

## EMS Program Information

Thank you for your interest in our programs! Southwest Emergency Medical Technology training programs are an important asset to the community. Our graduates proudly serve Shelby County and the surrounding areas in the Mid-South. Our program has a commitment to excellence and dedication to the community and to the spirit of public service.

### Course Requirements

**Departmental approval is required for all EMS training courses. Only Director Mattix can provide permits for EMS training classes.**

We offer three, progressive levels of EMS professional training; EMT Basic, Advanced EMT, and Paramedic. Each level builds on the previous level, and the courses must be taken sequentially.

**Go to the following website to learn about the EMS Occupational Outlook. Be sure to watch the short video on the page.**

**<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm>**

A minimum grade of “C” or better (77%) is required in all EMS core classes to complete a technical certificate and to be eligible to apply for certification /licensure as an EMS healthcare professional.

The EMS training courses require rigorous course work, long in-class hours, and multiple out of class commitments including 8 to 12 hour clinical and field rotations on non-class days. **These courses should not be interpreted as only requiring a two day a week commitment.**

These courses are designed to train pre-hospital emergency medical technicians to respond to a variety of medical and traumatic conditions, often in unpredictable situations. Scenario training is incorporated to provide realistic training.

Normal or corrected to normal hearing and vision are required for this training. Students must be able to perform motor movements reasonably required to provide emergency medical care, including but not limited to the physical strength to lift and transfer adult patients, carry equipment, enter and exit emergency vehicles, and performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Students must be able to offer manual assistance to classmates during scenario/lab exercises, bend, and squat and kneel without difficulty, and assume a variety of skills performance positions including prone, supine, seated for long periods of time, etc. Students must be able to lift and transfer completely dependent classmates from one place to another using a variety of manual moves and equipment. These skills are also necessary in the clinical setting.

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## Program Costs and Requirements

- **Costs vary with each level of training.** Southwest credit hour cost is approximately 183.00 per semester hour up to 12 hours. **The average tuition and fees for EMT/AEMT/Paramedic 16 hour semester is 2400.00. The average cost for EMT/AEMT 8 hour semesters is 1200.00. Books, materials, uniforms and supplies are additional and average 500.00 to 700.00 depending on the level of training.** The bookstore carries student packages that include all of the necessary access codes, materials, and equipment for the classes, including uniform shirts.
- All EMS programs at Southwest utilize the **JB Learning Navigate 2 Premier Access code** for the primary teaching resource. The code also contains an E-Book. Under no circumstance is it acceptable for a student in an EMS course not to obtain the required access code. **A student CANNOT be successful in the courses without the access code.** The cost of this code varies with the level of training.
- All EMS programs at Southwest utilize **FISDAP** for the primary testing and clinical tracking resource. Under no circumstance is it acceptable for a student in an EMS course not to obtain the required FISDAP access codes for their level of training. **A student CANNOT be successful in the courses without these access codes.** The cost of these codes varies with the level of training.
- **Moderate computer skills are required for use of the Navigate and FISDAP system.**
- Students enrolled in Southwest EMS training programs are **required** to wear uniforms appropriate for their level of training in the classroom and during clinical/field internship rotations. Uniform shirts for each level are available in the campus bookstore. Other items may be purchased from a variety of retail stores.
- Certain equipment is required for EMS training classes. Instructors will provide students with a list on the first day of class. The campus bookstore carries the required equipment/supplies.
- Malpractice insurance is required for clinical rotations and **is included in your fees.**
- CPR at the Healthcare provider level is required for clinical attendance. American Heart Association certification is preferred. Several local training centers are available and easily located by an internet search of “CPR Training in Memphis”. Be **SURE** it is the **PROVIDER level** of CPR training as other levels are not acceptable. **The program does NOT accept CPR training from Online training courses.** Instructors will provide timelines for this requirement. It is recommended that students complete this prior to the beginning of the course if possible.

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- Physical exams, certain immunizations, background checks, and drug screening are required for clinical rotations and licensure. These requirements vary with the level of training and require specific forms that the program will provide. Therefore, it is not suggested that the student begin this process until the instructor has provided information and documentation forms. **It is** advisable that students schedule their physicals for one to two weeks after the courses begin.

