

Functional Position Description

ECA and EMT

The following general position description should guide you when considering what qualifications, competencies, and tasks are required of the ECA and EMT. The ultimate responsibility for defining specific job descriptions lies with each EMS entity. This means that even though a student meets the requirements of Temple College's EMS Professions Department, he or she is not guaranteed to meet those set by a specific employer or first responder organization.

Qualifications

You must first successfully complete the course of study offered through the EMS Professions Department. The Texas Department of State Health Services has approved all of our ECA and EMT courses. Once you have successfully completed the program, you are eligible for certification with the Texas Department of State Health Services. However, you will not be granted certification until you have passed the national certification exam.

You must be at least 18 years of age. EMT candidates will need at least a high school education or its equivalent (a GED) to master the knowledge and skills required for successful completion. You must possess the ability to communicate verbally face-to-face, by telephone, by computer, and by radio equipment; ability to lift, carry, and balance up to 125 pounds (250 with assistance); ability to interpret written and oral instructions; ability to use good judgment and remain calm in high stress situations; ability to work effectively in an environment with loud noises, flashing lights, and other distractions; ability to function effectively throughout and entire work shift (up to 24 hours without sleep); ability to read small print under life-threatening time constraints; ability to read and understand English language manuals and road maps; ability to read information on a computer screens, ability to discern street signs and address numbers; ability to interview patients, family members, and bystanders; ability to document, on paper and using a computer, relevant information with medical and legal ramifications in a prescribed format; ability to converse in English with coworkers and hospital staff as to patient status; good manual dexterity, with ability to perform all tasks related to highest quality patient care; ability to bend, stoop, and crawl on uneven terrain; ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold, and moisture; ability to work in low light, confined spaces, and other dangerous environments.

Competency Areas

ECA and EMT: You must demonstrate competence in handling emergencies using basic life support equipment and skills in accordance with all cognitive, psychomotor, and behavioral objectives in EMT National Standard Curriculum. Required skills include cardiopulmonary resuscitation, bandaging and splinting, traction splinting, mechanical aids to breathing, vital signs, patient assessment, spinal immobilization, automated external defibrillation, small volume nebulization, metered dose inhalers, epinephrine auto injectors, pneumatic anti-shock garment, and administration of some medications, including activated charcoal, albuterol, epinephrine, oral glucose and nitroglycerin.

Description of Tasks

Receives call from dispatcher; responds to emergency calls; reads maps on paper and computer; may drive ambulance to emergency site, using most expeditious route; observes traffic ordinances and regulations.

Determines nature and extent of illness or injury; takes pulse, blood pressure, and respirations; observes changes in skin color and other diagnostic signs; auscultates breath sounds; makes determinations regarding patient status; establishes priority for emergency care; provides appropriate emergency care based on competency level; May use equipment based on competency level, including but not limited to epinephrine auto injectors, small volume nebulizers, metered dose inhalers, mechanical aids to breathing, long spine board, short spine boards, glucometers, pulse oximeters, splints, bandages and pneumatic anti-shock garment.

Assists in lifting, carrying, and transporting patients to ambulance. Reassures patients and bystanders; avoids undue haste and mishandling of patients; searches for medical information emblem to aid in care. Extricates patient from entrapment; assesses extent of injury; uses prescribed techniques and appliances; radios dispatcher for additional assistance or services; provides light rescue service if required; provides additional emergency care following established protocols.

Complies with regulations in handling deceased, notifies authorities, arranges for protection of property and evidence at scene. Determines appropriate facility to which patient will be transported, reports nature and extent of injuries to facility, and asks for direction from hospital physician or emergency department. Observes patient en route and administers care as directed by physician or emergency department, or according to written protocol. Identifies diagnostic signs that require communication with facility. Assists in removing patient from ambulance and into emergency facility. Reports observations about patient and patient care at scene and en route to facility both verbally and in writing, provides assistance to emergency staff as required.

Replaces supplies; sends appropriate used supplies for sterilization; checks all equipment for future readiness; maintains ambulance in operable condition; ensures cleanliness of ambulance and orderliness of equipment and supplies; decontaminates vehicle interior; determines vehicle readiness by checking oil, gas, water in battery and radiator, and tire pressure; maintains familiarity with all specialized equipment.

