

Spring 2017 Paramedic Graduate Survey Results

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Purpose of Brief

The purpose of this brief is to analyze the results of the paramedic graduate survey completed by 12 respondents in 2016-2017.

Summary of Findings

- 75% of respondents were employed at one job
- 92% of respondents worked full time (40 hours/week) and indicated their current job was very closely related to their field of study.
- 42% of respondents were hired during 2015
- 33% of respondents indicated American Medical Response as the agency they were employed through.
- 100% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with 100 % of the statements regarding program preparedness on paramedic knowledge base, clinical proficiency, and paramedic behavior skills.
- 67% of respondents provided comments in regards to the perceived overall quality of their preparation as a paramedic. The most frequent comments indicated the overall quality of preparation as above average. One respondent made the following comment: "Overall I think Crafton Hills College still has one of the best Paramedic programs in the state and prepared us for the field and national registry very well."

Overview

The objective of the Crafton Hills College (CHC) Paramedic program is to train students to perform advanced life support in the pre-hospital setting, and prepare students to take the National Registry examinations necessary for state licensure. The purpose of this brief is to analyze the results of the paramedic graduate survey completed by 12 respondents in fall 2016 and spring 2017.

Methodology

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Planning (OIERP) in collaboration with paramedic faculty developed an online survey to administer to graduates from the Paramedic program. The survey link was provided via email, to graduates identified by the CHC Paramedic program director. The first part of the survey questions 1 through 17, prompted respondents to provide demographic, educational, and employment information (e.g., name, student identification number, date of birth, month and year of graduation, whether or not respondent transferred to another institution to pursue a Bachelor's Degree, followed by an open ended question to specify name of institution if applicable, military status, employment status, how closely related to field of study to current job was, hours worked each week, job title, hourly and monthly wage, date of hire, supervisor's name, supervisors job title, and agency's name). The second part of the survey questions 18 through 21, prompted respondents to rate their level of agreement with 6 statements regarding program preparedness on the subject of paramedic knowledge base, with 4 statements regarding program preparedness on the topic of paramedic clinical proficiency, with 4 statements regarding program preparedness on the subject of paramedic behavior skills, and with 4 statements regarding general paramedic information. The following 4-point Likert-scale was utilized: 4=Strongly Agree, 3=Agree, 2=Disagree, and 1=Strongly Disagree. The last part of the survey questions 22 through 27, allowed respondents to comment on the overall quality of preparation as a paramedic, identify 2 or 3 strengths of the program, make 2 to 3 suggestions to further strengthen the program, qualities/skills expected upon employment not included in the program, and lastly to provide comments and suggestions to help better prepare future graduates from the CHC program. Finally, to organize feedback received, comments/suggestions were categorized by topic. A limitation to grouping any open-ended responses into categories is that other researchers may group them differently.

Findings

Tables 1 through 13 illustrate the results of the findings from the paramedic graduate survey in fall 2016 and spring 2017.

One-hundred percent of respondents specified they were not in the military. Table 1 illustrates respondent's age at the beginning of the year (January 1st, 2017). Respondents were equally likely (33%) to be within the ages of 22-25 years old to 29-30 years old.

Table 1. Respondent's age

Age	#	N	%
22-25	4	12	33.3
26-28	3	12	25.0
29-30	4	12	33.3
40-46	1	12	8.3

Table 2 demonstrates respondent's self-reported graduation month and year. Respondents were equally likely (30%) to graduate in January, July, and December and most likely (58%) to graduate in 2015.

Table 2. Respondent's self-reported graduation dates.

Month	#	N	%	Year	#	N	%
January	3	10	30.0	2012	1	12	8.3
July	3	10	30.0	2013	1	12	8.3
August	1	10	10.0	2014	3	12	25.0
December	3	10	30.0	2015	7	12	58.3

Note: Any "missing" responses were excluded from this table.

Table 3 illustrates respondent's answers to whether they transferred to another institution to pursue a bachelor's degree. Sixty-seven percent of respondents indicated they did not transfer to another institution to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Table 3. Transferred to another institution to pursue bachelor's degree.

Have you transferred to another college or university to pursue a bachelor's degree?	#	N	%
No	8	12	66.7
Yes, and I am pursuing a field of study related to my earned certificate/degree	4	12	33.3

Respondents were given the opportunity to state which institution they were attending to pursue a bachelor's degree, if applicable. Below is a list provided by 3 respondents of institutions they attended:

- California Baptist University Online
- Chaffey College
- Moreno Valley college

Table 4 illustrates respondent's general employment information. Seventy-five percent of respondents were employed at one job, 92% of respondents worked full time (40 hours/week) and indicated their current job was very closely related to their field of study. Forty-three percent of respondents specified an hourly pay between \$16.00 to 20.00 and 50% of respondents reported monthly pay to be between \$2,400.00 to 3,400.00.

