

Dixie State College of Utah
Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic
June 2008

Reviewers

External Reviewers:

- Dr. Gregg Margolis, Ph.D., Associate Director of the National Registry for EMTs
- Dr. Tom Brazelton, MD, MPH, FAAP, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, U. Of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

Internal Reviewers:

- Professor Varlo Davenport, Dixie State College Theater Arts Program, BA, MFA
- Professor David Zielke, Dixie State College Browning Library Librarian , BS, MLS

Other Reviewers:

- Members of the Dixie State College Academic Council, comprised of administrators, staff and faculty
- Trustee Liaison Committee, comprised of three members of the Dixie State College Board of Trustees

Program Description:

The EMS Program is comprised of three tracks:

- Paramedic Program-AAS degree, DSC course completion certificate, eligibility for State Of Utah certification, eligibility for National Registry Certification.
- EMT-Intermediate Program- DSC course completion certificate, eligibility for State Of Utah certification, eligibility for National Registry Certification.
- EMT-Basic Program- DSC course completion certificate, eligibility for State Of Utah certification, eligibility for National Registry Certification.

The purpose of the EMS Programs, EMT & Paramedic is to academically and experientially prepare the EMT or Paramedic candidate to become state or nationally certified, and function as an entry level pre-hospital health care professional. Dixie State College has accepted the charge to provide education for certificate programs, associate degrees, and baccalaureate degrees.

The goals and objectives of the EMS programs have been designed to facilitate a high quality Paramedic and EMT program that would serve the needs of the communities in this area and at the same time, complete a harmonious relationship with the mission statement of Dixie State College. The goals focus on providing classroom, didactic, and field experience which would prepare the student to take the state or national certification exams. Upon completion of these exams, the student will be able to provide pre-hospital health care at the EMT-basic, EMT-Intermediate, or Paramedic level.

EMS programs relate to the Health Science programs greatly. Many of the pre-requisite courses for the Nursing program are the same as for the Paramedic program. Many EMS students also continue on into the Nursing Program. The Biology Department also benefits from EMS student enrollment due to the Human Biology requirements for the program. The EMS program shares equipment with the Nursing program, Dental Hygiene, and Medical Radiography. EMS faculty also have opportunities to teach sections on CPR, First Aid, and EKG interpretation for these programs as well as for the Athletics Department and in the community.

Faculty & Staff

Faculty	Tenure	Contract	Adjunct
Number of faculty with Doctoral degrees			3 (MD)
Number of faculty with Master's degrees			
Number of faculty with Bachelor's degrees	1		
Other Faculty (RN, Certified Paramedic, EMT)			32
Total	1		35

Staff	Full-Time	Part-Time
Administrative	1	
Secretarial /Clerical	1	
Laboratory Aides/Instructors		
Advisors		
Teaching/Graduate Assistants		
Other Staff		
Total	1	

Students

AY	# of Majors	Student FTE	# of Faculty	FTE-to-Faculty Ratio	# of Grads	# of Grads Placed
02-03	16	42.15	1	7.11	15	15
03-04	16	43.42	1	10.17	14	14
04-05	17	41.04	1	24.14	15	15
05-06	12	30.71	1	16.69	10	09
06-07	16	29.50	1	12.45	13	13

Salary/wage Data, State Of Utah:

EMT-Basic	\$5.00-\$10.00/hour
EMT-Intermediate	\$8.00-\$12.00/hour
Paramedic	\$11.50-\$25.00/hour

In the State of Utah many of the rural EMS agencies are volunteers. Some agencies are paid volunteer. Those agencies in the larger city areas have part-time or full-time employment. Some agencies are Ambulance/Fire combined. Most are still separate. In other surrounding states, Ambulance agencies are combined with Fire Departments. Although salaries vary with certification levels, and entry level Paramedic/firefighter starts out around \$56,000.00/year. Some starting salaries are as high as \$60,000-\$65,000 depending on the agency, area, and experience/certifications.

Financial Analysis

Financial Analysis Form					
	07-08	06-07	05-06	04-05	03-04
Expense					
Instructional Costs	96,432	41,514	34,382	31,519	68,266
Support Costs	59,415	42,495	78,243	38,668	29,293
Other Expenses					
Total Expense	\$155,846	\$84,009	\$112,625	\$70,187	\$97,558
Revenue					
Legislative Appropriation	107,110	56,561	78,120	48,468	68,151
Grants					
Reallocation					
Tuition to Program	48,737	27,447	34,505	21,719	29,407
Fees					
Total Revenue	\$155,847	\$84,008	\$112,625	\$70,187	\$97,558
Difference					
Revenue-Expense	\$1	\$ (1)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

Program Assessment

Both formal and informal evaluations are on-going processes in the program. An advisory committee as a forum meets quarterly to discuss and suggest resolution for any difficulties encountered by the program. This committee is comprised of representatives from Dixie State College of Utah, Dixie Regional Medical Center, Washington County EMS, Utah State Bureau of EMS, and representatives from each of the paramedic ambulances services within the area. Site audits conducted by the Utah State Bureau of EMS are a valuable means to identify and assess strengths and limitations. Audits are completed at random by the Bureau.

Informal internal reviews with students and the course instructors are conducted as another means to identify strengths and weaknesses. For example, if students are consistently falling short of the types of clinical experiences they need to meet course objectives, the director intervenes and schedules shifts to accommodate and remediate any identified short-comings by working closely with the clinical and field sites. Likewise, if preceptors in the clinical or field sites identify weakness with students, the problem is corrected immediately.

Dixie State College of Utah has established a goal of 85% student pass rate for certificate and licensure programs. Dixie State College conducts follow-up studies of students who graduate from instructional programs for which licensure or certification is available from an outside agency or organization. The resulting data from these studies provide the college with an objective evaluation of its programs. Licensure and certification examinations are given, scored and evaluated by State or Federal agencies or by appropriate industrial accrediting organizations.

Evaluation systems that are used to measure the attainment of the program's goals and objectives are summarized below:

- Student pass rate of the Utah State Department of Health Bureau of EMS EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, and Paramedic certification examinations.
- Employer surveys
- Student pass rate of National Registry Paramedic Examination
- Semester end comprehensive examinations pass with a minimum score of 80%
- All written assignments passed with a minimum score of 80%
- Student pass rate of program's practical skills final pass-off stations with a minimum score of 80%

- Documentation and written verification of the completion of the mandatory clinical hours and rotations.
- Documented and written verification of required vehicular hours.
- Written preceptor evaluation of leadership and patient care skills
- Research paper concerning the importance of continuing professional EMS education.
- Written paper describing the students' self perception of professionalism
- Post graduate surveys
- Test analysis on all quizzes and exams to verify validity

Strengths

- Breadth of the program
- Program is making the most of the opportunities in supporting other programs, departments, and divisions, including classes, equipment, etc.
- Mission, student learning outcomes, and articulation are well-defined.
- Great accomplishments with only one full-time faculty.
- Support from the local medical community, hospital, and EMS, including committed local physicians. Local hospital and EMS services participate in learning labs and assist with testing.
- Program proximity to large, specialized care centers including U of U Burn Unit, UNLV Medical Center, and others.

Challenges

- Limited time for clinical rotations and travel for students for some field and clinical sites, usually between 50-300 miles.
- Demand placed on clinical sites by other programs like nursing and physician's assistants makes scheduling difficult.

Institution's Response