

## Portland Community College Offers Career Accreditations

Portland Community College is a center for special training and accreditation of emergency services workers from many disciplines.

For more information about the program listed below, go to [www.pcc.edu](http://www.pcc.edu).

### Criminal Justice

Can you help rehabilitate a youth who already has a criminal record? How does a forensic pathologist know how to treat a crime scene? What is the Miranda decision and how does it affect the rights of those who are arrested or held in custody? These are only a few questions you can expect answered by the Criminal Justice program, one that provides a balance between a comprehensive introduction to criminal law and corrections and the fundamental skills you need to get started in the field.

PCC's Criminal Justice program offers a variety of courses, providing an overview of the criminal justice system while also focusing on elements of criminal investigations, forensics and police report writing. Law enforcement agencies, both state and federal, routinely seek the graduates because of the rigorous, comprehensive, and quality education we provide. We're sure you'll agree. When it comes to addressing crime, we excel in training you to understand the policy, procedures, and applications of the law.

### Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

The development of the modern emergency medical services (EMS) system began during the 1960s. Until that point, the local undertaker typically transported victims of emergencies in a hearse, with no medical care - just a ride! The goal to provide consistent and uninterrupted quality care at the emergency scene and during transport to the hospital became critical. Eventually, the "ambulance attendant" was replaced by an emergency medical technician (EMT).

As a relatively new profession, EMS has seen tremendous change in the past 50 years. Diagnostic, therapeutic and pharmacologic advancements in medicine have dramatically improved the quality of care available to critically ill or injured patients in the pre-hospital setting. There has been a corresponding need for increased improvement in education and training.

PCC's Emergency Services program is committed to the dynamic challenge of training and educating emergency medical technicians to the highest standards. The PCC EMS program has kept pace as technological advances and demands have evolved. PCC provides students with the solid foundation in emergency medicine necessary to enter this rewarding and exhilarating career.

### Emergency TeleCommunicator / 911 Dispatcher

Prior to the existence of a 911 Emergency Dispatch system, how did police, fire, and hospitals respond to emergencies? Citizens dialed the operator, but telephone operators had no training. Callers were sometimes transferred to the wrong towns, or worse, callers couldn't find the correct local emergency number. Since 1968, when the first 911 call was made, the usefulness of the emergency dispatcher system both nationally and locally has shown to be indispensable and has saved countless lives.

In the United States, call centers receive at least half a million 911 calls per year. Aside from handling the volume, how do dispatchers know whom to contact, how to contact, or if they should escalate the response to a higher level, such as contacting police, fire, or medical responders? The answer is simple. A 911 dispatcher knows whom to contact, how to remain calm, and when to take the call to the next level because of training. You can learn the skills and techniques necessary to help save lives in the Emergency TeleCommunicator (911) program.

### Emergency Management

The overwhelming short- and long- term needs of hurricane, earthquake and tsunami victims, as well as the victims of other natural and manmade disasters are an ever present reminder that the United States government and world leaders must become better prepared to manage both the disaster and the aftermath, and be prepared to do so for as long as necessary. Emergency Management, long thought to be the venue of local and state police, fire and EMS responders and the military, is becoming a highly specialized and rapidly growing profession. The emergency manager of the future is expected to have a broad range of knowledge in a variety of fields.

Emergency Management is a fast-growing field. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that by 2014 there will be a 22 percent increase in job openings just for emergency management specialists. Many first responders in the fields of law enforcement and the fire service are seeking additional training in emergency planning and preparedness.

Private sector employers are creating new emergency management positions to prepare and protect their employees in the event of a major incident. Skilled emergency managers will provide direction and resources which will allow businesses to continue vital operations, repair and restore the utilities, and protect the health and well-being of individuals, and organize recovery efforts for communities.

### Fire Protection Technology

Disaster can strike at any minute. Whether it's a raging fire in a house, an accident on the freeway, or a medical emergency, firefighters must be ready to respond to emergency situations 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. A firefighter may have to use fire hydrants, operate a pump, use ladders, rescue victims, ventilate smoke-filled interiors, or salvage a building's contents, when struck by fire.

PCC's Fire Protection Technology program can prepare you for a rewarding career working in fire protection by gaining the knowledge you need, working with the "tools of the trade," and expert instructors.

### Paralegal

Paralegals provide critical and integral support to lawyers, corporations, public institutions and other employers, and they have established themselves to be an indispensable workforce within the legal system since the 1960s. Paralegals must perform all tasks under the supervision of a lawyer, except as permitted by law.

Different categories of paralegals offer specialized skills. A probate paralegal may interview clients while conducting the collection, valuing and transfer of assets. A corporate paralegal working within a large corporation may help write employee benefit plans, employment handbooks, agreements, or perform patent and trademark searches, and assist in intellectual property issues. A family paralegal may have a significant role maintaining client contact and helping clients sort through legal issues. A litigation paralegal plays an important role in case management up to and including trial. Whatever the role, the paralegal provides an integral part of the legal team. PCC's Paralegal program offers a high quality education, providing you with the fundamental skills you need to succeed in today's world of paralegal professionals.