Pathway to Success

EMT Program

SouthWest Skill Center @
ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A Maricopa Community College
Welcome to the SouthWest Skill Center EMT program. We are proud to be your educational partner and serve as your guide on your journey to gaining EMT certification. Our instructors are all working professional with years of field experience. We all enjoy helping people and are dedicated to quality patient care. We also share a common goal; your educational success.

Learning is an active process that involves both you and the training program – we will share in the responsibility of learning as a 50/50 partner with you. We will do 50% of the work if you will do 50% of the work.

The Learning Process is comprised of 5 parts; (1) planning, (2) preparation, (3) presentation, (4) practice, and (5) performance. This is an active process and requires effort in each area – if one part is not addressed it will affect the other parts. Below is a graphic that represents the approximate time commitment in each area:
Planning

It might seem odd, but planning to learn is an important part of the process. In fact, each of the other parts of the process requires a planning effort. You need to plan the resources (time & effort) that you need to dedicate to each part of the process. You will need to control and manage these resources as well as distractions and challenges. Each student faces their own set of challenges; child-care, transportation, work schedules, family commitments, computer access, etc...

Preparation

Preparing or making yourself ready learn is important. The first question is “do you know what it is you need to learn?” Understanding “what” you need to learn allows you to determine the best way to learn it. The training program has set up several layers of information to help you with this; the syllabus, the student handbook and Navigate (our on-line Learning Management System). In general winners don’t follow other people to the finish line. You need to maintain an awareness of what is happening and participate in the process.

- Become familiar with the student handbook, course policies and procedure and expectations
- Read the syllabus during the planning process and be aware of the instructors’ expectations – ask questions!
- Come to class prepared!

Presentation

Our program uses a hybrid format for delivering information. A portion of the information is delivered by textbook reading assignments; a portion is delivered through the resources made available on Navigate (the on-line LMS); a portion of the material is delivered in a lecture format; a portion is delivered in non-lecture classroom activities (skills labs, scenarios, group activities, etc...); and a portion is delivered in out of class assignments. It is IMPORTANT that you participate in all of these activities. A common mistake made by students is to expect that all of the content is delivered in a lecture format – so when material shows up on a test that was covered in the reading or in a lab but not in the lecture, we hear “we never covered that in class”. We want you to be aware that we will cover the complex and most important information in class, but simply based on time constraints we rely on alternative delivery methods. Again, you need to be aware of the learning expectations and be prepared to learn; this means reading your chapters, working through the online resources (e-workbook) and participating in class discussions and activities.
Practice

Once you have received information, whether it is from reading, lecture, class activity of through the online resources, you have to apply that information and put it to work. This is not only limited to “skills” but also knowledge. We will help you understand some techniques for practicing what you have learned but we can’t make you practice... you have to be motivated – we will serve as guides and a resource.

How do you practice applying knowledge type lessons? The easiest way is to start using the information. If you are studying Chapter 1 for example there are no skills in this chapter, but you can start using the information by explaining the levels of EMS providers to a family member of friend. You can go to the Arizona Department of Health Services website and review the application and reading about the certification requirements. You can have a discussion with others in your class regarding the certification process and see if they have the same understanding of the process that you have. We will provide you with some opportunity to apply what you have learned during class time. We will also give you some ideas on how to practice each section of the course outside the classroom. Ultimately it is up to you to plan, prepare and practice.

Using quizzes as a way to practice can be a valuable tool (but not the only tool – see above). The SWSC has a tremendous online testing resource that allows the learner to do “Computer Adaptive Testing“. This process tests your understanding of general knowledge and concepts; it will let you know how you are doing in general categories or topics; but it does not provide you specific feedback (right or wrong answers or rationale) for specific questions.

How much skills practice will you get in class? Good question – the answer is “a lot“ We provide you with instruction for each skill and you a short period of time to grasp the major parts of the skills performance but each skill takes repeated practice to master. There is no way we can schedule all the practice time you will need during class; the course length would easily double if we did that. You will need to find time to practice outside of class. We have open labs that you should take advantage of.

Performance

To help you finalize the learning process and to measure your competency you must be able to perform. We will assess your performance using both formal and informal methods. First, let’s discuss the informal methods. Our instructors consider each of you as potential coworkers and possibly the person that may provide care for their families. During the class they will provide you will feedback on a regular basis regarding your knowledge, skills and attitude. This feedback is an important part of the learning process. Formally, we will use a variety of methods to evaluate your performance. For skills we will use the standards established by the National Registry. Your knowledge will be evaluated by quizzes, exams and computer adaptive testing. You must be successful in each of these types’ evaluations.

Source: This document was created using modified material from Glendale Community College EMT 104 course material provided by Chris Coughlin, Ph.D.
Top 10 Ways to Succeed in EMT Class


2. Read the textbook. There is no substitute for this.

3. Use the workbook and the online quizzes.

4. Use the flashcards available on Navigate.

5. Review the student resources located on navigate.

6. Participate in a study group.

7. Plan for success. Get important dates on your calendar now.

8. Take advantage of the free EMS Open Labs & Study Halls.

9. Take advantage of our free tutor service.

10. Study.

Your education is your responsibility.

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