### Orientation

**Prior to the first day that the class meets, there will be a mandatory orientation session.**

**Students will receive information including but not limited to:**

- **Required materials, supplies, and equipment**
- **Required access codes**
- **Uniform requirements**
- **Physical exam forms**
- **National Registration and State licensing information**
- **Clinical requirements and scheduling**
- **Lab orientation**
- **Class expectations and schedules**
- **Syllabi Information/grading policy/ attendance etc.**
- **Program Handbook**
- **Clinical Handbook**
- **Timelines for required items**
- **Question and Answer session**
- **Bookstore Information and orientation**
- **Signature documents required for participation in class/lab/clinical**
- **Background/drug screen/facility training information**
- **Building orientation/safety instructions**
- **Computer lab orientation**

**A laptops or tablet is recommended but not required for the EMS training courses. The on-site computer labs are available to all enrolled EMS students.**

## EMS Program Information

### Common misconceptions that students make about initial EMS training classes that prevent success:

- Assuming the courses only require commitment two days a week
  - EMS classes require long hours in the classroom and lab, extensive out of class study time, and out of class clinical and field rotations for successful completion.
- Assuming that missing the orientation or any day of class is acceptable.
  - EMS classes are 4 to 8 hours a day of instruction. Missing even one class is equivalent to missing 1 to 2 weeks of an ordinary college class and is detrimental to student success
- Assuming that not having the required access codes or getting them late is acceptable.
  - EMS classes depend on the access codes for instructional materials, testing, and clinical tracking. It is impossible for a student to be successful without the required access codes.
- Assuming all-in participation will not be expected or required
  - EMS students give up the option to be average when they enter the program. Students are expected to fully engage and participate in all areas of training.

### Course Sequence

1. **EMT Basic is the initial level of training and must be taken first.** This may be taken in a one semester (Fast Track) or two-semester format. Upon successful completion the student is eligible to apply to take the NREMT psychomotor (skills) and cognitive (written) exams for NREMT certification. State license may be applied for after certification is accomplished.
2. EMT Advanced is the second level of training and may be taken after the student has completed EMT Basic **and** successfully completed the National Registry of EMTs competency written and practical exams. A Tennessee EMT basic license is required if the student completed basic EMT training greater than 120 days prior to the beginning of the Advanced EMT training. Advanced EMT is taken in a one-semester format only.
3. Paramedic is a special admissions program that begins in fall semester of each year and lasts 12 months/three full semesters. **Applicants must be licensed as an Advanced EMT in the state of Tennessee** to be considered for admission to the Paramedic training program. There are additional pre-requisites, testing requirements, and an interview process for selection of paramedic candidates.

**Specific required courses and additional information can be found at:**

<http://www.southwest.tn.edu/emt/>

# EMS Program Information

## Enrollment

### STEP 1 - Admissions

All applicants for technical certificate programs or Associates degree programs must apply to the college and meet all admissions requirements. Information for admissions can be found on the main campus website at: <http://www.southwest.tn.edu/admissions/>

### STEP 2 – Meeting Pre-requisites and Licensure requirements

- The pre-requisite for **EMT and Advanced EMT** is college level English or the eligibility to take college level English as determined by college placement testing or ACT scores (if under 21).
- **Basic EMT must be taken prior to Advanced EMT.** AEMT applicants must be certified Nationally Registered EMT basics, or be licensed in the state of Tennessee as an EMT Basic depending on the period during which they enter AEMT training.
- **Advanced EMT must be taken prior to Paramedic training in the state of Tennessee.** Paramedic applicants **must be licensed as Tennessee AEMTs** and apply to special admissions. There are testing requirements and an interview process for selection of paramedic candidates.
- The pre-requisite for **Paramedic** is **college level English and Math**, or the eligibility to take college level English and Math as determined by college placement testing or ACT scores.

### STEP 3 - Placement Testing (if applicable)

Interested candidates for EMS training are **not** required to take placement tests if they already have college credit for a college level English and or Math course.

Placement testing for first time college students or students who have not yet taken college level English/Math courses is done to determine **eligibility** to take college level English and Math classes.

**Important Note** – the college level English and Math courses are not necessary to enroll into EMT/AEMT/Paramedic courses, but the **eligibility** to take the classes **IS** required. Any deficiencies indicated by transcript or placement testing must be satisfied prior to enrollment into the EMS training classes.

