

EMT Paramedic Spring 2014 Student SLO Report

1. What did you like about this program?

Text Response

Nothing. This program was a waste of my time. We sat around most of the time getting in our chair time doing nothing at all.

The people involved

I am completely disappointed in this program. I had good expectations and I was very excited for this class. I won't recommend this program to anyone and I do not feel like this program alone would adequately prepare students for a job. I relied on my coworkers and preceptors for my education. With that being said... I loved the teachers assistants that came into our classrooms to help. I appreciate the hard work and tremendous effort that our main instructor put into his role and job. He has come a long way. He will be fantastic when he gets more a little more ems experience under his belt where he can introduce more real life experiences into his lectures.

The hands on portion and the area medical facilities. We're lucky to have such large systems like Gundersen and Mayo.

I enjoyed the potential for knowledge that this course would provide, and currently i like that this program is finished.

I liked the facilities that we got to use on our clinical. They are all great hospitals and usually offer many learning opportunities.

Overall, I really enjoyed the clinical opportunities of the hospitals. There are two great hospitals in La Crosse which is a main reason that I came to this program, and they did not disappoint.

That being said, I think I benefited more from my Gundersen clinicals, however it seems to be personal preference throughout the class.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	7

2. What would you change about this program?

Text Response

Everything. Get more TA's. Take a year off and put this program together the way it is suppose to. This program was not structured at all and needs better teaching assistants and better ways of teaching besides always doing a powerpoint.

Books Lab/ Skills training scenarios

*There is way too much wasted time. I can honestly say on a daily basis we waste 6 hours of the day waiting and not learning. *Not enough help as far as teachers assistants. *The instructor was left high and dry and on his own. The head of the department, i felt was absent and disconnected. It seems he really could care less about the students and the program.

*And finally, the expired and broken equipment is ridiculous.

More organization with clinical scheduling, more TA's from the field. Actual working, practicing paramedics and physicians. I would have loved to have specialists in class more. These days were the most beneficial. Establish a working relationship with community employees.

I would have the instructors read the textbooks that they choose to teach the class before they actually have to teach it so as to prevent contriversal educations. I would change how the clinical system is set up as paramedics we don't need 12 hours in ICU and NICU and only 4 hours in the cath lab. Being that our medical director happens to be a physician at gunderson cath lab wouldn't it also be a better idea to put more hours into cath lab and less into these other fields that we are completely new to.

I would change the order that things are taught. Sometimes we learn things that don't make sense becuase we havent learned something that would build up to that or we haven't had enough time to understand one thing before we have to move onto the next thing. Also I would change some of the clinical rotation times. For example, having 12 hours in NICU doesn't help us at all, I understand the importance of going their and seeing the critical neonates, but having to stay for 12 hours is ridiculous. Even the nurses and staff that are there say it is to long to be there simply because we are not allowed to really do anything there but observe anyways. Along with the NICU I think it should be cut in half an we should spend the other half on the pediatric floor where we can interact with kids that may actually see in real life. Even if a neonate is being transferred by us, they send a team of their own so we still do nothing with the neonate except deliver them to another facility. Nursing staff in the unit think it would be way more beneficial to use some of our time on the pediatric floor as well. 12 hours is just to much time to observe especially considering the shift is from 1pm to 1am. That brings up my next concern, having a 12 hour shiftt from 1pm-1am is a terrible time to have clinical becasue we miss all shift change in the morning and we miss when the doctor is there giving report, especially if you have the shift on the weekend. Also some of us have that 1pm-1am shift during the week, which is ridiculous because then we have to be at class by 8am and are expected to be prepped and ready for a long day of class. If this is the shift they wasnt to keep then should only allow it to be done on the weekend when we wouldn't have to be attending class the next day.

Unfortunately there are a lot of things that need to be changed. A HUGE one is consistency. Throughout the program there has been tons of policy changes, from required clinical hours to which clinical sites are allowed for ride alongs. Now it is good that there is some flexibility in the schedule during the classes which benefitted the class, however areas such as requirements for clinicals should not change throughout the year. In all honesty it discredits the programs validity and makes all of the program seem disorganized, hindering even academic progress. This would easily be fixed by sitting down with all of the staff to make sure everyone is on the same page and agrees on the policies and making sure they are consistent. As stated previously, there still needs to be some flexibility in the classroom, however big policies revolving around clinical hours and what not need to be consistent. Unfortunately there was also a lack of

