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## Key Information - What you need to know

### Advanced EMT (Bridge)

#### Pre-requisites – Students must:

- Must currently possess either a state or national EMT certification
- Must provide proof of a minimum of 500 hours of professional EMT experience
- Be a minimum of 18 years of age
- Have a High School Diploma or GED
- Must have completed a college level Math and English course
- Have current documentation of vaccination from (MMR) Mumps, Measles and Rubella, (HBV) Hepatitis B, and Tuberculosis (PPD) screen in last year. Students who started the HBV series meet the requirements
- Have no criminal record of felony charges
- Have completed a background check with CastleBranch

#### 160 course hours + 96 clinical hours = 256 total hours – Preparation for:

- Scope of Practice Exam for NCOEMS and NREMT (Practical Examination for A-EMT)
- Computer-based testing dates may be chosen 24 hours after course completion at a number of computer-based testing sites through [Pearson Vue](#)
- Eligibility for Written Exam Registration for NCOEMS (NC A-EMT is a 4-year certification) begins 14 days after close of course.

#### Course Cost includes:

- Experienced Instructional Staff, certified as A-NREMT to NREMT-P
- Small class size, with a maximum of 14-18 students
- Clinical uniform shirt
- Clinical malpractice insurance
- All course equipment is provided for student use
- Access to all course equipment after class hours for study and practice
- 96 hours of clinical experience on ambulances and in ERs
- Weekly quizzes for material highlights and retention
- Mid-course performance evaluation

#### Course Cost does not include:

- Required course textbook – AAOS, “Advanced Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Injured” 3rd Edition (you are required to purchase this book)
- Background Check & 12 Panel Drug Screen

- Black or navy cargo pants
- Black safety toe boots
- Housing – There are limited opportunities to stay on campus in our rustic campus and tent pads for \$15 a night.
- If you are interested in obtaining your wilderness upgrade for your A-EMT certification, please inquire by emailing or calling. We offer several of these courses throughout the year and are confident that we can find a course date that will fit with your schedule.

### **Student expectations of our courses:**

- Our instructors know the materials and teach the curriculum to individual learners
- Our pass rate for NREMT is greater than 90%
- Our pass rate for NC EMT is near 100%
- Our classroom learning focuses on clear information and practice
- Realistic scenarios meld the curriculum pieces for big picture understanding
- Class hours from 8AM – 6PM
- Clinical hours will be set up throughout the course

Students can expect classroom lecture, instructor demonstrations, some multi-media presentations, scenarios, and homework assignments including text readings, quizzes, and instructor-guided practice as primary teaching modalities. *The first two weeks of this course are extremely intense as we share a significant portion of the course material.* The design that we find makes our students most successful is to go hard and heavy at the start, then review and teach the closing topics during the last week as we prepare for testing.

### **Expectations of our students:**

- Students are required to attend all course lectures, skill sessions and clinicals
- Students are expected to participate 100%
- Students are expected to be accountable for an 80% average on all course exams
- Students are expected to retest any exams less than 80%
- Students are expected to be punctual to class and to clinical rotations
- Students are expected to ask for help when they are uncertain
- Students are expected to behave as community members at our campus

On the first day of our course, students will sign a contract agreeing to the statements above (This contract is available for view along with the other course files).

## FAQ's

**Q:** When do we sign up for clinical?

**A:** You will be assigned a clinical ride-along site and time during the first week of class.

**Q:** What is the average age of students?

**A:** On average between 18 and 30 – but we commonly have older students as well.

**Q:** What kind of time off do we get during class?

**A:** Time off depends on your clinical schedule and your evening time management. Students generally have very little free time during our course.

**Q:** Should I buy the workbook for the course text?

**A:** We recommend that you do although it is not required.

**Q:** In the event that I do pass my first NREMT exam attempts will the school assist me with resources and recommendation for retesting?

**A:** Yes, we monitor all test scores from our students and serve as a resource later.

**Q:** Who takes the A-EMT Intensive course?

**A:** The A-EMT certification is required by many rescue and law enforcement entities, lifeguards, ski patrol, athletic trainers, as well as recreational guides and of course ambulance medics. Many folks come to us for a strong foundation in EMS training before they go on to advanced training. Some of our students take the Intensive A-EMT course in combination of the Wilderness upgrade for EMT's from WMTC for to support overseas travel expeditions or recreational employment stateside.

**Q:** If I have a current WFR does that upgrade me to a WEMT?

**A:** It depends. If you have successfully completed one of *our* WFR courses and your certification has not yet expired, then yes; you will automatically upgrade to a WEMT until the original WFR certification expires. Your wilderness upgrade (WEMT) expiration date is the same as your original WFR certification expiration date.

