



Western Technical College

## 10531911 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Fundamental Course Outcome Summary

### Course Information

<b>Description</b>	This course provides the paramedic student with comprehensive knowledge of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) systems, safety, well-being, legal issues, and ethical issues, with the intended outcome of improving the health of EMS personnel, patients, and the community. The students will obtain fundamental knowledge of public health principles and epidemiology as related to public health emergencies, health promotion, and illness / injury prevention. Introducing students to comprehensive anatomical and medical terminology and abbreviations will foster the development of effective written and oral communications with colleagues and other health care professionals.
<b>Career Cluster</b>	Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security
<b>Instructional Level</b>	Associate Degree Courses
<b>Total Credits</b>	2
<b>Total Hours</b>	36

### Textbooks

*Bundle: Paramedic Care: Principles & Practice Volume 1-5 plus Access Card - 2017, Anatomy and Physiology for Health Professions plus Access Card – 2016, [EMStesting.com](http://EMStesting.com) Paramedic Student Access Card – 2nd Edition, Platinum Planner: Paramedic – Access Card – 2016, Basic Arrhythmias – 2017.* 5th Edition. Copyright 2017. Bledose, Bryan, Robert Porter and Richard Cherry. Publisher: Pearson. **ISBN-13:** 978-0-13-729851-8. Required.

*531-911 Paramedic Student Reference Guide, Skills Check Sheets and Paramedic Clinical Guidebook.* Western. Publisher: Western. Required.

### Learner Supplies

Program Clothing. **Vendor:** To be discussed in class. Required.

### Success Abilities

1. Cultivate Passion: Increase Self-Awareness

2. Live Responsibly: Develop Resilience
3. Refine Professionalism: Act Ethically

## **Program Outcomes**

1. Prepare for incident response and EMS operations.
2. Integrate pathophysiological principles and assessment findings to provide appropriate patient care.
3. Demonstrate paramedic skills associated with established standards and procedures for a variety of patient encounters.
4. Communicate effectively with others.
5. Demonstrate professional behavior.
6. Meet state and national competencies listed for paramedic certification(s).

## **Course Competencies**

### **1. Examine the history and components of EMS systems.**

#### **Assessment Strategies**

- 1.1. Oral, Written or Graphic Assessment

#### **Criteria**

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 1.1. you answer questions related to the learning objectives
- 1.2. you meet the minimum training center threshold for passing

#### **Learning Objectives**

- 1.a. Describe key historical events that influenced the national development of EMS.
- 1.b. Identify the components of an EMS system.
- 1.c. Describe the EMS chain of survival.
- 1.d. Define various types of EMS services.
- 1.e. Discuss the relationship between EMS and the state trauma system.
- 1.f. Discuss the role of the EMS physician.
- 1.g. Describe the roles and responsibilities (attributes) of the paramedic as a health care professional.
- 1.h. Describe the leadership/affective characteristics of a paramedic.
- 1.i. Describe the administrative duties performed by a paramedic.
- 1.j. Describe the mechanisms by which paramedics are credentialed as health care professionals.
- 1.k. List less traditional roles filled by paramedics.
- 1.l. List the operational responsibilities of paramedics.
- 1.m. Describe the role of education in defining paramedics as healthcare professionals.
- 1.n. Define professionalism as it applies to the paramedic.
- 1.o. List affective characteristics of paramedics.
- 1.p. Define quality improvement in the EMS environment.
- 1.q. Describe the contribution of continuous quality improvement (CQI) to EMS.
- 1.r. Recognize significance of patient safety to EMS.
- 1.s. Discuss incidence of medical errors.
- 1.t. List high-risk EMS activities affecting patient safety.
- 1.u. Describe how medical errors happen.
- 1.v. Describe ways to prevent medical errors.
- 1.w. Discuss medical research (introductory).
- 1.x. Recognize importance of research in EMS.
- 1.y. Define types of research.
- 1.z. Describe ethical considerations in research.
- 1.aa. Discuss literature review.
- 1.bb. Define statistical concepts related to research.
- 1.cc. Relate research concepts to EMS.

1.dd. Discuss evidence-based decision making.

## **2. Prepare to function as a paramedic.**

### **Assessment Strategies**

2.1. Oral, Written or Graphic Assessment

### **Criteria**

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 2.1. you answer questions related to the learning objectives on a test
- 2.2. you achieve the threshold identified by your Training Center on the assessment

### **Learning Objectives**

- 2.a. Plan for emergencies and the delivery of paramedic services.
- 2.b. Maintain EMS vehicles and equipment.