Additional Traits

In addition to the above requirements, to be a successful student requires the ability to organize, prioritize, set goals, manage time, be self-disciplined, and have a positive attitude.

Physical Guidelines

1. Strength

Perform physical activities requiring ability to push/pull objects more than 50 pounds and to transfer objects of more than 100 pounds.

2. Manual Dexterity

Perform motor skills such as standing, walking, writing; manipulative skills requiring eye-hand coordination and arm-hand steadiness, taking blood pressure, and using various types of large and small equipment.

3. Coordination

Perform body coordination such as walking, running, climbing stairs, retrieving equipment and moving patients from the floor/bed/chair to a cot.

4. Mobility

Physical ability to maneuver in small spaces (ambulance) and treatment areas, ability to walk, stand, kneel, stoop, and ability to be in prolonged uncomfortable positions.

5. Visual Ability

See objects far away, see objects close and to discriminate colors. Visual ability must be sufficient for driving an ambulance and for observation and assessment necessary in patient care. Students will perform such skills as reading a patient's chart on paper and computer screen, detecting a patient's color, checking pupils, and reading medication labels.

6. Hearing

Be able to hear normal sounds with background noise and distinguish sounds sufficient to monitor and assess health needs. Necessary activities include hearing monitor alarms, emergency signals, listening to breath sounds, talking with patients and hearing radio transmissions.

7. Concentration

Concentrate on details with moderate amount of interruptions.

8. Attention Span

Attend to task/functions for periods up to 60 minutes in length and to attend to task/functions for periods exceeding 60 minutes in length.

9. Conceptualization

Understand and relate to specific ideas, concepts, and theories generated and simultaneously discussed.

10. Memory

Remember task/assignments over both short and long periods of time and recall theory and skills information in clinical and simulation situations throughout the program.

11. Critical Thinking

Apply the theory taught in lecture courses in simulations and clinicals. Ability must be sufficient for clinical judgment in patient care.

12. Interpersonal

Interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds; able to establish a rapport with patients, colleagues, faculty, and professional staff.

Advanced EMT and Paramedic

The following general position description should guide you when considering what qualifications, competencies, and tasks are required of the Advanced EMT and Paramedic (collectively referred to as medics). The ultimate responsibility for defining specific job descriptions lies with your employer. This means that even though a student meets the requirements of Temple College's EMS Professions Department, he or she is not guaranteed to meet those set by a specific employer.

Qualifications

You must first successfully complete the course of study offered through the EMS Professions Department. The Texas Department of State Health Services has approved all of Advanced EMT and Paramedic classes. Once you have successfully completed the program, you are eligible for certification or licensure with the Texas Department of State Health Services. However, you will not be granted certification or licensure until you have passed the national certification exam.

You must be at least 18 years of age. You will need at least a high school education or its equivalent (a GED) to master the knowledge and skills required for successful completion. You must possess the ability to communicate verbally face-to-face, by telephone, by electronic devices, and by radio equipment; ability to lift, carry, and balance up to 125 pounds (250 with assistance); ability to interpret written and oral instructions; ability to use good judgment and remain calm in high stress situations; ability to work effectively in an environment with loud noises, flashing lights, and other distractions; ability to function effectively throughout and entire work shift (up to 24 hours without sleep); ability to calculate weight and volume ratios and read small print under life-threatening time constraints; ability to read and understand English language manuals, computer screens and road maps; ability to discern street signs and address numbers; ability to interview patients, family members, and bystanders; ability to document, in writing, relevant information with medical and legal ramifications in a prescribed format; ability to converse in English with coworkers and hospital staff as to patient status; good manual dexterity, with ability to perform all tasks related to highest quality patient care; ability to bend, stoop, and crawl on uneven terrain; ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold, and moisture; ability to work in low light, confined spaces, and other dangerous environments.

