



Village Ambulance Service

Community Education & Training Programs

Emergency Medical Technician - Basic (EMT-B) Course

What is an EMT-Basic?

The Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) Course teaches initial evaluation, treatment and transport of patients with medical problems and/or trauma. Students learn to recognize and provide initial care for ailments including, but not limited to, shock, heart problems, breathing problems, strokes, burns, diabetes, drowning and accidents.

EMT-Basics are the foundation of American pre-hospital emergency medical care. For medical emergencies, they provide rapid response, initial evaluation and care, and transport to an appropriate medical facility. They also provide non-emergency transportation for patients who are bedridden and/or require continuous monitoring and basic-level care.

Why take an EMT course?

The primary reason for an individual to take an EMT-Basic course is to work full or part-time on an ambulance. However, not all people who take the course work on ambulances.

For example, one might take the course because he/she is already certified as a first responder (police officer, fire fighter) and is in search of more emergency care knowledge. Others may enroll because they want to work as a police officer or fire fighter and are preparing to take the Civil Service Exam (a Massachusetts certified EMT-Basic is awarded 1 extra point on the Civil Service Exam score).

Other people may take the course because they wish to be part of the emergency response team at their job, or to volunteer for services like the American Red Cross.

What are my job options once I become a certified EMT-Basic?

Only when you have successfully completed the course and passed the Massachusetts written and practical exam will you then be able to work as an EMT-Basic.

EMT-Basics are able to work in many capacities. Some people choose to work "in the streets" primarily dealing with emergency or disaster calls. Many US cities and towns contract private ambulance services to provide emergency medical services (EMS) for their area. This may be a great way to transition right into "the streets". Some areas utilize the fire or police departments as their EMS provider. For this you may be required to take the Civil Service Exam before becoming an employee of that department.

Conversely, some newly certified EMT-Basics prefer to take the "low-key" approach, opting to work in a "non-emergency" role. This can be achieved by working for an ambulance service that primarily deals with non-emergency patients, like routine transfers from one facility to another.

For those looking to practice in a more controlled environment, many hospitals hire EMT-Basics to work in their emergency rooms. Here the EMT would assist medical staff with clinical or non-invasive skill provision.

Whatever your goal, working as an EMT is one of the most rewarding careers possible.

Will I be certified after I take the course?

NO. This course will prepare you to take the Massachusetts EMT-Basic written and practical exam. Upon successful completion of the course (a course average of 70% or higher, and successfully completing all practical skills) the student can apply to take the State exam. Only the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can certify a student as an EMT. Massachusetts requires a minimum score of 70% on the written exam, and successfully passing all 4 stations of the practical exam.

Course Description

This course is a minimum of 130 hours in length and consists of both lecture and practical sessions.

This course is the required for any person seeking to become a Massachusetts certified Emergency Medical Technician - Basic (EMT-B). The course is based on the Department of Transportation's (DOT) 1994 EMT-Basic curriculum. This course has been developed for individuals who desire to perform emergency medical care.

The material covered in this course is divided into 7 modules. They are as follows:

Module 1 - Preparatory

Topics covered in this module are: EMS systems, the role of the EMT-Basic, the safety and well-being of the EMT-Basic, legal and ethical issues, basic anatomy and physiology, techniques of lifting and moving patients.

Module 2 - Airway Management

Topics covered in this module are: airway anatomy, airway management techniques, oxygen and oxygen equipment.

Module 3 - Patient Assessment

Topics covered in this module are: assessment of the medical and trauma patients, vital sign assessment, taking a patient history, documentation, and communication.

Module 4 - Medical Emergencies

Topics covered in this module are: pharmacology, respiratory, cardiac, diabetic, allergy, poisoning and overdose, environmental, behavioral and obstetrical/gynecological emergencies.

Module 5 - Trauma Emergencies

Topics covered in this module are: bleeding and shock, soft tissue and musculoskeletal injuries, injuries to the head, neck, spine, chest and abdomen.

Module 6 - Infants & Children

Topics covered in this module are: physical and physiological differences between adult and pediatric patients, pediatric medical and trauma emergencies.

Module 7 - Operations

Topics covered in this module are: ambulance operations, rescue and extrication, multiple patient situations, hazardous materials situations

At the conclusion of each module there is a written examination and, where appropriate, a practical examination. There is also a final written and practical exam. A passing grade of 70% or higher is required.

No other prior medical experience or training is required of the course applicant. This program will conduct a Healthcare Provider level CPR course at the commencement of the program.

Again, this course does not certify students as an EMT-Basic at the completion of the course.

Successful completion of the course will allow the student to be considered eligible to take the Massachusetts EMT-Basic written and practical exam. In order for the student to be eligible to take the State certifying exam at the end of the course, the student must:

1. Successfully pass the course (a grade of 70% or higher), including 100% attendance
2. Be 18 years of age
3. Be able to read, understand & communicate in English
4. Be free from addiction to alcohol or any drug
5. Be able to lift and carry 125 pounds
6. Be free from any physical or mental defect or disease which might impair his/her ability to provide emergency care within the scope of the EMT-Basic's training and responsibilities, or which might jeopardize the health of another member of the class
7. Meet all requirements as set forth by the Massachusetts Office of Emergency Medical Services for testing eligibility

The Massachusetts certifying exam consists of two (2) parts:

The first part is the practical exam. The practical exam consists of four (4) practical evaluation stations. They are: Patient Assessment, CPR and AED (automated external defibrillation), Splinting, and Spinal Immobilization. This date is usually determined by OEMS, and the instructor will let the students know when the examination will be.

The second part of the exam process is the written exam. The written exam consists of 100 multiple choice questions, and is taken by computer at an approved testing site. There are currently 5 testing sites in Massachusetts. The student will contact the testing company to arrange a date to take the written exam. You must pass the practical exam before you are allowed to take the written exam.

There are fees associated with both the Massachusetts EMT-Basic written and practical certifying exams that are not included in the tuition cost.

Once the student has passed both the Massachusetts EMT-Basic written and practical certifying exams, he/she will be certified as an EMT-Basic.

In order to maintain their certification the EMT-Basic must complete recertification requirements every 2 years.

In Massachusetts the requirements are:

1. Maintain a current CPR card at the BLS Healthcare Provider level (A.H.A) or Level C (Red Cross)
2. Attend 28 hours of oems Approved continuing education classes
3. Complete a 24 hour EMT-Basic refresher course
4. File a recertification application and pay the recertification fee (\$150.00)