

## Common Questions and Answers Concerning the EMS Program

Question	Answer and Rational
<p><b>Waiving Health 1001</b></p> <p>Will the EMS Program waive Health 1001 if I already have my CPR card or similar related training?</p>	<p><b>No.</b> We don't waive Health 1001 for the following reasons: (1) we have been very disappointed in the quality of CPR instruction offered by many of the private vendors and (2) the Health 1001 class contains much more information than just CPR. Students are trained in first aid, bloodborne pathogens, fire safety, patient privacy, etc, and (3) actually taking HLTH 1001 is a requirement for our clinical partnerships.</p>
<p><b>Waiving or overriding Accuplacer or equivalent pre-requisite courses</b></p> <p>Will the EMS program waive Accuplacer scores or the equivalent pre-requisite courses?</p>	<p><b>No.</b> These minimum requirements help ensure students have the minimum English, reading, and/or math skills required to succeed in our curriculum.</p>
<p><b>High school diploma</b></p> <p>Is a high school diploma required to take EMS courses?</p>	<p><b>FR, EMT-Basic, and EMT-Intermediate: No.</b></p> <p><b>Paramedic: Yes.</b> State of NM EMS licensure requirements include proof of high school diploma or GED.</p>
<p><b>Special testing or learning accommodations</b></p> <p>Will CNM accommodate students with special learning issues?</p>	<p><b>Yes, but...</b> If a student has special learning or testing requirements that are documented and falls under ADA standards we are happy to accommodate the student's needs. However, it is very rare for the NM Department of Health or the National Registry of EMTs (testing agencies for licensure and/or certification) to make testing accommodations.</p>
<p><b>Drug testing and background checks</b></p> <p>Do I need to be drug tested or receive a background check to attend EMS courses?</p>	<p><b>FR and EMT-Basic: No, but...</b> If you apply for State of NM certification or licensure, the state requires disclosure of drug usage and criminal activity.</p> <p><b>Paramedic and EMT-Intermediate: Yes.</b> The State of NM requires drug screening and a criminal background check for anyone entering a clinical environment.</p>
<p><b>TB and MMR testing</b></p> <p>Do I need to be tested for tuberculosis (TB) or provide proof of measles, mumps, or rubella (MMR) vaccination to attend EMS courses?</p>	<p><b>FR and EMT-Basic: No.</b></p> <p><b>EMT-Intermediate and Paramedic: Yes.</b> You show proof of TB testing within the past year and MMR vaccination during your lifetime to enter a clinical environment.</p>

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer and Rational</b>
<p><b>Computer phobia</b></p> <p>How comfortable do I have to be with a computer to take EMS courses</p>	<p><b>Most (if not all) of the EMS courses have web-enhanced components.</b> Most of our lecture handouts and quizzes/exams are delivered on a course management system called “Blackboard.” Basic computer skills are helpful and tutorials and further assistance are available at CNM.</p>
<p><b>When are EMS courses offered?</b></p> <p>I want to take EMS courses. When are EMS courses offered?</p>	<p><b>Most courses are offered every term.</b> First Responder, EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, and required Paramedic courses (prior to application and selection into the cohort) are offered every semester. Application and entry into the paramedic cohort is only available in the fall and spring. ER Tech is offered on an infrequent basis.</p>
<p><b>Age for First Responder training</b></p> <p>How old does a student have to be to take the First Responder class?</p>	<p><b>16 for state certification.</b> CNM does not have a special age requirement for EMS courses other than those in the general admission requirements. However, the Department of Health does require a First Responder student to be at least 16 to register with the state as a First Responder (special provisions must be met for candidates under the age of 18).</p>
<p><b>Is the First Responder required to take EMT-Basic?</b></p> <p>I want to be an EMT-Basic, do I have to take First Responder?</p>	<p><b>No.</b> This course is recommended for students have not met the English, reading, or math Accuplacer scores for EMT-Basic, but wish to take an intro EMS course. The course is also recommend for students needing first response medical training, but have another primary focus (law enforcement, industrial safety, etc.)</p>
<p><b>Age for EMT-Basic training</b></p> <p>How old does a student have to be to take the EMT-Basic class?</p>	<p><b>17 for state licensure.</b> CNM does not have a special age requirement for EMS courses other than those in the general admission requirements. However, the Department of Health does require an EMT-Basic student to be at least 17 to take the state licensing examination (special provisions must be met for candidates under the age of 18).</p>
<p><b>How hard is the EMT-Basic course?</b></p> <p>How much effort is needed to succeed in the EMT-Basic class?</p>	<p><b>Beginning fall 2009, the EMT-Basic course is eight (8) college credits.</b> It is the equivalent of taking two and two-thirds (2 and <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>) college level courses. It is like taking a medical course and a foreign language course at the same time. You must be motivated and actively engaged to succeed.</p>