Competency Areas

Advanced EMT: You must demonstrate competence in handling emergencies using all basic and advanced life support equipment and skills in accordance with all cognitive, psychomotor, and behavioral objectives in the U.S. Department of Transportation Advanced EMT Education Standards as defined by the Texas Department of State Health Services. Required skills include endotracheal intubation, supraglottic airways, cricothyrotomy, intraosseous cauterization, intravenous catheterization, and administration of some medications, including glucose and naloxone.

Paramedic: You must demonstrate competence in handling emergencies using all basic and advanced life support equipment and skills in accordance with all cognitive, psychomotor, and behavioral objectives in the U.S. Department of Transportation Paramedic Education Standards. This curriculum includes objectives relating to ECG interpretation, 12 Lead interpretation, capnography, manual

defibrillation, endotracheal intubation, supraglottic airways, cricothyrotomy, intraosseous cauterization, intravenous catheterization, medication administration, chest tube management, pericardiocentesis, and needle chest decompression. The Paramedic has reached the highest level of pre-hospital certification.

Description of Tasks

Receives call from dispatcher; responds to emergency calls; reads maps and computer screens; may drive ambulance to emergency site, using most expeditious route; observes traffic ordinances and regulations.

Determines nature and extent of illness or injury; takes pulse, blood pressure, and respirations; observes changes in skin color and other diagnostic signs; auscultates breath sounds; makes determinations regarding patient status; establishes priority for emergency care; provides appropriate emergency care based on competency level; may administer intravenous drugs or fluid replacement as directed by physician or written protocols. May use equipment based on competency level, including but not limited to defibrillator, external pacer, electrocardiograph, intravenous catheterization equipment, laryngoscope and endotracheal tubes. Assists in lifting, carrying, and transporting patients to ambulance. Reassures patients and bystanders; avoids undue haste and mishandling of patients; searches for medical information emblem to aid in care. Extricates patient from entrapment; assesses extent of injury; uses prescribed techniques and appliances; radios dispatcher for additional assistance or services; provides light rescue service if required; provides additional emergency care following established protocols.

Complies with regulations in handling deceased, notifies authorities, arranges for protection of property and evidence at scene. Determines appropriate facility to which patient will be transported, reports nature and extent of injuries to facility, and asks for direction from hospital physician or emergency department. Observes patient en route and administers care as directed by physician or emergency department, or according to written protocol. Identifies diagnostic signs that require communication with facility. Assists in removing patient from ambulance and into emergency facility. Reports observations about patient and patient care at scene and en route to facility both verbally and in writing, provides assistance to emergency staff as required.

Replaces supplies; sends appropriate used supplies for sterilization; checks all equipment for future readiness; maintains ambulance in operable condition; ensures cleanliness of ambulance and orderliness of equipment and supplies; decontaminates vehicle interior; determines vehicle readiness by checking oil, gas, water in battery and radiator, and tire pressure; maintains familiarity with all specialized equipment.

Additional Traits

In addition to the above requirements, to be a successful student requires the ability to organize, prioritize, set goals, manage time, be self-disciplined, and have a positive attitude.

Physical Guidelines

1. Strength

Perform physical activities requiring ability to push/pull objects more than 50 pounds and to transfer objects of more than 100 pounds.

2. Manual Dexterity

Perform motor skills such as standing, walking, writing; manipulative skills requiring eye-hand coordination and arm-hand steadiness, taking blood pressure, and using various types of large and small equipment.

3. Coordination

Perform body coordination such as walking, running, climbing stairs, retrieving equipment and moving patients from the floor/bed/chair to a cot.

4. Mobility

Physical ability to maneuver in small spaces (ambulance) and treatment areas, ability to walk, stand, kneel, stoop, and ability to be in prolonged uncomfortable positions.

5. Visual Ability

See objects far away, see objects close and to discriminate colors. Visual ability must be sufficient for driving an ambulance and for observation and assessment necessary in patient care. Students will perform such skills as reading a patient's chart on paper and computer screen, detecting a patient's color, checking pupils, and reading medication labels.

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Be able to hear normal sounds with background noise and distinguish sounds sufficient to monitor and assess health needs. Necessary activities include hearing monitor alarms, emergency signals, listening to breath sounds, talking with patients and hearing radio transmissions.

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Interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds; able to establish a rapport with patients, colleagues, faculty, and professional staff.