Table 4. Respondent's employment information.

Respondent's general employment information		#	N	%
Employment Status	Employed at one job	9	12	75.0
	Employed at more than one job	3	12	25.0
Hours worked per week	Full-time (40 hours/wk)	11	12	91.7
	Part-time (39 or less hours a wk)	1	12	8.3
Hourly Pay	\$16.00-20.00	3	7	42.9
	\$21.00-25.00	2	7	28.6
	\$26.00-30.00	2	7	28.6
Monthly Pay	\$2,400.00-3,400.00	2	4	50.0
	\$3,500.00-4,500.00	1	4	25.0
	\$4,600.00- and up	1	4	25.0
How closely related to your field of study is your current job?	Very close- My current job is the same as field as my studies and training.	11	12	91.7
	Close- I use what I learned in my studies and training even though I am not working in the exact same field.	1	12	8.3

Note: Any "missing" responses were excluded from this table.

Table 5 demonstrates respondent’s self-reported job titles. Fifty-five percent of respondents held the job title of paramedic, followed by 36% who indicated their job title as firefighter/paramedic.

Table 5. Respondent’s self-reported job titles.

Job Title	#	N	%
Paramedic	6	11	54.5
Firefighter/ Paramedic	4	11	36.4
Firefighter	1	11	9.1

Note: Any “missing” responses were excluded from this table.

Table 6 illustrates respondent’s specific employment information. Forty-two percent of respondents were hired during 2015. Thirty-three percent of respondents indicated American Medical Response as the agency they were employed through.

Table 6. Respondent’s specific employment information.

Respondent’s specific employment information		#	N	%
Date of hire for current position?	2008	1	12	8.3
	2013	1	12	8.3
	2014	2	12	16.7
	2015	5	12	41.7
	2016	3	12	25.0
Agency Name	American Medical Response	4	12	33.3
	Amazon	1	12	8.3
	Cal Fire	1	12	8.3
	Morongo Basin Ambulance	1	12	8.3
	Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District	1	12	8.3
	Redlands Fire Department	1	12	8.3
	Rialto Fire Department	1	12	8.3
	San Bernardino City	1	12	8.3
	San Bernardino County Fire	1	12	8.3

Table 7 illustrates respondents' levels of agreement with statements regarding program preparedness on paramedic knowledge base. One-hundred percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with 100 % of the statements regarding program preparedness on paramedic knowledge base.

Table 7. Respondent's level of agreement with statements regarding paramedic knowledge base.

Statement	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
The program helped me acquire the EMS knowledge necessary to function in a healthcare/EMS environment.	10	83.3	2	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	12
The program helped me acquire the general medical knowledge base necessary to function in a healthcare/EMS environment.	10	83.3	2	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	12
The program trained me to use sound judgment while functioning in a healthcare/EMS environment.	10	83.3	2	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	12
The program prepared me to collect relevant information from patients.	9	75.0	3	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12
The program Prepared me to formulate an appropriate treatment plan.	9	75.0	3	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12
The program prepared me to evaluate relevant patient information.	8	66.7	4	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	12

Table 8 demonstrates respondent's level of agreement with statements regarding program preparedness on paramedic clinical proficiency. One-hundred percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with 100 % of the statements regarding program preparedness on paramedic clinical proficiency.

Table 8. Respondent's level of agreement with statements regarding paramedic clinical proficiency.

Statement	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
The program prepared me to perform a broad range of clinical skills.	9	75.0	3	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12
The program prepared me to perform approved procedures.	7	58.3	5	41.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	12
The program prepared me to interpret diagnostic information.	7	63.6	4	36.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	11
The program with the skills to perform a through patient assessment.	6	50.0	6	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12

Note: Any "missing" responses were excluded from this table.

Table 9 illustrates respondent's level of agreement with statements regarding program preparedness on paramedic behavior skills. One-hundred percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with 100 % of the statements regarding program preparedness on paramedic behavior skills.

Table 9. Respondent's level of agreement with statements regarding paramedic behavior skills.

Statement	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
The program prepared me to conduct myself in a professional manner.	10	83.3	2	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	12
The program prepared me to conduct myself in an ethical manner.	9	75.0	3	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12
The program taught me to manage my time efficiently while functioning in a healthcare/EMS environment.	9	75.0	3	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12
The program prepared me to communicate in my role as a paramedic.	6	50.0	6	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12

Table 10 demonstrates respondent's level of agreement with statements regarding general paramedic information. Ninety-two percent of respondents strongly agreed they had actively pursued attaining their national EMS credential(s) and were a member of a national EMS professional association.