If you received your WFR certification from another provider, you will need to contact that provider after completing your A-EMT course and provide them with proof of successful completion of the EMT course. That provider will determine whether or not you may be upgraded to a WEMT.

**Q:** Are financial scholarships available for the A-EMT course?

**A:** No, not at this time.

**Q:** Is college credit available for this course?

**A:** Yes. It is common for students enrolled in other universities to submit paperwork to the completed by our administration to receive appropriate credit.

**Q:** What is the cost for the Intensive A-EMT?

**A:** At our 17-acre campus in Southeastern North Carolina (about 1 mile from the beach), the cost of tuition is \$2,645.00 (plus an optional \$345.00 for course housing if students plan to live on campus). At other collaborative sites prices may vary slightly.

**Q:** Are meals included?

**A:** No. A grocery store, several coffee shops, fast-food, and casual dining options are within walking distance from our campus. We provide both refrigerated and dry food storage space as well as some utensils, a coffee maker, hotplate, microwave, and toaster oven for students to prepare meals on site.

**Q:** What are my housing options on campus?

**Q:** You can bring your own tent, or stay in one of our 'rustic' cabins. There is no power in the cabins and each one sleeps four students. The same price of \$345.00 applies regardless of whether or not the student wishes to camp or stay in a cabin. Housing includes shower access, pavilion for cooking and kitchen cleanup area and trash removal. Please let us know what your preference is after you register.

**Q:** What are my options if I stay off campus?

**A:** Contact our office and we can recommend hotels and campgrounds close by.

**Q:** Can I come to the course with my wife, husband, girlfriend or significant other?

**A:** Yes, but we discourage exclusive relationships which are often taxed under intense conditions like our course.

## **Release/Assumption of Risk**

All participants will be asked to read and sign a release acknowledging the inherent risks that are involved in any of NCOAE's courses or programs. Minors will have a parent or guardian sign on their behalf.

## **Eligibility**

Participants must be of sound health and able to walk 6-8 miles a day and/or display adequate swimming skills in water-based courses. Although our trips are designed to travel at a leisurely pace and much of the day is occupied with classroom and practical time, this request serves to mark an appropriate level of physical fitness.

## **Deposits and Refunds**

1. A non-refundable, 10% tuition deposit required to hold a spot in a course.
2. Full tuition payment due 30 days before course start.
3. Registration within 30 days of course start requires full tuition at registration.
4. **Cancelations and Course Transfers:**

More than 30 days prior to course start, funds paid minus the 10% deposit are refundable.

Cancelations within 30 days prior to course start, all funds are forfeited.

Transfers: Within 30 days prior to course start, 50% of tuition is transferable the remainder is forfeited.

Transfers must be made to courses (at the campus, ONLY) within one calendar year of original course enrollment, or funds will be forfeited. Funds may not be transferred to an outside, sponsored course. Only one transfer per student is authorized. All funds are forfeited under any and all circumstances in any attempt to cancel or transfer a second time, under the originally registered/enrolled course or training.

Transfers within 15 days prior to courses start, all funds are forfeited.

If NCOAE cancels a course due to low enrollments, funds paid are transferrable or 100% refundable.

To cancel or transfer, you must send a certified letter to NCOAE (9809 River Road, Wilmington, NC 28412) and follow up via email ([info@ncoae.org](mailto:info@ncoae.org)) to let us know that the letter is in the mail.

## **Community Living**

Much of the instruction will be led as a participatory and hands-on activity, with micro-lecturettes for specific topics and workshops. In our course, each person is expected to participate fully within the class context. This includes participating in general chores like classroom power cleans, collecting and maintaining classroom equipment. All participants should be prepared to work within the group's dynamics.

**Drugs and Alcohol – This is a ZERO TOLERANCE policy**

No controlled substances or alcoholic beverage are permitted on NCOAE property or during courses. Violation of this policy will result in immediate expulsion from the program with no fee or tuition reimbursement.

All participants under the influence of a prescription medication must inform the administration on their health forms, and the course instructors will also have access to that information. Medications and health issues should not disqualify you from a program; instructors need to know how to help you in the event that you need it. We encourage participants to bring all medications needed during course hours.

**Travel to and from NCOAE's Campus**

If you plan to fly or take a bus instead of driving your own vehicle, make your plans with the following in mind: Do not make airline reservations before thirty days from the course, when we commit to or cancel a course based on the enrollment. Please be aware that you are responsible for arranging your own transportation to our campus. You may take an Uber, Cab, or a Taxi from Wilmington International Airport. If you would like to ride-share with other students, you can add yourself to our rideshare list that is sent out 1 week before the course. You are responsible for contacting other students on the list and arranging your own transportation together.

