

Proactive Steps

Early Planning Efforts for Emergency Medical Services Students

Recommended for Students in Semester 4.

✔ Complete National and State Certification Requirements

- Fulfill all requirements for certification and licensure (e.g., NREMT, NYS DOH paramedic certification) since certification is required for legal practice and employment eligibility
- Apply for and pass the National Registry (NREMT) exam
- Complete all state licensure paperwork and background checks
- Ensure CPR/ACLS certifications are current
- All of the above is mandatory prior to employment

✔ Prepare a Professional Resume and Portfolio

Develop a structured resume and professional portfolio demonstrating competencies. Employers evaluate both clinical experience and professionalism.

- Create a targeted EMS resume
- Compile a portfolio including:
 - Certifications (ACLS, PHTLS, etc.)
 - Clinical logs / competencies
 - Letters of recommendation
 - Case reflections (optional but valuable)
- Strongly recommended in semester 4

✔ Secure Letters of Recommendation

Obtain formal references from instructors, preceptors, and EMS supervisors. Strong references significantly improve hiring competitiveness.

- Request letters early from:
 - Clinical preceptors
 - Program faculty
 - Supervisors from EMS employment/volunteer roles
- Complete before applying for positions

✔ Apply for EMS Employment Opportunities

Actively pursue employment with EMS agencies, hospitals, or fire departments. Early applications increase hiring success and allow flexibility in job selection.

- Research local EMS agencies (FDNY, hospital-based EMS, private agencies, volunteer agencies)
- Submit applications and track responses
- Prepare for civil service or agency-specific hiring processes
- Begin in early semester 4

✔ Prepare for Job Interviews and Hiring Processes

Develop interview skills specific to EMS hiring expectations. Employers assess communication, professionalism, and clinical reasoning during interviews.

- Practice common EMS interview questions
- Prepare clinical scenario responses
- Develop professional appearance and communication skills
- Recommended in semester 4

✔ Maintain and Expand Certifications

Ensure required certifications are current and pursue additional credentials. Additional certifications increase employability and career advancement.

- Maintain:
 - BLS / CPR
 - ACLS / PALS
- Consider:
 - PHTLS / ITLS
 - PEPP / AMLS
- Strongly recommended

✔ Engage in Networking and Professional Organizations

Build professional relationships and remain engaged in EMS community. Networking improves job placement and long-term career opportunities.

- Join organizations (e.g., NAEMT)
- Attend conferences and regional events
- Maintain contact with preceptors and employers
- Continue into semester 4 and beyond

✔ Demonstrate Clinical Readiness and Professionalism

Consistently perform at entry-level paramedic standards in clinical settings. Employers often hire based on clinical reputation and preceptor feedback.

- Seek feedback during final clinical rotations
- Demonstrate reliability, punctuality, and initiative
- Volunteer for additional clinical experience if needed
- Critical in final semester

✔ Develop Specialty or Career Path Awareness

Identify potential career pathways within EMS. EMS careers are expanding beyond traditional 911 response roles into community health and specialty care.

- Explore roles such as:
 - 911 EMS provider
 - Critical care transport
 - Community paramedicine
 - Emergency department technicians
- Recommended in semester 4

✔ Ensure Physical and Occupational Readiness

Maintain physical fitness and readiness for operational demands. EMS requires physical endurance, lifting ability, and operational readiness.

- Maintain physical conditioning
- Complete required medical clearances
- Prepare for agency physical ability tests (if applicable)
- Recommended for pre-employment requirement