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teaching quality in the program. I lost respect for the teaching abilities of the instructors early on, and have slowly gained a little back, but as soon as there is a lack of trust in the material being presented, it causes confusion, inconsistency, and a decreased efficacy of the program. I know this was due to a new instructor being hired on, however he seemed to be thrown into something he was no prepared for with a lack of mentoring and support in the classroom. I will say that he has improved throughout the year and will continue to improve during the course his teaching career, however when you come to a program expecting a good program to get you set up to be a good entry level paramedic, it is disappointing to see this sort of thing. There is much improvement needed in this program or it will fail. I would suggest a committee be set up during the following year to look at well-established programs, draw from their strengths, and revamp the delivery of the material and practical applications of the program. I often felt like the material was just thrown at us just for the sake of getting it out there rather than being taught to us in the context of our jobs as paramedics and how we are going to use it in our everyday practice. I would also suggest working with other agencies in getting suggestions and inputs on how to deliver the information as usually these area services are the intended employers for the students in the program.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	7

3. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I have learned effective communication skills.	2	1	1	4	0	8

4. Provide any comments you have on effective communication skills you learned.

Text Response

We communicated with our instructor but it was hard to communicate with the rest of the staff since no one is ever there.

I do not feel like this course taught communication skills, at all.

As a human being, I walked into this course possessing effective communication skills.

I don't feel like communication skills have improved throughout this course, however I do feel like I came in with good communication skills already.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	4

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5. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I am able to apply mathematical concepts.	4	1	3	0	0	8

6. Provide any comments you have on mathematical concepts you learned.

Text Response

We were barely taught how to do dosaging.

We worked on this for a total of ten minutes. When we made it obvious that we did not get it, the response was "You'll get it. It's easy." Then there was no attempt to remediate the problem. We were not made to use actual math with dosages... with the exception of one time. And that one time was because a teachers assistant made us, thankfully.

When did we ever cover any mathematical concepts?

I think we spent maybe an hour or 2 on learning how to do drug dosing an that was it, we are now expected to know how to do it. This is ridiculous! I'm not the greatest at math an I know some people are and they jsut get it but I didn't. Our class ended up having to setting up a time with a facility in the area so that their paramedics could teach us about pharacology and dosing, this isn't something we should or would have to do if we had been taught correctly and given time to learn it in class.

I don't feel like there was any new math concepts taught.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	5

7. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I learned how to transfer social and natural science theories into practical applications.	0	3	3	2	0	8

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8. Provide any comments you have on transferring social and natural science theories into practical applications.

Text Response

Did not learn anything and I taught myself.

With the textbook that we were using we never actually learned any real science, but we did get a fair amount of knowledge on working with social issues.

I think there was a lot of teaching of theory but not as much time spent on the practical application side of the material.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

9. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I learned critical thinking skills.	1	2	1	3	1	8

10. Provide any comments you have on critical thinking skills you learned.

Text Response

Learned these on my own.

We learned how to memorize the correct answers to test questions.

The program was meant to pass people and not really allow people to fail. Some of the rules that allow you to fail out of the program are ridiculous simply because you have one poor exam. But in general the questions and the thoughts are all based off algorithms which really don't allow for much critical thinking. Along with having any disease course only lasting 2 weeks and to fully understand that information and to fully be able to critically think about it that should take a semester at very least.

I do not feel my skills have changed as a result of the program.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	4

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11. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I have learned to use technology effectively.	2	0	3	3	0	8

12. Provide any comments you have on what you learned about using technology effectively.

Text Response

I knew how to use technology before coming to this class. Did not help me at all in this department.

We have equipment that doesn't work consistantly.

No, any "technology" skills we used were minimal and expected to be known from the start.

We don't really do anything as far as learning how to do radio reports or how to use WARDS(report system online). These are things that should and need to be taught a lot better. I know they seem like little things but not being able to give a facility a good radio report could get you in a lot of trouble if you arrive there an they see a patient that from your report doesn't seem to be the same as you described. Also with not knowing how to do a run report, thats even worse because thats a legal document that could be brought up in court an if it wasn't filled out correctly it could cost somebody their job or even their license.

No change compared to previous abilities.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	5

13. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I have learned to value myself and work ethically with others in a diverse population.	1	0	2	4	1	8

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14. Provide any comments you have on what you learned about valuing yourself and working ethically with others in a diverse population.

Text Response

Had these skills before entering here.
 This one is just a joke after this last academic year.
 Dealing with all sorts of patients during clinicals really helps you develop this essential skill

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

15. As a result of this program:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
I am able to make decisions that incorporate the importance of sustainability.	0	0	5	3	0	8

16. Provide any comments you have on what you learned about incorporating the importance of sustainability in decisions you make.

Text Response

Had these skills before entering here.
 N/A

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	2

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17. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
prepare for incident response and EMS operations.	0	3	2	3	0	8

18. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

Text Response

Did not have enough scenarios to get a good feel for this.

Just our course online. No in class hands on scenerios or training... other than lectures from the book. Pearsons lectues.

Nope, we all just failed our last EMS ops test.

Can't comment yet because the education in the field EMS has not been completed yet for the course.

