

Welcome to the Fall 2023 Vermont State University Paramedic Program!

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I would like to congratulate you on taking this step to increase your knowledge and skills, making the communities you serve safer, and increasing your leadership skills. Becoming a paramedic is an incredible journey, we are grateful that you chose to learn with us. I would like to share some vital information before classes begin, to help you get organized and ready.

1. COVID SCREENING and VACCINATIONS

- a. COVID vaccinations and boosters are required by our clinical agencies and affiliates. Students must be fully vaccinated in order to attend the program.
- b. All students must complete the health form available at www.vermontstate.edu/next-steps BEFORE attending any classes on campus. This entire form must be submitted to the Student Health Center, and uploaded to CastleBranch.

2. Orientation

- a. Attending Orientation is very important. Additional information regarding dates and times will be available in spring 2023.

3. Student ID Badge

- a. All students must have a Vermont State University photo ID. Information and instructions for obtaining the photo ID will be available at www.vermontstate.edu/next-steps.

4. Laptop Computer

- a. Incoming paramedic students must have a personal laptop with privacy screen in class. Please go to www.vermontstate.edu/next-steps for specifications.
 - i. Our program requires you to have a laptop computer that is **not a chromebook, older Macbook, or a tablet/iPad**. These are not compatible with our testing software.
 - ii. It must also have **a webcam and a microphone**.

5. Financial Aid

- a. Complete your Financial Aid-Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) even if you do not intend to apply for any loans
- b. Vermont Student Assistance Program-VSAC has additional grants and scholarships that you may qualify for that can cover the cost of books, etc.
- c. Student accounts is working very hard to secure funding for in-state students. They are contacting admitted students with updates.



6. Classes / Labs

- a. Your classes (didactic/lecture) are 100% online and asynchronous (there will be no other required days or times for you to listen to live lecture or join class other than in person on our Thursday lab days).
- b. Labs are on Thursdays, 0800-1700. You are registered to either attend the Bennington campus or the Williston campus.
 - i. **Bennington: 105 Union Street, Bennington.** Park in the large lot in one of the spaces designated for Vermont State University Students.
 - ii. **Williston: 700 Lawrence Place, Williston.** Park in the designated Vermont State University Student spaces.
- c. Wear your uniform to class.
 - i. You may wear your clean EMS pants from home. We want you to experience the skills, scenarios, and simulations in a realistic manner, including clothing. Bring your stethoscope, a penlight, pen, small pad of paper, trauma shears, etc. Whatever you would wear to work.
 - ii. Please bring a cloth mask with you in case it is required. We do have surgical masks for use during labs.
- d. We will be LOGGING your lab skills weekly in a program called FISDAP. This also will serve as our calendar and scheduler for clinical and field time, and it comes with study tools and practice exams for you.
 - i. PLEASE bring your laptop to class/lab every week.

7. Books and Online Programs

- a. Your textbooks and FISDAP access are mandatory.
 - i. DO NOT RENT your books from the bookstore. Rental prices are PER SEMESTER, and you need all of your books for all 3 semesters. If you have available financial aid, you can use your aid to pay for your books through the bookstore. If you are paying out of pocket, you may be able to find these items for less, from the publishers.

8. Uniforms

- a. Uniform ordering information will be sent to admitted students.

Congratulations again,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Inge Luce'.

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