



Stanislaus County

Emergency Medical Services Agency

POLICY NO. 254.00

Title: Paramedic Accreditation and Renewal

REVIEW DATE: 10.31.2025

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11.01.22

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE AT EMS AGENCY OFFICE

PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION AND RENEWAL

I. AUTHORITY

In accordance with §100165 of the California Code of Regulations, the local EMS agency may accredit a California licensed Paramedic to practice in its jurisdiction.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **“Accreditation”** means authorization to practice Paramedic skills in Stanislaus County under the medical direction of the policies and protocol authorized by Stanislaus County EMS Agency Medical Director.
- B. **“Agency”** means the Stanislaus County Emergency Medical Services Agency.
- C. **“Field Training Officer (FTO)”** means a senior/appointed medical personnel of an organization that provides mentoring and guidance to new or current Emergency Medical Services personnel and provides refresher and/or remedial training as needed.
- D. **“Field Evaluation”** means time spent during a pre-accreditation period, where a Paramedic Accreditation applicant performs ALS assessments and skills while under the supervision of an Agency Approved FTO, who is evaluating the applicant for Stanislaus County EMS Agency protocol knowledge.

III. PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this policy is to provide a process for California State Licensed Paramedics to apply for and maintain a Stanislaus County Paramedic Accreditation.

IV. POLICY

- A. The applicant shall possess a valid/current California Paramedic License.
- B. The applicant shall apply to the Agency for Stanislaus County Paramedic Accreditation.

- C. The applicant shall complete an orientation of the local EMS system, which shall not exceed eight (8) classroom hours prior to the thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period.
 - D. The applicant must pass a CLOSED book written examination with an 80% or better score on the Agency ALS Treatment Protocols, Policies and Procedures prior to the thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period.
 - E. The applicant must pay the Stanislaus County EMS Agency Accreditation fee, as described on the Paramedic Accreditation Application.
 - F. The applicant shall demonstrate proof of present employment or a written commitment for employment by a Stanislaus County designated ALS provider agency.
 - G. After successful completion of the local orientation and the CLOSED book Paramedic protocol exam, the applicant may schedule ride time with Agency approved Paramedic level service provider to complete a Field Evaluation of 5 ALS contacts under the supervision of an Agency approved Paramedic Field Training Officer
 - H. The applicant shall be granted a thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period which begins upon completion of local Paramedic accreditation orientation, and notification of Field Evaluation start date.
 - 1. This notification shall be provided to the Agency from the employer of the paramedic accreditation applicant, at a minimum of 5 business days, preceding the identified Field Evaluation start date.
 - I. If the pre-accreditation requirements have not been met within this thirty-day extension, an additional thirty (30) day extension may be requested by submitting the request in writing to the Agency and by paying another initial accreditation fee.
 - J. The applicant shall be limited to applying for accreditation up to two (2) times during a twelve-month period.
 - 1. The Agency's Medical Director shall evaluate any applicant who fails to successfully complete the Field Evaluation and or patient contact scenarios and may recommend further evaluation or training as required to ensure the Paramedic has competent knowledge of Agency's field treatment protocols.
 - K. The applicant shall complete five (5) ALS contacts supervised by an Agency approved Field Training Officer Paramedic.
- V. A Paramedic, once accredited by the Agency, shall be considered accredited with the continued requirements of:
- A. Maintain licensure as a Paramedic, by the State of California.
 - B. Successfully complete any requirements imposed by the Agency Medical Director for an Agency approved Expanded Scope of Practice Class, and Policy Update Class.
 - C. Meet any requirements of the System-wide CQI program.

D. Provide verification of compliance with Agency Policy 853.00- Prehospital Training Standards.

VI. An accredited Paramedic must notify the Agency within five (5) business days of any change in address, telephone or e-mail contact information, or employment status change.

VII. PROCEDURE

A. Prior to the thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period the applicant must complete the following:

1. An orientation of the local EMS system as prescribed by the Agency, which shall not exceed eight (8) classroom hours.
2. Pass a CLOSED book written examination (within 30 days of initial test), with an 80% or better score on the Agency ALS Treatment Protocols, Policies and Procedures.

Applicants that receive less than 80% will be notified which questions they missed. The applicant will be allowed to retest, taking a closed book exam, with a minimum passing score requirement of 80%. Applicants will have a total of two (2) attempts to pass the test.

The applicant may not retest on the same day as the initial exam and must schedule the retest with the Agency. If the Applicant fails both test attempts, they will be required to pay the application fee again. The applicant will be eligible for a third test attempt after 5 business days (M-F).

If the third test attempt is unsuccessful, the Agency Medical Director will make the final determination of the Paramedic's application status.

B. Upon completion of the items listed above in section "VII. Procedure, subsection A" the applicant shall be granted a thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period, as described in section "IV, subsection H, and 1."

C. The applicant will have a thirty (30) days pre-accreditation period to complete the following:

1. Successfully complete and show competency on five (5) advanced life support contacts during field evaluation with Agency approved Paramedic Field Training Officer. Applicants shall only operate as a Paramedic while in the presence of an approved Paramedic Field Training Officer.

D. Paramedics Accreditation Renewal

1. Active accreditation that are not yet expired:

- a) Complete necessary steps as outlined in the Paramedic Accreditation Renewal application.

2. Expired less than 6 months:

- a) Complete necessary steps as outlined in the Paramedic Accreditation Renewal application.
- b) Pay associated late fee.

3. Expired greater than 6 months, but less than 12 months:

- a) Complete necessary steps as outlined in the Paramedic Accreditation Renewal application.
- b) Pay associated late fee.
- c) Attend Paramedic Orientation
- d) Pass a CLOSED book written examination (within 30 days of initial test), with an 80% or better score on the Agency ALS Treatment Protocols, Policies and Procedures.

Applicants that receive less than 80% will be notified which questions they missed. The applicant will be allowed to retest, taking a closed book exam, with a minimum passing score requirement of 80%. Applicants will have a total of two (2) attempts to pass the test.

The applicant may not retest on the same day as the initial exam and must schedule the retest with the Agency. If the Applicant fails both test attempts, they will be required to pay the application fee again. The applicant will be eligible for a third test attempt after 5 business days (M-F).

If the third test attempt is unsuccessful, the Agency Medical Director will make the final determination of the Paramedic's application status.

4. Expired greater than 12 months

- a) Complete necessary steps as outlined in the Paramedic Accreditation Renewal application.
- b) Pay associated late fee.
- c) Complete ALL additional requirements listed in section "VII. Procedure, subsection A, B, and C" of this policy.

E. Upon successful completion of the accreditation requirements, an accreditation card will be issued.

F. The Medical Director of the local EMS Agency may suspend or revoke accreditation if the Paramedic does not maintain current licensure or meet local accreditation requirements.

G. If accreditation is suspended, or revoked, the affected Paramedic shall be entitled to appeal the decision. The process for appeal is outlined in Agency Policy #161.00.