

**PHYSICAL HEALTHCARE SUBCLUSTER  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) 1 - 5531**

**Course Description:** Emergency Medical Services (EMS 1) is the first in a sequence of courses. Emergency Medical Services 1 is designed to teach students how to recognize and respond to various emergencies. Students will review basic anatomy and physiology as it relates to injury management and treatment. Students will review basic information needed for all phases of a healthcare professional. Information that students are exposed to will include legal and ethical implications, communications, safety, infection control, and professionalism. In this course, students will learn what skills are necessary to recognize and care for emergencies in adults, children, and infants until professional medical help arrives. Students will obtain FA/CPR/AED certification. Students will be required to perform light physical activity.

**General Requirements:** This course is recommended for students in grades 10-12.

**Prerequisite(S):** N/A

**Credit:** CP - 1 unit = (120 hours)

**Concentrator:** Completes EMS 1 and EMS 2.

**EMS Completers:**

Three Courses: EMS 1, EMS 2, EMS 3 (Or the approved substitute course– see Student Reporting Guide and Health Science page on SCDE Website)

Four or more courses: EMS 1, EMS 2, Plus any other two units in the Health Science Cluster

**Stackable Credentials:** Please refer to the updated tiered credential list on the SCDE Website. This course would be suitable for Tier One or Tier Two Credentials. Examples: First-Aid, CPR, Stop the Bleed, or any other applicable credentials as listed in the Student Reporting Guide.

**Foundation Standard 1: Academic Foundation**

EMS professionals will know the academic subject matter required for proficiency within their area. They will use this knowledge as needed in their role. The following accountability criteria are considered essential for students in an EMS program of study.

1. Understand the history and evolution of emergency medical services.



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2. Identify and describe human body systems and basic medical terminology.
3. Recognize common medical conditions and their impact on prehospital care.
4. Demonstrate basic knowledge of anatomy and physiology relevant to EMS.
5. Identify and understand the basic structural and functional organization of the human body (tissue, organ, and system).
6. Recognize body planes, directional terms, quadrants, and cavities.
7. Describe common diseases and disorders of each body system (prevention, pathology, diagnosis, and treatment).
8. Discuss common mechanisms of injury/nature of illness.
9. Recognize and understand the procedures required to perform an appropriate patient assessment.
10. Recognize the signs and symptoms of shock and describe how to minimize its effects.
11. Recognize and discuss acute medical emergencies:
  - a. altered mental status
  - b. seizures
  - c. diabetic
  - d. cardiac
  - e. respiratory
  - f. eyes, ears, nose, throat
  - g. abdominal or GI disorders
  - h. allergic reactions
  - i. neurological
  - j. toxicology
  - k. gynecology/obstetrics
  - l. genitourinary/renal
  - m. infectious diseases
12. Recognize and discuss the dynamics of various types of trauma and how to recognize signs and symptoms:
  - a. bleeding
  - b. chest trauma
  - c. abdominal trauma
  - d. orthopedic trauma
  - e. soft tissue
  - f. head, face, neck, and spine
  - g. environmental emergencies
  - h. multi-system trauma



- i. special considerations
- 13. Discuss and understand the way medication is measured/dosage (**mg/mcg/g and cc/ml**)
- 14. Record time using the 24-hour clock.

## **Foundation Standard 2: Communications**

EMS professionals will know the various methods of giving and obtaining information. They will communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

1. Demonstrate and interpret verbal and non-verbal communication skills appropriate for healthcare settings.
2. Explain the importance of active listening and clear documentation in EMS.
3. Identify standard medical abbreviations and terminology used in EMS reports.
4. Construct and define basic medical terminology suffixes, prefixes, roots, and abbreviations.
5. Communicate understandably and accurately.
6. Recognize barriers to communication.
7. Report subjective and objective information.
8. Recognize the elements of communication using a sender-receiver model.
9. Recognize elements of written and electronic communication (spelling, grammar, and formatting).

## **Foundation Standard 3: Systems**

EMS professionals will understand how their role fits into their department, their organization, and the overall healthcare environment. They will identify how key systems affect the services they perform and the quality of care.