EMS operations class was only a day and a half class for us. We learned some but as far as anything with HAZMAT or anything there was nothing talked about. I think it is improtant to be able to understand the HAZMAT reference book especially if you have never used or seen it.

I think it was beneficial to take the NIMS 100, 200, and 700, however mass casualty was not practiced, which is the important part. It was also disappointing that there was no real full-call practice done. It is one thing to verbalize what you would do, but it is entirely different to do everything for real. We have an ambulance parked in the parking lot for what purpose again?

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	6

19. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
integrate pathophysiological principles and assessment findings to provide appropriate patient care.	1	2	0	5	0	8

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20. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

Text Response

Learned this on my own.

The textbooks suggested for this class did not teach enough of the pathophysiology to make good strong understanding of medicine. Personally i would want things to be far more detailed and go much more in depth with information.

I think that pathophysiological principles goes much deeper than listing symptoms. It is WHY everything is happening to the body and how we can see it in the signs and symptoms. Cook-book medicine is out the window, and I don't feel like there was a good pathophysiological emphasis during the course. It is not sufficient to just have a chapter on it. The other side of this is explaining disease processes takes time. Lots of time. I know this isnt medical school, but to truly get the pathophysiological processes integrated into paramedicine, there needs to be a higher standard held for anatomy and physiology in the students entering this program. I was very excited for learning a lot of pathophysiology relating to the diseases we will be treating and I was disappointed at the level of depth of the material.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

21. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
demonstrate paramedic skills associated with established standards and procedures for a variety of patient encounters.	0	1	1	5	1	8

22. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

Text Response

Again learned this on my own.

At least as far as the NREMT test goes. Once we get a job, its back to square one, and we'll be retaught EVERYTHING.

To be fair, I learned a lot during clinicals, but not as much in the classroom, so I neither agree nor disagree.

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Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

23. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
communicate effectively with others.	3	1	2	2	0	8

24. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

Text Response

Most of the time I would try to communicate with one of the instructors and they would never respond to my emails or anything.

There were multiple cases of lack of communication between faculty members and between faculty members and the students. It became very frustrating as a student to be constantly fighting an uphill battle against the program and getting things done in a timely manner when communication with faculty was needed.

No changes from previous abilities.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

25. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
demonstrate professional behavior.	0	0	3	4	1	8

26. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

Text Response

Had this before coming into this program.

Mr. Kollasch was really good at enforcing and expecting professional behavior. He would let us slide a little but always would bring us back to proper behavior and doing well with that aspect.

I think there was a good emphasis placed on professionalism. This went down towards the end of the year however.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	3

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27. As a result of this program, I learned to:

Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total Responses
meet state and national competencies listed for paramedic certification(s).	1	2	1	4	0	8

28. Provide any comments you have about learning this program outcome.

Text Response

Did not practice enough with the hands on skills so this was a waste of my time. Personally I don't feel prepared or competent in the skills that we were taught this year. The program shoots through some of the more important courses in 2 or 3 weeks. Half of the fault lies with the textbook being very minimal but half the fault lies with the school not having a second textbook to teach to give a much deeper understanding. Its like when i was in undergraduate studies as you got into your senior year they would say "everything we taught you as a freshman is wrong, because we had to over simplify it for you" that is the same thing that i feel here but being that we are paramedics we should be held to a higher standard and not be expected to need information dumbed down to us so that when we got to the national registry and other test what we will have above the knowledge needed so as to preform at a higher level.

Not sure yet, haven't taken the test.

Won't know until the registry.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	4

29. CONCLUSION - Please use this space to share any other feedback, comments, or suggestions about your experience at Western Technical College.

Text Response

This program is a waste of my time. I would NOT recommend this program to anyone in the near future. We had to teach ourselves and sat around for countless hours wasting our time. We have expired equipment and some staff members that are employed here should not be employed here when all they do is sit around and clean maniquens when we have expired IV equipment that needs to be replaced. This person is a waste of money and he does nothing to help out at all. If i was employed there that equipment room would be spotless and not the dump that it is. The teaching skills improved throughout the year; however, constantly doing a powerpoint every single day did not make me focus on what we were learning. I did not focus what was going on in class as the lectures were not interactive and very boring. Let alone the chair time that we are required to do is pointless because all we did is sit around and twiddle our thumbs while waiting for the day to be up. This program is a joke and honestly I feel that they should not have students for a year and figure out what the program needs and bring in more people to help. I have told multiple people to not come here for the Paramedic program because it is a waste of time. I will be leaving this program with nothing, but my clinicals being accomplished. I learned everything on my own or from other students and will never come back to Western to take any classes again. We are paying thousands of dollars in tutition here to get in our chair time when we have equipment that is either expired or falling apart. I am happy to be done with this program and will not ever mention that I was associated with this program.