**Remember** – English requirement is for EMT/AEMT/and Paramedic courses.  
Math requirement is only required for Paramedic courses.

**ACCUPLACER** is the placement test that will determine your eligibility for College level English and Math classes.

### Scheduling and Practice Questions:

- Sample questions can be found at [the ACCUPLACER sample question page](#).
- Students can schedule the ACCUPLACER exam by using the link below.
- <http://www.southwest.tn.edu/testing/tests.htm>

## EMS Program Information

### STEP 4 – Choose the Correct Major

Go to [https://mafal033ssbp.southwest.tn.edu/PROD/stcc\\_major.p\\_menu\\_major](https://mafal033ssbp.southwest.tn.edu/PROD/stcc_major.p_menu_major) .

Change the major to the appropriate level of training for which the student is going to register. Failure to change the major will result in delays getting the technical certificate and or degree upon completion of the training.

Possible choices of Major are:

#### Programs of Study

##### Associate of Applied Science Degree [A.A.S.]

- [Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic](#)
- [Allied Health Sciences](#) (For EMT/AEMT students who wish to complete a degree)

#### Technical Certificates

- [Emergency Medical Technician - Basic](#)
- [Emergency Medical Technician - Advanced](#)
- [Paramedic](#)

Details regarding these programs can be located by following the links or at :

<http://www.southwest.tn.edu/academics/degrees-certificates.htm>

### STEP 5 – Requesting Permits to Register

**Departmental permission is required for registration into all EMS training courses.**

Prospective students should email Director Mattix [mmattix@southwest.tn.edu](mailto:mmattix@southwest.tn.edu) , and request a schedule of classes for the semester they would like to attend. **Although the class schedules are available online, EMS training courses are arranged uniquely and this schedule will help the student to choose properly.**

NOTE: Students **may not split** individual classes among different instructors/campuses. This is important because each course is assigned a particular number and instructor(s) by the Tennessee state office of EMS.

- **Students must register for all three or all six classes within a schedule block to be properly enrolled in the training program.**
- **Students who opt for a two semester course must be prepared to complete the course in the **next sequential semester.** This is also due to the class number and instructor(s) assigned by the state office of EMS.**
- **Director Mattix will also be issuing your registration alternate PIN number required for registration. Look for a separate e-mail from your southwest.tn.edu account for this PIN number.**

Permits do **NOT** hold space in the classes! Students must register and make payment arrangements or have a financial aid hold placed on your courses to avoid losing the space in the classes.

# EMS Program Information

## Additional Courses

Students enrolled in one-semester EMS programs are taking 16 credit hours. Director Mattix will not permit additional hours for students in one-semester EMS courses.

Students enrolled in two-semester EMT classes for 8 hours a semester may need to take additional courses to make a full time class load of 12 hours. The following courses are recommended because they apply to the Allied Health associates degree and support the EMT material.

ENGL 1010 English Composition I  
SPCH 1010 Fundamentals of Speech Communication:  
MATH 1530 Probability and Statistics  
ETHC 2030 Ethics  
PSYC 1030 General Psychology  
AHS 2000 Management and Leadership for Allied Health Sciences  
AHS 2990 Special Topics in Health Careers  
AHS 1020 Medical Terminology  
HPER 1570 Wellness Perspectives  
SOC 1020 Social Problems  
HLTH 1050 Personal Health  
HLTH 2210 Health, First Aid and Safety  
PSYC 2130 Life Span Psychology  
PSYC 2120 Social Psychology  
SSCI 2990 Special Topics in Social Sciences  
BIOL 1010 Introduction to Biology I  
BIOL 1020 Introduction to Biology II  
BIOL 1230 Microbiology  
BIOL 2010 Principles of Anatomy and Physiology I  
BIOL 2020 Principles of Anatomy and Physiology II

**Students should remember that EMS courses are very rigorous and require a great deal of out of class commitment. Students should speak with Director Mattix or an EMS instructor for advising prior to registration for other credit hour courses.**

We are delighted to answer any additional questions that you may have about the program. Please read the provided information carefully and visit the linked websites. If you require additional information, please e-mail our program director, Merry Mattix at [mmattix@southwest.tn.edu](mailto:mmattix@southwest.tn.edu).