1. Define emergency medical services (EMS) systems
2. Describe the components of the EMS system and the roles of EMS providers.
3. Understand the chain of survival and the role of first responders.
4. Recognize how EMS interacts with public health and hospital systems.
5. Compare different levels of EMS providers (EMR, EMT, AEMT, Paramedic).
6. Differentiate the roles and responsibilities of EMS professionals from other healthcare professionals.
7. Define quality improvement and discuss the EMS professional's role in the process.
8. Define medical direction and discuss the EMS professional's role in the process.



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9. Describe methods used to access the EMS system from various locations (e.g., school, home, work, or from a cellular device).

## **Foundation Standard 4: Employability Skills**

EMS professionals will understand how employability skills enhance their employment opportunities and job satisfaction. They will demonstrate key employability skills and will maintain and upgrade skills, as needed.

1. Demonstrate professionalism, punctuality, and responsibility in the healthcare setting.
2. Develop a resume and cover letter tailored to EMS careers.
3. Practice interview techniques for EMS-related positions.
4. Explore career pathways in EMS and related healthcare fields.
5. Describe the personal traits and attitudes of a healthcare professional:
  - a. hygiene,
  - b. dress,
  - c. language,
  - d. confidentiality.
  - e. time management
  - f. flexible
  - g. work ethic
6. Discuss and explain the importance of the following:
  - a. chain of command
  - b. communication skills
  - c. decision making
  - d. critical Thinking
  - e. problem-solving
7. Discuss the importance of participating in student organizations such as HOSA.
8. Discuss careers within the EMS pathway and how they articulate with other healthcare careers.
9. Discuss levels of education, credentialing requirements, and employment trends in health care.



## **Foundation Standard 5: Legal Responsibilities**

EMS professionals will understand the legal responsibilities, limitations, and implications of their actions within the EMS setting. They will perform their duties according to regulations, policies, laws and legislated rights of clients.

1. Explain the importance of consent, refusal of care, and Good Samaritan laws.
2. Describe the legal and ethical responsibilities of EMS providers.
3. Discuss and explain HIPAA and patient confidentiality (Explain the importance, necessity, and legality of patient confidentiality (e.g., Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act [HIPAA], Family Education Rights and Privacy Act [FERPA], and Patient's Bill of Rights).
4. Understand mandatory reporting laws and their applications in EMS.
5. Define the EMS professional's scope of practice.
6. Discuss advance directives and local or state provisions regarding EMS application.
7. Define types of consent and methods of obtaining consent
8. Discuss the issues of abandonment, negligence, battery, and harassment, and their implications for EMS professionals.
9. Differentiate the actions and responsibilities of EMS professionals when interacting with law enforcement.
10. Identify forms of unsafe or hostile work environments.

## **Foundation Standard 6: Ethics**

EMS professionals will understand accepted ethical practices concerning cultural, social, and ethnic differences within the healthcare environment. They will perform quality healthcare delivery.

1. Identify the EMT code of ethics.
2. Identify ethical dilemmas in EMS and discuss possible solutions.
3. Differentiate between ethics and morals.
4. Describe the principles of ethical decision-making in healthcare.
5. Discuss the importance of patient advocacy and cultural competence.
6. Understand ethical considerations related to resuscitation and end-of-life care.

**Foundation Standard 7: Safety Practices**

EMS professionals will understand the existing and potential hazards to clients, co-workers, and self. They will prevent injury or illness through safe work practices and follow health and safety policies and procedures.

1. Identify personal safety practices, including infection control, PPE usage, and BSI (Body Substance Isolation).
2. Describe scene safety and situational awareness in emergency response.
3. Demonstrate proper body mechanics and lifting techniques.
4. Understand basic decontamination and biohazard disposal procedures.
5. Recognize and understand basic safety labels such as placards, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), and implications of hazardous materials
6. Discuss principles of basic emergency response in natural disasters
7. Determine scene safety based on the type of patient call, personnel, bystanders, environmental surroundings, etc.
8. Describe when and how to move a victim in an emergency.