## **3. Practice professionalism as a paramedic.**

### **Assessment Strategies**

3.1. Skill Demonstration

### **Criteria**

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 3.1. you attend class regularly
- 3.2. you turn in assignments on time
- 3.3. you come to class prepared to participate
- 3.4. you comply with syllabus requirements

### **Learning Objectives**

- 3.a. Apply integrity to the position.
- 3.b. Demonstrate empathy with patients.
- 3.c. Assume responsibility for motivation of self and others.
- 3.d. Maintain professional appearance and personal hygiene.
- 3.e. Demonstrate self-confidence.
- 3.f. Manage time effectively.
- 3.g. Demonstrate career development skills.
- 3.h. Demonstrate leadership.
- 3.i. Work effectively in a team (with diplomacy).
- 3.j. Exhibit respect in diverse settings.
- 3.k. Serve as a patient advocate.
- 3.l. Deliver careful service.
- 3.m. Demonstrate confidentiality.
- 3.n. Practice within legal boundaries/requirements.
- 3.o. Practice ethical behavior.

## **4. Demonstrate workforce safety and wellness principles.**

### **Assessment Strategies**

4.1. Oral, Written or Graphic Assessment

### **Criteria**

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 4.1. you follow generally accepted principles of employee safety and health
- 4.2. you relate principles to potential job situations and job performance criteria
- 4.3. you answer questions related to the learning objectives on a test
- 4.4. you achieve the threshold identified by your Training Center on the assessment

### **Learning Objectives**

- 4.a. Discuss the concepts of safety and wellness as they apply to the paramedic.
- 4.b. Identify standard EMS safety precautions.
- 4.c. Describe the equipment available in a variety of adverse situations for self-protection, including body substance isolation (BSI) steps for protection from airborne blood borne pathogens.
- 4.d. Describe the three phases of the stress response.

- 4.e. Describe factors that trigger the stress response.
- 4.f. Describe the causes of stress in EMS.
- 4.g. Describe the defense mechanisms and management techniques commonly used to deal with stress.
- 4.h. Describe the stages of the grieving process and the unique challenges for paramedics in dealing with themselves, adults, children, and other special populations related to their understanding of death and dying.
- 4.i. Identify ways to prevent EMS work-related injuries.
- 4.j. Differentiate proper from improper body mechanics for lifting and moving patients in emergency and non-emergency situations.
- 4.k. Describe types and use of patient movement equipment.
- 4.l. Identify means of disease transmission and precautions to prevent such transmission.
- 4.m. discuss wellness principles employed to enhance the physical and mental well-being of the paramedic.

## **5. Summarize technical communication and documentation responsibilities**

### **Assessment Strategies**

- 5.1. Oral, Written or Graphic Assessment

### **Criteria**

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 5.1. you answer questions related to the learning objectives on a test
- 5.2. you achieve the threshold identified by your Training Center on the assessment

### **Learning Objectives**

- 5.a. Identify minimum data to be included on a patient care report.
- 5.b. Identify the general principles regarding the importance of EMS documentation and ways in which such documents are used.
- 5.c. Describe the potential consequences of illegible, incomplete, or inaccurate documentation.
- 5.d. Describe the special documentation considerations concerning patient refusal of care and/or transport.
- 5.e. Describe the special considerations concerning mass casualty incidents or other unique reports.
- 5.f. Identify EMS communication system components.
- 5.g. Describe proper radio communications between EMS providers and dispatch.
- 5.h. Explain factors related to effective communications with medical control.
- 5.i. Explain the importance of proper communication with receiving facilities.
- 5.j. Describe principles of communication system maintenance.
- 5.k. Identify current and emerging technology used to collect and exchange patient and/or scene information electronically.
- 5.l. Identify the components of interpersonal communication transmission.
- 5.m. Identify internal and external factors that affect an interview.
- 5.n. Describe effective interviewing techniques and interactions.
- 5.o. Discuss strategies for interviewing difficult patients (not motivated to talk).
- 5.p. Define unique interviewing techniques for patients with special needs.
- 5.q. Identify strategies for developing rapport with the patient.

