

In-Demand Skills

Skills Recommended for Emergency Medical Services Students

Leadership & Team Management

Leadership in EMS involves the ability to lead a team during high-acuity calls, coordinate tasks, and manage crew dynamics. It extends beyond clinical skill and requires managing people, resolving conflict, and making decisions under pressure. This skill can be developed outside the classroom by serving as a team leader during ride-alongs or volunteering for leadership roles in student organizations. It would also benefit students to attend conferences while participating in group scenarios. Leadership is considered a core Semester Three skill.

Professional Communication

Professional communication in EMS involves clear verbal, written, and radio communication with patients, team members, and facilities. It is essential in high-stress environments because communication errors can impact patient outcomes. This skill can be developed through radio report practice, handoffs, case debriefings, and interprofessional communication during clinical rotations. Students should begin early and continue refining it in Semester Three.

Critical Thinking & Clinical Decision-Making

Critical thinking and problem-solving in EMS involve rapid assessment and decision-making in dynamic situations. Employers prioritize critical thinking because they are key indicators of professional readiness and effective patient care. These skills can be developed through independent case study reviews and participation in simulation competitions. This also includes scenario-based training and reflective journaling on clinical experiences. Critical thinking and problem-solving are considered essential skills in Semester Three.

Emotional Intelligence & Patient Interaction

Emotional intelligence and patient interaction in EMS involve demonstrating empathy and the ability to manage emotionally charged situations. Emotional intelligence directly impacts overall patient outcomes. These abilities can be developed through exposure to real patient interactions during field rotations, participation in debriefings, and training in de-escalation techniques. Emotional intelligence and patient interaction are important to know in Semester Three.

Stress Management & Resilience

Stress management and resilience in EMS involve functioning effectively under pressure and recovering from high-stress events. Since EMS providers regularly face traumatic and unpredictable situations, strong coping skills are essential for clinical readiness. These abilities can be developed through peer support groups and resilience training. This is critical for clinical readiness.

Teamwork & Interprofessional Collaboration

Interprofessional collaboration in EMS involves working effectively with EMS crews, fire, police, nurses, and physicians to ensure coordinated patient care. Strong collaboration is essential for EMS systems and can be developed through drills, simulations, and experience in different EMS systems. This skill is introduced in Semester Two and reinforced in Semester Three.

Documentation & Professional Writing

Documentation and professional writing in EMS involve accurate patient care reporting and documenting clinical reasoning. These skills are important for clinical competency and legal protection. They can be developed through building a portfolio, practicing documentation, and maintaining records of clinical cases and competencies. This is a required Semester Three professional readiness skill.

Networking & Professional Engagement

Networking and professional engagement in EMS involve building relationships with EMS mentors. It supports employment opportunities and long-term career advancement. This can be developed by attending EMS conferences, joining professional organizations, and connecting with instructors. It is emphasized in Semester Two and Three, with a strong focus in Semester Three.

Technology Literacy & Data Competency

Technology literacy and data competency in EMS involve using tools like ePCR systems, telemedicine, and EMS data platforms. These skills are increasingly important as EMS integrates with telehealth and electronic documentation. They can be developed through ePCR use in clinical rotations, participation in QA/QI, and exposure to telemedicine-based EMS systems. This is an emerging priority skill in Semester Three.

Lifelong Learning & Professional Development

Lifelong learning and development in EMS involve certifications and skill advancement. It is essential for maintaining recertification and adapting to evolving standards of care. This can be developed through conferences and certifications. It is an ongoing expectation with emphasis in Semester Three.