



Health & Human Services Division  
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# Technical Skills Essential for the Field: Paramedic

## Motor, Cognitive, & Psychological Requirements

In keeping with its mission and goals and compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, Lansing Community College promotes an environment of respect and support for persons with disabilities and will make reasonable accommodations. The definition of individuals with disabilities are those who currently have, have a record of having, or are regarded as having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity. Major life activities include caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, breathing, and working.

In order to fulfill the requirements of the Paramedic Program at Lansing Community College, students must be able to meet the physical demands associated with the profession. Listed below are technical skills (motor, cognitive, and psychological) required for a student enrolled in the Paramedic Program. The skills listed below are based on LCC's Paramedic Program Competencies, clinical site requirements, and professional standards. These technical skills are established to ensure both patient and operator safety.

### **1. Essential motor skills required to meet the class and clinical practice outcomes are:**

**STRENGTH:** Perform physical activities requiring ability to push/pull objects more than 50 pounds to transfer objects of more than 100 pounds.

**MANUAL DEXTERITY:** Perform motor skills such as standing, walking, handshaking; manipulative skills such as writing and typing; venipuncture, calibration of equipment.

**COORDINATION:** Perform body coordination such as walking, filing, retrieving equipment; eye-hand coordination such as keyboard skills; tasks which require arm-hand steadiness such as taking vital signs, blood pressure, calibration of tools and equipment, etc.

**MOBILITY:** Perform mobility skills such as walking, standing, occasionally prolonged standing or sitting in an uncomfortable position.

**VISUAL ABILITY:** See objects far away, discriminate colors, and see objects closely as in reading faces, dials, monitors, syringes, medication labels, etc.

**HEARING:** Hear normal sounds with background noise and to distinguish sounds.

**TACTILE ABILITY:** Prove tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment. Perform palpation, functions of physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic intervention, e.g., insertion of a catheter.

## **2. Essential cognitive skills required to meet the class and clinical practice outcomes:**

**CONCENTRATION:** Concentrate on details with moderate amount of interruptions, such as patient and co-worker requests, alarms, IVACs, calculating medication dosages, equipment noise, etc. Attend to task/functions that require up to 60 minutes in length and handle a variety of tasks for periods up to 12 hours. No mental, nervous, organic or functional disease, or psychiatric disorder likely to interfere with the ability to coordinate treatment planning; work with other health care professionals and patients; coordinate treatment procedures; and safely operate medical/Paramedic devices and instruments.

**CONCEPTUALIZATION AND CRITICAL THINKING:** Comprehend and integrate knowledge from didactic courses and professional literature into the assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of Paramedic treatment. Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment to identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations and develop and implement treatment/care plans. Prioritize, organize, and utilize time-management skills to deliver patient care in a timely and accurate manner. Adhere to: HIPAA and OSHA guidelines, Paramedic professional standards, LCC and Paramedic Program professional conduct guidelines as well as clinical policies and procedures.

**MEMORY:** Remember task/assignments given to self and others over both short and long periods (i.e., information gathered in assessing patients and didactic courses).

## **3. Essential psychological skills required to meet the class and clinical practice outcomes:**

**INTERPERSONAL:** Demonstrate interpersonal abilities to interact compassionately and effectively with patients from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds. Establish professional and respectful rapport with patients, classmates, staff, faculty, and other healthcare providers. Work effectively as a team member.

**COMMUNICATION:** Speak and write clearly and concisely with patients, classmates, staff, faculty, and other health care providers in English when applicable using standard medical and Paramedic terminology. Communicate sufficiently for interaction with others in written form. Writing skills include being able to prepare legibly written documentation. Explain treatment procedures, initiate health teaching, interpret health care actions, and patient responses. Be able to read and interpret directions from one's supervisors.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE:** No current clinical diagnosis of alcoholism. Must not use Schedule 1 drugs or other substances such as amphetamines, narcotics, or any other habit-forming drug except those substances or drugs prescribed by a licensed medical practitioner; who

is familiar with the individual's medical history and assigned duties and who has advised the individual that the prescribed substance or drug will not adversely affect the individual's ability to safely practice.

**STRESS:** A student's behavior and social skills must be acceptable with the college and clinical settings. A student must be able to: monitor his/her emotions; manage strong emotions (such as grief or anger) in a professional manner; perform multiple responsibilities concurrently; adapt to a changing environment/stress and deal with the unexpected (such as a crisis situation); work with patients who may be very young/old, critically ill/injured, or mentally/physically deficient/impaired.

**DISCLAIMER** The above statement of criteria is not intended as a complete listing of behaviors required for the Paramedic Program, but is a sampling of the types of abilities required by the student to meet program objectives and requirements. The Paramedic Program or its affiliated agencies may identify additional critical behaviors or abilities needed by students to meet program or agency requirements. The Paramedic Program reserves the right to amend this listing based on the identifications of additional standards or criteria for Paramedic students.

## Non-Discrimination Statement

Lansing Community College is committed to providing equal employment opportunities and equal education for all persons regardless of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, creed, ancestry, height, weight, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, familial status, marital status, military status, veteran's status, or other status as protected by law, or genetic information that is unrelated to the person's ability to perform the duties of a particular job or position or that is unrelated to the person's ability to participate in educational programs, courses, services or activities offered by the college.

The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Equal Opportunity Officer, Washington Court Place, 309 N. Washington Square Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-1730; Employee Coordinator 504/ADA, Administration Building, 610 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-1875; Student Coordinator 504/ADA, Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-1885; Sarah Velez, Human Resource Manager/Title IX Coordinator, Administration Building, 610 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-1874; Christine Thompson, Student Title IX Coordinator, Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-1261.