grade of "W" for the class and will not receive credit for the course. The "W" grade will not be used to compute hours earned or to compute the student's grade point average. If the student presents written documentation of extenuating circumstances which make it impossible to continue in the course after the 90% point, a late withdrawal (occurring after the published Last Date to Withdraw and on or before the last date of the section term) may be approved. A late withdrawal must be approved by the Vice President of Instruction.

In order to formally withdraw from a course, the student must complete a Student Initiated Withdrawal Form. The student is encouraged to read through the refund policies, and discuss the impact of withdrawing with their instructor, advisor, financial aid staff, and/or Veterans' Coordinator.

Individual instructors may have attendance requirements in individual classes. The instructor will notify the student if they are at risk of being withdrawn from an individual course due to the attendance requirements outlined on the Instructor's Course Requirements for an individual course.

The instructor will notify the student's advisor and the Veterans' Coordinator if an instructor initiated withdrawal is imminent for courses that have an attendance policy. Instructors not having a course specific attendance policy are not allowed to withdraw students due to attendance.

A withdrawal occurring before the 10% census reporting period ends for that course will not be included on the student's transcript. This is considered dropping a course.

Depending upon what point in the semester the student withdraws from a course, financial consequences may occur for the student if they are receiving any form of financial aid, scholarships, and/or veterans benefits. Students receiving financial aid should refer to the Financial Aid Procedures and Policies provided in the Financial Aid Award Letter Supplement and also available at <http://richmondcc.edu/admissions/financial-aid>. Students receiving VA education benefits should refer to the Department of Veterans Affairs Procedures provided in the RichmondCC Student Handbook available at <http://richmondcc.edu/student-services/student-handbook>

****Please refer to the online version of RCC's Catalog & Student Handbook for current academic and general policies.**