

George Stone Technical College

Paramedic Program

Student Safeguard Policy

Effective Date: 08/01/2024

Review Date: 08/01/2025

Approved By: Program Director, Medical Director

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Safeguard Policy is to ensure that all paramedic students enrolled in the George Stone Technical College Paramedic Program are protected in their roles as learners. This policy aligns with the standards set forth by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP) and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), specifically Standard V.C – Safeguards.

II. Policy Statement

Paramedic students must never be used in lieu of staff and must be appropriately supervised during all clinical and field internship experiences. The program is committed to maintaining a learning environment where students are clearly identified, supported, and not placed in situations where they serve as unsupervised providers.

III. Definitions

Student – An individual currently enrolled in the George Stone Technical College Paramedic Program.

Preceptor – A qualified EMS or healthcare professional approved by the program to supervise student performance.

Third Rider – A student who is an additional person on an EMS unit, not part of the required crew.

IV. Policy Guidelines

1. Student Identification

All students must be clearly identified as “Paramedic Students” at all times during clinical and field experiences.

Identification shall include:

- George Stone Technical College paramedic uniform
- Name badge including title “Student Paramedic”

2. Supervision Requirements

Students must operate under the direct supervision of a program-approved preceptor at all times during patient care activities.

The Medical Director ensures clinical activities occur under appropriate medical oversight. Students shall not perform skills or patient care outside of a supervised setting.

3. Field Internship Structure ("Third Rider" Policy)

Students may not be used to meet crew minimums or scheduled to fill staffing needs.

Students shall be assigned as additional personnel only, functioning as a third rider on an ambulance or EMS unit.

Clinical and field rotations must be scheduled by the program and tracked for accountability.

4. Employment of Students

Students who are also employed by EMS agencies must have clearly delineated roles:

- Skills and encounters obtained while functioning as an employee will not count toward clinical or field requirements.
- Approved internship activities must occur during program-scheduled rotations under an assigned preceptor.

5. Documentation and Evaluation

All patient encounters and skill performances must be documented in the program's clinical tracking system.

Preceptors are responsible for evaluating student performance using program-approved evaluation tools.

6. Patient Safety and Consent

Students must disclose their learner status to patients and obtain preceptor approval before engaging in patient care.

Patients reserve the right to refuse care from students.

V. Enforcement

Violation of this safeguard policy by students, preceptors, or affiliate agencies may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from clinical sites or termination of affiliation agreements.