As the year passed, I think our instructor developed into a competent teacher. I would like to have seen more of a "handing off the torch" between instructors. With experience comes excellence, and that's all it will take. My biggest suggestion for this program would be to involve more TA's. There is a large amount of downtime and only so much studying you can do sitting for hours. I would like to see the TA's be people of relevance to our career. Not lab techs, first responders, and an equipment manager....but professionals. Doctors, nurses, and paramedics that work in the community, understand their profession, and understand the community. Their knowledge and real experiences implants reminders that will someday save a life. Its also nice to learn a skill in a multitude of ways. There's a vast resource of professionals in our community that would like to come in and teach, but its just up to management to drop the ego and politcal issues, and use them for student benefit. Days where we come in and have 10 students with one instructor and 1 TA go slow and isn't efficient. I did enjoy days with Dr. Harbin and Dr. Braun. Jane from Gundersen NICU. Dr. Ben regarding whiplash. Specialists can always teach more than generalists. I look to the instructor for basic knowledge and organization or the program, and would like to have seen outside influence for cardiology, pharmacology, respiratory, and ACLS/PALS. There are times that it seems like there's a "club" of people we invite in, and they're not who we should be learning from. Mr. Huber and Mr. Luther were great. Don was great. The rest don't have any business teaching paramedics.

The Western Technical college campus is very nice and friendly place to be. But as far as the EMS Paramedic program goes there are still many faults that should be corrected yet. As been noted throughout my serve my biggest issue with the program is the textbook choice. There must be much better books out there that go into deeper details so as to give a really strong base to the program. Seeing how the campus has now gone to Trimesters I believe that the Paramedic program should also use that to their advantage all year we have been going to clinicals at the same time as class so we could extend the pharamcology sections, the pathophysiology section. Then intergrate the rest of the information together and example would be for the next 2 months we will be doing pediatrics then broken down as (review

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pathophysiology of peds, pulmonary problems, cardiac problems(PALS), renal and genetic issues, trauma of Peds (PEPPS)) then do Geriatrics in similar fashion. And finally general population in a similar fashion again. This way the course isn't completely redundant. Also the ethics part of the course should be online because there is no good way to lecture that material and is a horrible way for a instructor to begin a semester with new students.

This program has a lot of growing to do before I myself would recommend it to anybody. I feel that the communication in the program is not adequate an I'm constantly haivng to try and figure things out on my own. I was expecting this program to be much better. When I started here in the fall my expectations were high but they were dropped very quickly. I was promised things from the get go that have now been taken away from me, which almost caused me to leave this program entirely. I don't believe that is right to run a program with students who are here paying money and losing all time to be able to work or do anything else an the people running the program have no idea whats going on. We ask questions and they can never give a straight answer on anything an I feel like unless we continually ask them about it they don't even check on it or they tell us " oh I'll find out I forgot." Questions that we ask are improtant especially when it concerns clincal situations an everything which determine our graduation an completion of this course. This program has not treated students fairly, they always are changing things as we are going through the program, which is ridiculous for us students, how are we ever suppose to be confident in our staffing if they aren't even confident in anything they are telling us. My biggest issue with all of this is the fact that I was told on multiple occasions that I would be able to use a certain site for summer clinical an even had them all scheduled and then was told 2 months from being done with the class that I can no longer use it becuae they didn't notice it on their end. That to me is not fair AT ALL!! I understand if it can't be used in the next years but when you tell someone it can be an they have all their times setup then tell them when the program is almost over that it can't be, that's not my fault an yet I'm the own getting the short end of the stick, so tell me how fair that is. I feel like this program needs to take a year off an not have any students and just have the staffing work together to figure all of their faults figured out without having to through students in the middle of it. It's just not fair to us. We are the only ones being punished for things that get taken away because its taking opportunites away from us, what would the staff care they already have their careers thats how i feel sometimes when they say they will try to fix something and never do. Overall I am very disappointed in this program and there has been many times through it that I have almost left because we have no direction and the communication has been awful an there is only so much frustration that a person can take until they break. Thank You

Overall, I am very disappointed in the program. The only expectation that the program lived up to was its own bad reputation. Teaching was inadequate (but improving throughout the year) and I feel like most of my time was wasted. I felt as if I learned more in 55 minutes of a lecture at other universities than 8 hours of class time here. I don't feel like my time was well spent here. I feel like you need to be an expert in your area to teach, and this expectation was not met this year. The true test will be out on clinical rotations in the field, which makes this survey a little premature, however I honestly feel like this program is inadequate and I will not be recommending it in the future. Time needs to be taken off of teaching to revamp the program, make it more efficient, and improve the quality of the program. Throw out the old equipment, get non expired supplies for things like IV's, and stop short-changing students. If the equipment is available, students should use it. Although there were not all bad things about the programs, I am disappointed in the quality of instruction and regret my decision to enroll in this program.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	5