EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Program Description

The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) represents the first component of the emergency medical technician system. An EMT is trained to care for patients in their home, in an emergency situation or at the scene of an accident, and while transporting patients by ambulance to the hospital under medical direction. EMT coursework typically emphasizes emergency skills, such as patient assessment, communication, anatomy and physiology, airway management, trauma, obstetrics, and cardiac emergencies. Formal courses are combined with skills practice, practical application, and clinical time in an emergency room and on an ambulance for a total of 195 contact hours. The program also provides instruction and practice in dealing with bleeding, fractures, airway obstruction, cardiac arrest, and emergency childbirth. Students learn how to use and maintain common emergency equipment, such as suction devices, splints, oxygen delivery systems, stretchers, blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, medications and, when appropriate, current backboarding devices. The program prepares the graduate to take the NREMT examination and become certified as an EMT. Career options include opportunities in hospital emergency rooms, fire departments, physicians' offices, private ambulance services, ski patrol, Urgent Care Centers, wildland firefighting, and with search and rescue.

The Paramedic represents the most advanced level of training of the Emergency Medical Technician system. At this level, the caregiver receives advanced training in patient assessment, the use of advanced procedures, medications, and the paramedic skills necessary to lead a team in the management of medical emergencies and traumatic injuries in patients of all ages. Paramedics provide the most extensive pre-hospital care. Through performance of assessments and providing advanced medical care, their goal is to prevent and reduce mortality and morbidity due to illness and injury. Paramedics primarily provide care to emergency patients in and out of the hospital setting. This program prepares the graduate to take the NREMT examination and become certified or licensed as a Paramedic. Extensive related coursework and clinical and field experience are required. Students admitted to the program must have and maintain EMT certification throughout the Paramedic program and must have completed IV Therapy and basic EKG courses. It is recommended that students take Anatomy and Physiology and /or Pathophysiology prior to entering the Paramedic program.

Admission to the Paramedic program is competitive. Admission into Colorado Mesa University does not guarantee acceptance into the Paramedic program, which requires a separate application process. Paramedics should be emotionally stable, have good dexterity, agility, and physical coordination, and be able to lift and carry heavy loads. Paramedics are employed by fire, police, rescue agencies, hospitals, private ambulance companies, flight for life, and in a variety of businesses and industries with a high potential for accidental injury or illness. Graduates from either the certificate or the AAS degree program will graduate as street-ready paramedics.

Special Requirements

Students must earn a “C” or higher for all courses required for completion of the EMS programs. This policy applies regardless of when the course was taken.

Students must possess a current CPR card while in all EMS courses.

Students must be 18 years of age prior to the start of clinical rotations- see instructor.

A Criminal Background Check and Drug Screen are required for all EMS students.

As a graduate of a Career and Technical Education program you will be contacted by CMU/CMU Tech in approximately six months after completion to verify your employment information. This information gathering is a federal requirement to ensure that CMU Tech receives certain federal funding.

Contact Information

CMU Tech
CMU Tech Student Support Center, Kayenta Hall 102
2508 Blichmann Avenue
970.255.2670

Programs of Study

Associates

- EMT - Paramedic (AAS)

Certificates

- EMT - Basic (Technical Certificate)
- EMT - Paramedic (Technical Certificate)