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 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, and cardiac emergencies. Formal courses are combined with skills practice and time in an emergency room and on an ambulance for a total of 195 contact hours. The program also provides instruction in dealing with bleeding, fractures, airway obstruction, 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—backboard 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, doctor offices, private ambulance services, and 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 the use of procedures, medications and equipment to manage medical emergencies and traumatic injuries in patients of all ages. Paramedics provide the most extensive pre-hospital care. Through performance of assessments and providing 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 is 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.

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.

Contact Information
Office of Student Services
WCCC, Bishop B102
2508 Blichmann Avenue
970.255.2670

Programs of Study Associates
• EMT - Paramedic (AAS) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/emergency-medical-services/emt-paramedic-aas/)

Certificates
• EMT - Basic (Technical Certificate) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/emergency-medical-services/emt-basic-technical-certificate/)
• EMT - Paramedic (Technical Certificate) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/emergency-medical-services/emt-paramedic-technical-certificate/)

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/WCCC in approximately six month to verify your employment information. This information gathering is a federal requirement to ensure that WCCC receives certain federal funding.