



## NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

*Peter Hans, President*

Public Safety Memo PS20-07

June 26, 2020

To: Chief Academic Officers  
Senior Continuing Education Administrators  
North Carolina Community College System

From: Wesley Beddard  
Associate Vice President, Programs  
Margaret Robertson  
Associate Vice President, Workforce Continuing Education

RE: **New Guidelines for EMT, AEMT and Paramedic Programs (Effective Spring 2021)**

The NC Office of Emergency Medical Services (NC OEMS) has posted new guidelines, effective January 1, 2021, that will impact **Workforce Continuing Education and Curriculum Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** courses offered in any environment, to include traditional campus programs and Career and College Promise (CCP) offerings. The link to these guidelines is provided below for your reference. Please share with colleagues on your campus as appropriate and note that they are currently in draft form.

**New NC OEMS Guidelines (Effective 1/1/2021):** <https://info.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/EMS/credcomp.htm>

Depending on the credentialing level of the course and what local requirements your college may already have in place, the new guidelines could change course content, course length, and/or student admissions requirements for Spring 2021. These new guidelines may particularly impact logistics related to **EMS-110 EMT** and **EMS-4200 Emergency Medical Technician Initial**. Some colleges are not already including the minimum clinical/field rotations without simulations or the required physical driving components for these courses as will now be mandated per the new guidelines. This means that arrangements may have to be made for clinical site and ambulance access in order to remain in compliance.

It is important to review the attached guidelines in their entirety; however, we will point out the following for particular consideration as you support your college in making any necessary changes:

### **New EMT Guidelines Effective January 1, 2021 include:**

- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) courses must have a minimum of 240 contact hours, to include content requirements of the following:
  - **48 hours of required clinical/field rotations** (standardized patient lab simulations will no longer be accepted in place of clinical/field rotations)
  - **Traffic Incident Management System (TIMS)** content
  - **Emergency Vehicle Operations** content, to include a required physical driving component
  - **Credential Maintenance and Recertification** content

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**New AEMT Guidelines Effective January 1, 2021 include:**

- Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) courses must adhere to the following
  - **Admit only students who are age 18 or older** (in addition to the current requirement that the student must have a high school diploma or equivalency)
  - **Admit only students who possess a valid and active EMT credential** defined as a North Carolina EMT Credential, National Registry EMT (NREMT) Credential, or other state's EMS Credential
  - **Include a specified minimum number of patient contacts and skills** to be determined by the college's EMS Advisory Committee
  - **Follow national Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP) requirements**

**New Paramedic Guidelines Effective January 1, 2021 include:**

- Paramedic courses must adhere to the following
  - **Admit only students who are age 18 or older** (in addition to the current requirement that the student must have a high school diploma or equivalency)
  - **Admit only students who possess a valid and active EMT credential** defined as a North Carolina EMT Credential, National Registry EMT (NREMT) Credential, or other state's EMS Credential
  - **Include the following as the only acceptable options for Anatomy and Physiology:**
    - BIO- 163: Basic Anatomy and Physiology
    - BIO- 165 & 166: Anatomy and Physiology I & II (Must complete both sections)
    - BIO- 168 & 169: Anatomy and Physiology I & II (Must complete both sections)

*Note: Continuing Education course EMS-3000 Basic Anatomy & Physiology is removed as an option per the new guidelines; however, a new Workforce CE Anatomy & Physiology course is being created for the Combined Course Library that will align specifically with BIO 163. This new course, which is currently in the approval process, is being developed in collaboration with NC OEMS and will be added as an option in the new guidelines in coming weeks once this new parallel/aligned course is formally approved. This means there will still be Continuing Education option for A&P as we move forward. Details on these efforts will be forthcoming.*
  - **Include a specified minimum number of patient contacts and skills** to be determined by the college's EMS Advisory Committee
  - **Follow national Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP) requirements**

**English and Math Placement Testing**

We have received numerous questions as colleges are fully implementing the Reinforced Instruction for Student Excellence (RISE). **Please pay particular attention to the references in the new NC OEMS guidelines related to English and Math placement requirements.** The new NC OEMS guidelines specifically note that it is not appropriate to utilize placement that includes corequisite math or English courses (although students may certainly take such courses to help them qualify them for future enrollment into these programs). An actual placement exam must be administered.

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Please note that RISE placement assessments are not designed to meet the requirements of NC OEMS. The RISE placement assessment is designed to address individuals who are 10 years or more beyond graduation from a US high school or who do not have a US high school transcript for curriculum program of study placement based on the RISE policies. Further, the RISE placement test policies currently limit student test attempts.

Therefore, colleges offering programs that require specific assessment measures as outlined by an external governing body should utilize assessment tools designed to address the specifically required results. This may include TABE, CASAS or other assessment exams currently utilized by policies established by each college that also meet the specified guidelines of the external body. Please note that for AEMT and Paramedic specifically, the NextGen Accuplacer also could be an option used to assess the “college ready” placement requirements.

Thank you for your review and attention to these newly posted guidelines. Some colleges already meet some or all; however, each college must individually assess readiness for implementation by Spring 2021. If your college has questions about the guidelines, your EMS program director should contact the appropriate NC OEMS regional education specialist for assistance. Please note that any change to your program will also necessitate an update to your approved Educational Institution Plan on file with NC OEMS. Your EMS program director will facilitate this with NC OEMS.

When notifying the EMS program directors of these new guidelines today, the NC Office of EMS did include the following:

- The North Carolina Office of EMS has released the 2021 Educational Program Guidelines for EMT, AEMT and Paramedic. These guidelines are currently in draft form and are subject to modification prior to the effective January 1, 2021 date.
- Concerns regarding impact or implementation of the 2021 Educational Program Guidelines should be submitted to Todd Messer, OEMS Education Manager, at [todd.messer@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:todd.messer@dhhs.nc.gov).

Mr. Messer has confirmed to our office that these guidelines have been discussed and vetted for many months with stakeholders across the state, including community colleges. While most or all of the guidelines are expected to go into effect as written on January 1, 2021, Mr. Messer notes that his office continues to be open to dialog if any EMS educational institution identifies challenges or concerns that may not have been previously addressed. He encourages colleges to contact him via the email address above to provide additional input if desired.

In addition, if you have questions about NCCCS Combined Course Library (CCL) courses, electronic Programs of Study (POS), or other Community College System-related issues associated with these Curriculum or Workforce Continuing Education EMS credentialing programs, please contact Tonya S. Clark, BS, NRP, RN, NCCCS EMS Training Specialist at (828) 545-5061 (cell) or [clarkt@ncccommunitycolleges.edu](mailto:clarkt@ncccommunitycolleges.edu).

As always, thank you for what your college does to meet the workforce training needs of EMS agencies locally and statewide. You ensure every day that public safety/emergency response students are “Ready to Work and Ready to Respond.”

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