Table 10. Respondent's level of agreement with statements regarding general paramedic information.

Statement	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
I have actively pursued attaining my national EMS credential(s).	11	91.7	1	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	12
I am a member of a national EMS professional association.	11	91.7	1	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	12
I am a member of a state EMS professional association.	10	83.3	1	8.3	1	8.3	0	0.0	12
I actively participate in continuing education activities.	9	75.0	3	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12

Table 11 includes comments provided by 8 (67%) respondents, in regards to the perceived overall quality of their preparation as a paramedic. The most frequent comments indicated the overall quality of their preparation as a paramedic as above average. As an illustration, one respondent made the following comment: “Overall I think Crafton Hills College still has one of the best Paramedic programs in the state and prepared us for the field and national registry very well.”

Table 11. Open-ended responses regarding the perceived overall quality of preparation as a paramedic.

Above average quality (n=5)
10/10. Very satisfied with the knowledge gained from the program.
9/10 everything was great... Couple issues with staff transitions in 2014 and old equipment but overall great.
Outstanding, solid foundation.
Overall I think Crafton Hills College still has one of the best Paramedic programs in the state and prepared us for the field and national registry very well.
The instructors held all to a high standard. This resulted in great quality paramedics.
Satisfactory quality (n=3)
Crafton Hills gave me everything I needed to succeed.
Crafton Hills gave me the necessary skills and information to successfully become a nationally and locally accredited paramedic
Program provides a baseline set of knowledge

Table 12 illustrates comments provided by 9 (75%) respondents, to identify strengths of the program. The most frequent comments included were in regards to instruction/instructors. As an illustration, one respondent made the following comment: “Instructors prepared us for real life situations as well as testing situations.”

Table 12. Open-ended responses regarding strengths of the program.

Instruction/Instructors (n=6)
Based off of my work experience I would say Crafton has a very good cardiology program that surpasses other schools. Another strength in the program is that they taught us above a standard level in order to prepare us for national registry.
Instructors are knowledgeable
Instructors prepared us for real life situations as well as testing situations.
Knowledge base Confidence Pt. assessment
Knowledge of some instructors and experiences they pass on.
Knowledge, and tenacity
Program specific components (n=3)
NR test readiness and role responsibility.
Or contact. Running a mega code
Simplification of complex concepts; matching with most appropriate preceptor.

Table 13 includes suggestions provided by 9 (75%) respondents, to further strengthen the program. The most frequent suggestions provided were in regards to the following categories: patient assessment, class organization, and specialized career skills. As an illustration, one respondent made the following comment: "Two suggestions would be to assist students with practical skills more. Specifically pediatric doses and how to weight based volumes of medication administration. A second suggestion would be to practice "mega code" with pediatric patients."

Table 13. Suggestions provided by respondents to further strengthen program.

Patient assessment (n=3)
Actual patient assessment scenarios
Better patient assessment class; cotton polo's (polyester is hot and stinks!)
Restructure the patient assessment class
Class organization (n=3)
Better class organization and more skills instructors.
New equipment Information consistent throughout all classes and instructors
Lectures on GI and neuro were irrelevant to tests. Guest lecturers sometimes did not cover the correct material or would go off of topic.
Specialized career skills (n=3)
Focus on the patients that aren't stable. But not in full arrest.
More drug dosages and drawing up the actual dose of different drugs
Two suggestions would be to assist students with practical skills more. Specifically pediatric doses and how to weight based volumes of medication administration. A second suggestion would be to practice "mega code" with pediatric patients.
Miscellaneous (n=1)
Don't make the students pay for iPads that's ludicrous.

Below is a list of comments provided by 2 (17%) respondents, in regards to qualities/skills expected of them upon employment that were not included in the program.

- All were covered but some were only touched on slightly, such as pediatric defib doses.
- documentation / paperwork

Below is a list of comments and suggestions provided by 5 (42%) respondents, to help better prepare future graduates. Respondents provided suggestions on specific study skills to practice and specific career skills to focus on.

- Know bread and butter calls inside and out (especially the corresponding protocols), be humble, never let your personal issues get in the way of providing the best possible patient care.
- Prepare them for the paramedic national as well.
- Study hard, ask questions if you're unsure, and most importantly, be open for critiques and suggestions.
- Taking the time to draw medications and correct dosages into a syringe will greatly help students out in
- Tell them to save money!!! Maybe start a savings account that they place money in so that when the program is concluded they have money to pay for the testing.

Any questions regarding this report can be directed to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning at (909) 389-3331 or you may send an email to dpineda@craftonhills.edu: RRN 1632 SPI7 Paramedic Graduate Survey Results_Final.docx; snParamedicGraduate_Manipulated.sav; Output_Paramedic_Graduate_SPI7.spv