**Foundation Standard 8: Teamwork**

EMS professionals will understand the roles and responsibilities of individual members as part of a team, including their ability to promote the delivery of quality healthcare. They will interact effectively and sensitively with all members of the healthcare team.

1. Define the role of teamwork in EMS and healthcare settings.
2. Demonstrate effective communication and coordination within an emergency response team.
3. Participate in basic team-building activities related to EMS.
4. Recognize the roles of other healthcare professionals in emergency care.
5. Understand the roles and responsibilities of team members.
6. Recognize characteristics of effective teams.
7. Recognize methods for building positive team relationships.
8. Analyze the attributes and attitudes of an effective leader.
9. Apply effective techniques for managing team conflict.



## **Foundation Standard 9: Health Maintenance Practice**

EMS professionals will understand the fundamentals of wellness and the prevention of disease processes. They will practice preventive health behaviors among co-workers and patients.

1. Identify lifestyle choices that impact EMS providers' physical and mental health.
2. Discuss the relationship between health, lifestyles, and personal risk factors including health screenings, immunizations, and examinations.
3. Explain stress management techniques for first responders.
4. Discuss the importance of sleep, nutrition, and fitness for EMS professionals.
5. Recognize common workplace hazards and injury prevention strategies.
6. Discuss possible emotional reactions that EMS professionals, patients, and families may experience when faced with trauma, illness, death, and dying.
7. Recognize the signs and symptoms of critical incident stress.
8. Explain how to recognize the causes and signals of personal stress.
9. Discuss positive steps that the EMS professional takes to help reduce/alleviate stress and promote health and wellness.
10. Identify positive and negative behaviors/factors affecting the EMS professional's health and well-being.

## **Foundation Standard 10: Technical Skills**

EMS professionals will apply the technical skills required for an EMS provider. They will demonstrate skills and knowledge as appropriate.

1. Demonstrate basic first aid and CPR skills.
2. Identify and properly use common EMS equipment such as gloves, masks, and bandages.
3. Demonstrate basic patient assessment skills such as:
  - a. palpate a pulse
  - b. count respirations
  - c. obtain a manual blood pressure
  - d. use a thermometer to obtain a temperature
4. Discuss using a BGL monitor, Cardiac Monitor, Pulse Oximeter, and other related EMS diagnostic equipment.
5. Understand the basics of splinting and bleeding control techniques.
6. Demonstrate procedures for measuring and recording vital signs including the normal ranges.



## Foundation Standard 11: Information Technology Application

EMS professionals will use information technology applications required within the field of EMS and other healthcare agencies. They will demonstrate use as appropriate to EMS applications.

1. Recognize the role of electronic patient care reporting (ePCR) in EMS.
2. Demonstrate basic computer and mobile technology skills used in healthcare.
3. Understand the importance of digital security and patient confidentiality in EMS documentation.
4. Explore emerging technologies in EMS and their potential impact on patient care.
5. Identify methods and types of data collected via EMS documentation
6. Communicate professionally using technology to access and distribute data and other information.

## Resources

[Home - South Carolina Department of Education](#)

[Home - National Consortium for Health Science Education](#)

[American Heart Association | To be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives](#)

[Red cross](#)

[Journal of Emergency Services \(JEMS\)](#)

[EMS 1](#)

Books -J.B. Learning- <http://www.jblearning.com/>

National Association of EMS Educators NAEMS- <http://www.naemse.org/>

National Healthcare Skill Standards, [www.healthscienceconsortium.org](http://www.healthscienceconsortium.org)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov)

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, [www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)

Natural Disasters and Severe Weather, <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/>

CareerSafe OSHA 10 -EMS- <https://www.careersafeonline.com/>





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Youscience - <https://www.youscience.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Emergency-Medical-Technician-EMT.pdf>

Limmer Education EMS Resources

Stop the bleed

Responder Safety, [www.respondersafety.com](http://www.respondersafety.com)

SC EMS Portal <https://www.scemsportal.org/>

US Fire Administration (USFA), [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)