Program Description: The Associate in Applied Science Degree: Paramedic - Advanced Life Support program is designed for individuals who are seeking careers as paramedics. Paramedic careers include 9-1-1 emergency response, inter-facility and critical care transport via ground and aero-medical vehicles. The primary focus of the program is to provide the education, skills and clinical experiences to best prepare the entry level paramedic. The National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards: Paramedic Instructional Guidelines were used in developing the competencies and course content for the Paramedic-Advanced Life Support degree program.

The Delaware County Community College is an accredited Emergency Medical Services Training Institute with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP) and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

An Associate of Applied Science will be awarded upon completion of the Paramedic-Advanced Life Support curriculum with a 2.0 GPA and a “C” or better in all Emergency Medical Services (EMTP and EMS) courses, Anatomy and Physiology I (BIO 150), Anatomy and Physiology II (BIO 151) and Nursing Mathematics: Dosage Calculation and Drug Preparation (NUS 102). Students in this degree program must maintain a “C” or better in all EMTP courses and BIO 150 and BIO 151 to remain in the program and must progress through the curriculum in sequence. Students who do not maintain a “C” or better in BIO 150 and BIO 151 and all EMTP courses in accordance with the program retest policy, will be dismissed from the program and must reapply to the program in a subsequent year.

Students will be allowed a total of one (1) retest for each written exam, or a total of three (3) retests of written examinations throughout the entire paramedic program. Students will be allowed one (1) retest for each practical exam. Students will be allowed one (1) retest for the Program Summative Exam. Failure to pass a retest examination (written or practical) will result in dismissal from the Paramedic Program. There will be no opportunity to retest a quiz, group assignment, clinical assignment or research paper.

Upon successful completion of the 40 credits of EMTP and EMS core classes and 8 credits of BIO 150, BIO 151 and NUS 102, with a “C” or better, students are eligible to sit for the National Registry exam to become certified as a Paramedic. This national certification exam consists of twelve psychomotor (skill) stations as well as a computer-based cognitive exam. Completion of the A.A.S. degree does not guarantee the student a National Registry Certification as a Paramedic.

Students may be dismissed from the program for violation of patient safety, confidentiality or behavior incompatible with acceptable standards pending outcome of the appeal process.
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. If a student is absent from more than 24-hours in the ENTIRE program they will be dismissed from the program. Students wishing to reenter the program must re-apply.

Students who are accepted into the Paramedic – Advanced Life Support program are required to immediately divulge any misdemeanor or felony convictions that may occur while in the program to the Director of Emergency Services Education. Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the program in accordance with the Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services policies. In addition, upon review by the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, the student may be dismissed from the program and denied paramedic certification.

NOTE: Students who are currently certified Paramedics wishing to obtain the Paramedic-Advanced Life Support A.A.S. degree may be awarded 36 credits for prior learning by DCCC upon evaluation of current documentation as required by the Assessment Center. Students who are awarded the credit for prior learning will be required to take two three credit Emergency Management and Planning (EMER) courses in lieu of EMS 100.

Students are required to submit the following documentation to the Director of Emergency Services Education by the fourth week of the first spring semester of the program:

- Submit a clear FBI Criminal Background check (which includes fingerprinting) and a Criminal Background check from the state of residency. If student has a prior criminal history, he/she will be required to petition to the PA Bureau of EMS and be approved for admissions prior to acceptance into the Paramedic program. Students with a prior criminal history are encouraged to contact their Regional EMS office to determine their eligibility for state certification as a paramedic. Students with a criminal history may be denied admission to the program.
- Submit a clear Child Abuse Background Check
- Successfully complete a physical examination, including drug testing.
- Submit verification of current medical health insurance, which must be maintained throughout the program.
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Be currently certified as a Pennsylvania Emergency Medical Technician or have a reciprocity application in process for PA EMT certification. This certification must be maintained throughout the program.
- Be currently certified as a CPR provider by one of the third-party accreditation bodies approved by the PA Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. This certification must be maintained throughout the program.

Program Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this curriculum, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate communication skills.
- Record documentation accurately.
- Perform pharmacology mathematical skills.
- Demonstrate the ability to comprehend, apply, and evaluate clinical information.
• Demonstrate technical proficiency in all skills necessary to fulfill the role of a paramedic.
• Demonstrate personal behaviors consistent with professional and employer expectations.
• Demonstrate proficiency in EKG interpretation, medication administration, intubation procedures and intravenous initiation.
• Demonstrate entry level competencies in all clinical situations.
• Discuss and demonstrate the ability to differentiate the severity of illness.

Semester by Semester Plan:

Semester 1:
EMS 100
ENG 100
BIO 150
NUS 102

Semester 2:
ENG 112
BIO 151
PSY 140
Humanities/Social Science Elective

Semester 3:
EMTP 100

Semester 4:
EMTP 102
EMTP 103
EMTP 104
EMTP 105

Semester 6:
EMTP 200
EMTP 201
EMTP 205

Total Credits: 67-70

No more than 9 legal specialty credits may be awarded for Credit for Prior Learning assessment by portfolio or exam. (Contact Assessment Services, 610-359-5322 to schedule an initial phone appointment)