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer and Rational</b>
<p><b>State and/or National testing</b></p> <p>Is there a state licensing or national examination for First Responder, EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, or Paramedic training?</p>	<p><b>First Responder: No.</b> However, there is a registration process with the state.</p> <p><b>EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, and Paramedic: Yes.</b> There are both written and practical examinations for students who wish to obtain their state license and/or national certification at these training levels.</p>
<p><b>Complimentary courses</b></p> <p>Are there any complimentary courses in that I should consider while taking my EMT-Basic or EMT-Intermediate course?</p>	<p><b>EMT-Basic:</b> It is recommended that EMT-Basic students who want to continue to the paramedic level take the EMS A&amp;P (EMS 2103) class at the same time they take their EMT-Basic course (this course has a pre- or corequisite of BIO 1410). They should also consider taking the required Arts and Science courses for paramedic in ENG, MATH, PHIL, and PSY.</p> <p><b>EMT-Intermediate:</b> It is recommended that EMT-Intermediate students consider taking other required paramedic courses such as EMS 2103, 2203, 2207, 2213, 2217, 2223, and 2293 in conjunction with their EMT-Intermediate courses! These courses have pre- or corequisite Arts and Science requirements in BIO, ENG, MATH, PHIL, and PSY. We also offer ER Tech courses on an infrequent basis.</p>
<p><b>Registering for EMT-Intermediate</b></p>	<p>If you have completed the EMT-Basic at CNM, you should just be able to sign up. If you have your EMT license, but did not take your course at CNM, you will need to show your license to Academic Advisement.</p> <p>Students take the EMT-I Theory and EMT-I Lab the first semester, then they can sign up for EMT-I clinical the following semester.</p>
<p><b>Is EMT-Intermediate required for Paramedic?</b></p> <p>I want to be a Paramedic, do I have to take EMT-Intermediate?</p>	<p><b>No.</b> This course is recommended for students wishing to pursue paramedic, but lack patient care or field experience. EMT-Intermediate licensure does improve your chances of being selected into the Paramedic cohort. It is also recommended for students who want to pursue their EMS education at a slower pace</p>

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer and Rational</b>
<p><b>How do I apply for the Paramedic program?</b></p> <p>I'm ready to apply for the paramedic program, what do I need to do?</p>	<p>You must have a current EMT-Basic or EMT-Intermediate license. In addition you must have met the prerequisites listed in the course catalog and you must have completed all the required courses prior to petition. Required EMS coursework (to include A &amp; P) cannot be older than two years at the time of application. There is not an expiration on Arts &amp; Science requirements. Please contact the EMS Program for further information or to request an application.</p>
<p><b>Working during the Paramedic cohort</b></p> <p>Can I work while I go to paramedic school?</p>	<p><b>It is not recommended to work more than 20 hours per week if accepted to the paramedic cohort.</b> The paramedic cohort is time intensive and demanding. During lecture, lab, and hospital clinicals, students are actively engaged in coursework 24 – 30 hrs per week (this does not include out of class study time). During prehospital field clinicals (internship), students will be assigned to a working ambulance or rescue and will following the shift schedule of their preceptor on a 39 – 56 hour per week schedule.</p>
<p><b>Transferring credit for a degree</b></p> <p>I completed my paramedic coursework elsewhere and I would like to complete my Associate Degree at CNM, what do I need to do?</p>	<p><b>Contact the EMS Program.</b> EMS coursework from other institutions is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Obtain a copy of your transcript and your individual course syllabi. EMS coursework will be evaluated for equivalency and the availability of transfer credit will be determined. You must earn at least 12 credit hours in the <u>required program courses</u> at CNM in order to be eligible for degree.</p>
<p><b>Minimum grades</b></p> <p>What is the minimum grade I can earn in order to have that course count towards my degree?</p>	<p><b>It depends on the course.</b> EMS 2217 (Pharmacology) and EMS 2223 (Advanced Trauma Theory) required a “B” or higher. All other EMS coursework requires a “C” or higher. All Arts and Science coursework requires a “D” or higher.</p>