## **6. Communicate effectively.**

### **Assessment Strategies**

- 6.1. Skill Demonstration

### **Criteria**

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 6.1. you follow the published protocol provided by your Training Center

### **Learning Objectives**

- 6.a. Demonstrate proper completion of a typical patient care report.
- 6.b. Write legibly.
- 6.c. Document communication accurately and concisely.
- 6.d. Use grammar and punctuation correctly.
- 6.e. Use electronic resources and information technology (i.e. WARDS).
- 6.f. Speak clearly.
- 6.g. Listen actively.
- 6.h. Adjust communication strategies based on the situation.

- 6.i. Select vocabulary appropriate to the audience.
- 6.j. Demonstrate HIPAA compliance.

## **7. Analyze legal and ethical considerations in the practice of paramedicine.**

### **Assessment Strategies**

- 7.1. Oral, Written or Graphic Assessment

### **Criteria**

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 7.1. you identify a legal situation a paramedic could encounter
- 7.2. you identify common ethical situations
- 7.3. you assess what will happen given a scenario
- 7.4. you select an appropriate course of action
- 7.5. you answer questions related to the learning objectives on a test
- 7.6. you achieve the threshold identified by your Training Center on the assessment

### **Learning Objectives**

- 7.a. Define consent to care.
- 7.b. Define types of consent.
- 7.c. Describe refusal of care and/or transportation.
- 7.d. Describe the obligation to protect patient information.
- 7.e. Describe HIPAA, its provisions, and its applicability/impact on EMS.
- 7.f. Discuss confidentiality arising from the physician-patient relationship.
- 7.g. Describe privileged communications.
- 7.h. Explain possible repercussions for a breach of confidentiality.
- 7.i. Explain advanced directives and how they impact patient care.
- 7.j. Describe basic legal concepts regarding the United States judiciary system.
- 7.k. Describe specific crimes and their associated elements as related to EMS.
- 7.l. Describe the elements of negligence, possible defenses to a claim, and potential limitations to civil liability.
- 7.m. Discuss the Medical Practice Act.
- 7.n. Discuss the legal implications of medical direction.
- 7.o. Describe statutory duty to act.
- 7.p. Identify when paramedics are legally compelled to notify the authorities.
- 7.q. Discuss how reporting requirement arises from special relationship with patient.
- 7.r. Describe legal liability for failure to report.
- 7.s. Describe paramedic scope of practice.
- 7.t. Differentiate between licensure and certification.
- 7.u. Describe credentialing of paramedics.
- 7.v. Identify patient rights inherent in providing EMS care.
- 7.w. Describe how the paramedic serves as a patient advocate.
- 7.x. Discuss the concept of limited resuscitation efforts.
- 7.y. Identify criteria for withholding resuscitation.
- 7.z. Explain when to terminate resuscitation activities.
- 7.aa. Discuss organ donation as an end of life patient decision/option.
- 7.bb. Define morals.
- 7.cc. Define ethics.
- 7.dd. Discuss the application of ethics and the use of ethical values.
- 7.ee. Examine ethical conflicts.
- 7.ff. Define ethical tests used in decision-making.
- 7.gg. Discuss the impact of various employment laws on EMS.

## **8. Relate principles of public health to the practice of paramedicine.**

### **Assessment Strategies**

- 8.1. Oral, Written or Graphic Assessment

### **Criteria**

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 8.1. you answer questions related to the learning objectives on a test

8.2. you achieve the threshold identified by your Training Center on the assessment

**Learning Objectives**

- 8.a. Discuss role of public health in our society.
- 8.b. Discuss public health laws, regulations, and guidelines.
- 8.c. Examine how EMS interfaces with public health.

**9. Interpret medical terminology.**

**Assessment Strategies**

9.1. Oral, Written or Graphic Assessment

**Criteria**

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 9.1. you interpret medical terminology using prefixes.
- 9.2. you interpret medical terminology using suffixes.
- 9.3. you interpret medical terminology using root words.
- 9.4. you interpret medical terminology based using medical abbreviations and symbols.
- 9.5. you use medical terminology appropriate to the paramedic profession
- 9.6. you relate the word to its definition
- 9.7. you answer questions related to the learning objectives on a test  
you achieve the threshold identified by your Training Center on the assessment
  
- 9.8. you achieve the threshold identified by your Training Center on the assessment.

**Learning Objectives**

- 9.a. Explain the impact of utilizing proper medical terminology in both written and oral communications with colleagues and other health care professionals to ensure quality patient care.