2026 CUESTA COLLEGE PARAMEDIC PROGRAM

Certificate Program with Associate Degree Option

Application Instructions

Applications accepted online from August 1, 2025, 10:00 a.m. until further notice

Thank you for your interest in the Cuesta College Paramedic Program. Application and admission criteria are subject to change from year to year. It is the applicant's responsibility to follow current application instructions and meet all requirements and due dates. Please communicate promptly with Claire Hawkins at claire_hawkins@cuesta.edu if you have any difficulty with the application process.

NOTE: If you have concerns about a background issue, email Karen Beaudin, Clinical Coordinator, at clinical_coordinator@cuesta.edu or Michael Smiley, Program Director, at michael_smiley@cuesta.edu with your concerns.

Applicants will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis until the program spaces are filled. The application period will close when all program seats are filled.

Applicants will be denied and/or withdrawn from the application process for:
- An incomplete application form that is not cured within the time given, lacks complete answers and/or required attachments.
- Unmet pre-requisite elements
- Failure to submit transcripts of graduation/GED certificate and prerequisite course work to the Cuesta College Admissions & Records department by end of the application period (or November 5, 2025, for in-progress elements)
- Failure to meet any subsequent deadlines and/or respond to time-sensitive emails
- Failure of admitted applicants to meet final program admission requirements

EVALUATION OF COURSES FROM OTHER COLLEGES

Please note: courses taken at other colleges, particularly Biology courses, should have their equivalency to Cuesta courses determined BEFOREHAND. **Evaluation can take up to 6 weeks, so do not delay.**
1. Apply for admission to Cuesta College.
2. Submit official transcripts to Cuesta.
3. Request evaluation via your myCuestaPathways and the "Links" tab. Call 805-546-3140 for assistance if you cannot locate it.
4. Complete the form and select "Paramedic Prerequisite" as the reason for request.
5. A counselor will meet with you and evaluate the course, submitting a Substitution Waiver if appropriate.

TRANSCRIPTS

Official transcripts must be received before applications are submitted. It is up to you to email eval@cuesta.edu to confirm that your official transcripts have been received. You do not need to request a transcript for any courses taken at Cuesta. For up-to-date information for submitting transcripts from other colleges, review the pages at https://www.cuesta.edu/student/studentservices/records/transcriptssubmit.html and https://www.cuesta.edu/student/studentservices/records/record_faq.html

FINANCIAL AID

Apply NOW for financial aid for the 2025-2026 Academic Year at fafsa.ed.gov. Many grants have limited funds and early application is the key to qualifying.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Applicants are required to have 1,000 hours of 9-1-1 field work experience in an environment that has prepared them to be a team leader in their career. This includes 9-1-1 ambulance and most fire agencies. Lifeguard, emergency room, wildland firefighter, or other experience does not meet application requirements.

• You will need to obtain from your employer a statement verifying your work experience on agency letterhead.

• The statement should include specific wording that you have "1,000 hours of 9-1-1 experience based in an ambulance or fire engine that responds to medical and trauma related incidents at a minimum rate of 75% of call volume/time spent."

• It must be signed by your supervisor and include their contact information.

• If your hours are met between multiple employers, you will need to obtain multiple statements verifying the number of hours from each employer.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

PREPARE NOW! Review the Cuesta College Paramedic Program Information page.

1. Apply for admission to Cuesta College (www.cuesta.edu/apply). You will receive a "Welcome" email that includes important information regarding your *my*Cuesta log-in information, your my.cuesta.edu email account, and your student ID number. These are needed to complete the application.

2. Prepare your online attachments. You will need at a minimum:
    - ✓ A copy/photo of your high school/college degree or GED certificate, or verifying transcript (unofficial is OK for attaching to the application).
    - ✓ Unofficial college transcript(s) verifying academic prerequisites in English, Math and Biology (even if taken at Cuesta).
    - ✓ Official College Placement Assessment test results if using as substitution for Math or English course work.
    - ✓ An electronic file containing a photo of **both sides** of your California EMT certification.
    - ✓ A copy of your CPR Basic Life Support certification.
    - ✓ A statement from your employer verifying that you meet the work experience requirement.

3. **Request official, sealed transcripts** for high school graduation/GED certificate or college degree, and pre-requisite academic coursework taken outside of Cuesta College, to be sent to Cuesta College Admissions and Records. **Keep a record** of your transcript requests, and **follow up** on their receipt.

4. **Complete and submit the** online application. The link to the app application can be found on the Paramedic Program Information page of cuesta.edu, or cut and paste https://www.cuesta.edu/academics/divisions/nah/emsdept/paramedic-info/index.html Progress cannot be saved and returned to later. *Immediately* after submission, an automatic confirmation of receipt will be sent to your my.cuesta.edu email. Applications **cannot** be edited once submitted. If you realize that an attachment did not upload or that you submitted **incorrect or incomplete** information, contact Claire Hawkins @claire_hawkins@cuesta.edu immediately.

5. **All pre-requisites must be completed and final grades posted before submitting an application.**

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Applicants will be notified of their status by email to their my.cuesta.edu account. You must respond by the stated deadline to secure your seat. Admission notices will include details for mandatory Orientation and final Program Requirements.