

American River College, Paramedic Program

Policies and Procedures for performing service work while enrolled in the Paramedic program.

"Service Work" depends upon the context of which it is used. There are two ways to look at it and both fall under the Fair Practices Standard (V.). Since it depends on the context, I will explain each.

1. In one context, Service Work is considered as students participating in community service events related to healthcare (i.e.. fun runs, free blood pressure clinics, soup kitchens, etc.). The committee considers these experiences valuable learning opportunities that prepare students for the real-world workplace. If used in a program, such activities must be published and may be counted as clinical experience. This would fall under Standard V.A.3: Publications and Disclosures:

At least the following must be made known to all students: academic calendar, student grievance procedure, criteria for successful completion of each segment of the curriculum and graduation, and policies and processes by which students may perform clinical work while enrolled in the program.

Currently, the ARC Paramedic Program does not offer service work opportunities that can count towards clinical experiences.

Standard V.C.

Safeguards

The health and safety of patients, students, and faculty associated with the educational activities of the students must be adequately safeguarded. All activities required in the program must be educational and students must not be substituted for staff.

2. In the other related context, Service Work is considered as students receiving clinical credit while working as a primary care giver in the field. This is a very serious concern in that it leaves students in a vulnerable place where they are not covered by student malpractice insurance. For example, if they are working as an EMT with a paramedic partner and perform paramedic skills they are in essence practicing medicine without a license. The bottom line is a student

cannot function as a student and a primary care giver at the same time (i.e.. cannot be substituted for staff).

Currently, the ARC Paramedic Program does not allow students to function as primary care givers during any clinical or field internship. Students may only provide direct patient care in the clinical or field internship only under the direct supervision of an approved medical practitioner employed by the clinical or field agency.

This situation falls under Standard V.A.3: Publications and Disclosures.

"At least the following must be made known to all students: academic calendar, student grievance procedure, criteria for successful completion of each segment of the curriculum and graduation, and policies and processes by which students may perform clinical work while enrolled in the program."

Standard V.C. Safeguards

The health and safety of patients, students, and faculty associated with the educational activities of the students must be adequately safeguarded. All activities required in the program must be educational and students must not be substituted for staff.

"Medical control/accountability exists when there is unequivocal evidence that Emergency Medical Services Professionals are not operating as independent practitioners, and when Emergency Medical Services Professionals are under direct medical control or in a system utilizing standing orders where timely medical audit and review provide for quality assurance.

Performing clinical/field internship/capstone field internship work with enrolled in the program.

- The Paramedic Program at American River College includes opportunities to participate in both clinical and field internships, including capstone field internship work while enrolled in the program. Students must comply with the following requirements to be eligible to participate in such activities:
 - Active enrollment in specific paramedic program courses.
 - Good academic standing. Completion of all cognitive, psychomotor/patient care skills and affective skills as mandated by program teaching faculty.
 - Completion of all clinical and field background checks, drug screening, required immunizations, medical liability insurance and clearance from the clinical placement staff.

***All clinical and field activities, required in the program, are educational and students must not be substituted for staff**

