



Guidance for Critical Care Programs in Georgia

This document should be used to design and implement a Critical Care Education Program or course and to outline licensing requirements for a Bridge Program

Critical Care Education Programs

Critical Care Education Programs must be designated by the OEMST in the same process as all other levels of Initial Education. This process will include the following:

- Facility Inspection (Classroom and Lab space sufficient for all activities)
- Minimum Equipment inspection (see CCP minimum Equipment List)
- Designation Application
 - Verification of Clinical/Field contracts
 - Program Director Certification Form (Must be licensed as a Georgia Paramedic and Georgia Paramedic I/C and *Board Certified as CCP or FP-C)
 - Lead Instructor (must be licensed as a Georgia Paramedic and Georgia Paramedic I/C and Board Certified as CCP or FP-C)
 - Medical Director Certification form (Must be licensed as an EM Board Certified physician in Georgia)

*Must be Board Certified beginning on or after January 1, 2026

Critical Care Courses

Critical Care Courses must be taught at designated Critical Care Programs and each course must be approved by the OEMST. Each course must be taught by an approved instructor as noted above. All courses must meet the following requirements for approval:

- Be at least 160 hours of Didactic/Lab/Simulation instruction
- Be at least 80 hours of Clinical
- Complete the CCP Student Minimum Competency (SMC)

Hybrid Critical Care Courses

Agencies and Personnel may use a hybrid approach (online and in-person) models to achieve their certification. The OEMST will publish a list of acceptable Critical Care Programs that can teach the academic portion, they would then be required to complete the lab/simulation (SMC) requirements with a Georgia Designated Critical Care Program. Contact OEMST at emseducation@dph.ga.gov for a current list.

As an example of how this could work: An EMS agency could pay for its personnel to attend an online CCP course and then become designated following the designation model above and complete the lab/simulation/clinical (SMC) portions with their personnel.

Programs that do not have a qualified lead instructor can utilize a hybrid model and allow an EM or EMS Board Certified physician or EMS Fellowship trained to complete the lab/simulation (SMC) requirements.

Endorsement Criteria

- Complete a Georgia OEMST approved CCP course
- Obtain IBSC CCP, FP-C, or BCEN CFRN or CTRN board certification
- Possess NREMT Paramedic Certification
- Apply for Georgia Critical Care Paramedic Endorsement

Recertification/Re-endorsement Criteria

- Maintain IBSC board certification
- Maintain NREMT Paramedic certification
- Complete 40 hours of Ga approved Continuing Education every 2 years

Grandfather/Bridge Option

The grandfathering period will remain in effect until January 1, 2027. This option will be in place to allow those who already possess certain credentials or experience to be able to obtain their CCP endorsement. Any questions or clarification should be directed to Richard Rhodes at emseducation@dph.ga.gov.

Grandfather Pathway #1

- Currently working for a Critical Care Provider (Air Medical, or hospital ICU, CCU, etc.)
 - For a minimum of the past 18 consecutive months
- Completed at least 100 hours of Critical Care Education from an approved CCP Program (evaluated by OEMST)
- Must submit Attestation Form with application
- Current Board Certification by IBSC or BCEN
- Current ACLS and BLS certification
- Current NREMT Paramedic Certification

Grandfather Pathway #2

- Completed at least 100 hours of Critical Care Education from an approved CCP Program (evaluated by OEMST)
 - Course must be within the previous 2 years OR
 - Board certification must have been obtained and maintained from course completion
- Completed the Student Minimum Competency (SMC) at a Georgia designated Critical Care Program
 - The PD should perform a gap analysis** and determine what, if any remedial education is needed
- Current Board Certification by IBSC or BCEN
- Current ACLS and BLS certification
- Current NREMT Paramedic Certification

**A gap analysis must include a full review of the provider's academic transcript, applicable work history, and any post licensure certifications earned. These documents and rationale for acceptance must be available to the OEMST for evaluation.