

Emergency Medical Services Essential Functions

The following are essential functions of the Paramedic student. The student must be able to perform all the essential functions to be able to participate as a student and be eligible for entry-level job placement.

PHYSICAL

Visual • See objects up to 20 inches away (computer text, syringe calibrations) • See objects up to 20 feet away (presence of individuals close-by) • Distinguish color (color-coded supplies) and shading (skin signs)

Auditory • Hear and distinguish noises ranging in intensity from faint to loud • Hear and distinguish sounds with use of stethoscope (lung sounds, heart tones, etc.).

Tactile • Perceive vibration, faint (pulses, presence of veins) and strong • Perceive temperature (skin signs, environment) • Perceive differences in surface characteristics (palpate anatomic landmarks)

Smell • Perceive odors from faint to noxious (smoke, gas, alcohol, bodily substances, etc.)

Strength • Lift or support 125 pounds • Push or pull 25 pounds • Move and/or carry objects weighing up to 50 pounds

Endurance • Perform repetitive movements (e.g. CPR) • Maintain physical tolerance to effectively and safely deliver patient care for duration of shifts • Work in environments with extremes of weather (heat, cold, rain, snow, etc.) • Ride in all positions (e.g. setting sideways, backwards, frontwards) in ambulance or response unit without compromising ability to effectively and safely deliver patient care

Agility • Twist/bend • Climb (nontechnical) • Squat/kneel • Move with sufficient speed to respond to an emergency • Move over uneven, wet, or slippery terrain

Gross Motor • Maintain balance, sitting, and standing, in motion and still • Reach above shoulders and below waist • Move within confined spaces • Use upper body to perform CPR

Fine Motor • Manual dexterity sufficient to grasp and manipulate objects • Pinch or squeeze with hands and/or fingers • Use pen/pencil/stylus to write legibly • Press keys or buttons to enable machine functions • Twist with hands (turn knobs, tighten fittings)

COGNITIVE

General Skills • Apply knowledge across different situations • Recall information by accessing both short and long-term memory • Tell time accurately • Read and interpret digital readouts or other displays on equipment • Read and comprehend multimodal information (i.e. illustrated instructions, charts, graphs, etc.)

Mathematics • Perform accurate measurements (weight, temperature, volume, or time) • Count events or instances (pulse rate, drip rate) • Perform arithmetic (add, subtract, multiply, and divide, including fractions) and convert numbers to or from the metric system (assistance from a device such as a calculator is permitted)

Reading • Read and comprehend English, including medical terminology • Notes pertinent detail in written instructions • Accurately perceives numbers

Writing • Convey information accurately through written English

Speech • Convey information accurately through spoken English to a variety of audiences • Convey information accurately in English using telecommunication devices • Comprehend information delivered in spoken English

Critical Thinking • Prioritize and plan information and tasks, including delegation of tasks • Consider deadlines and timing and include in decision making • Process and sequence information • Evaluate and sequence possible outcomes • Identify cause and effect • Solve problems

Behavioral (Affective) • Maintain concentration on situation and tasks if necessary • Maintain professional demeanor in all interactions in and out of the classroom • Maintain professional therapeutic boundaries • Adapt to sudden, expected, or unexpected change • Adapt to make generalizations, judgements, and/or decisions based on sensory, judgmental, and/or verifiable criteria • Respond appropriately to stress and other strong emotions, both own and others' • Negotiate interpersonal conflicts to successful resolution • Demonstrate respect, patience, and compassion • Establish rapport with patients, bystanders, and classmates/coworkers as appropriate • Appreciate and value diversity (social, cultural, spiritual, racial, or other) • Recognize emotions, both own and others' • Provide emotional support to patient and others as appropriate • Value and demonstrate honesty, integrity, and justice • Demonstrate professional ethics and adhere to ethical standards in all situations