We frequently have people attend our courses from all over the country and internationally, and they often come without a personal vehicle. Our campus is in close proximity to almost anything you may need. It's easy to share a ride and expenses with other classmates to grocery stores, clinical sites, beach, or river areas, all of which are within easy access of our campus in Wilmington.

**Parking at NCOAE**

NCOAE's 17-acre campus is squeezed in between the Cape Fear and the Atlantic Ocean. Much of the campus is wooded, so parking is limited. If you are coming with a friend or small group, please try to carpool to limit the number of vehicles.

**Facility**

Lodging is available for an additional charge of \$345.00, which provides access to indoor plumbing and hot showers. It also provides access to hotplates, microwaves, refrigerators, and space for eating. Space is limited, so please reserve in advance for either camping or cabin living.

NCOAE campus has 'rustic' cabins for A-EMT students. These cabins are equipped with two bunk beds. There is no power down at the cabins. If you are attending a course in December or February, be sure to bring a warm sleeping bag (or 2)

There is plenty of space for personal camping available on the 17 acres if you choose to bring your own setup for sleeping (tents, hammocks, etc.).

The classroom has a bathroom, a coffee maker, refrigerator, microwave, toaster oven, hot plates and more available for students to share in the classroom. Be considerate of others and keep refrigerated items to a minimum – we are close to town and it's easy to make a trip to a grocery store every few days to restock.

### **Tobacco**

Class times are inappropriate for tobacco product use (chew, cigarettes, etc.). During 10 minute breaks, lunch, and after class we ask folks to smoke, etc. in the parking lot in the designated area only. Violation of this request can result in immediate expulsion from the course with no fee or tuition reimbursement. Please field dress your butts and dispose of them in the appropriate receptacles – the nicotine in the filters is not only dangerous to you, but highly toxic to the wildlife in our environment. If your nicotine needs interfere with class attendance, you should investigate other nicotine alternative (the patch, gum, or other).

### **Transportation**

In courses that continue in other locations, participants are responsible for transportation to the destination. We will arrange carpools to program sites when we are together as a class. At all times, we attempt to find suitable parking option; however, NCOAE assumes no responsibility for vehicles left unattended.

### **Safety**

It is our primary mission to provide Advanced EMT Training while paying close attention to plans for risk management. Our instructors are outdoor professionals who hold current certification in Wilderness First Responder, Wilderness EMT, and professional level CPR. In the event of an accident, NCOAE staff will aid in medical care of the ill or injured until EMS arrives or evacuation is executed. Any costs of medical care and evacuation beyond the initial medical care given by our staff, is the sole responsibility of the ill or injured.

COVID-19 Update: For our part, all NCOAE staff members and instructors are following the same directives we have for students, including having temperatures taken throughout the day, washing hands according to CDC guidelines, and practicing social distancing whenever possible. We have enhanced our own in-house cleaning methods by using approved disinfectant to regularly wipe down

high-touch areas such as door handles, desks, bathroom facilities, training equipment, and other common hard surfaces. We have also added more alcohol-based hand sanitizers at key locations around campus and are directing all of our employees to take important hygiene steps, including frequent handwashing and staying home if ill.

### **Pets**

Please leave your animal companions at home. *No animal will be tied outside of a vehicle or kept inside of a vehicle during our courses.* If you do arrive with an animal, we will direct you toward a kennel for the duration of your course. If this is unacceptable, we will ask that you dis-enroll in the course. Cancellation policies will be in effect.

### **Phones/Computer/Faxes**

NCOAE courses are designed with outdoor recreationists and professionals in mind. There is no phone or computer available for personal use. A phone is available if the office should you need to call 911 in an emergency, or for incoming emergency calls. We do request that cell phones be turned off during class hours.

Wi-Fi connectivity is available in our classroom on campus with your own computer equipment.

You may receive or send faxes from our office for a fee of \$0.25/page. This service is available for faxing needs pertaining to class administration, **ONLY**. The post office and several businesses in Wilmington have faxing service available for personal or personal business needs.

### **Harassment**

Students, staff, or administrators will absolutely not tolerate harassment of any kind during courses and after course hours on NCOAE property. It is your responsibility to report any misconduct to the administration of NCOAE. If you are suspected of harassing others you will be asked to leave, and your tuition will not be refunded.

### **Down Time**

NCOAE is just a few miles from two colleges and several coffee shops. Our campus is also just couple minutes from Carolina Beach, a few miles from downtown Wilmington with a variety of grocery stores, restaurants, and fast food places. NCOAE campus is only a couple minutes away from great surfing, sea kayaking, canoeing, fishing or just a nice sunset study session on the beach!



## **Clinicals and Ride Times for A-EMT**

A-EMT students are required to complete 96 clinical hours, 48 hours of which will be an ambulance. Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from clinical sites, anywhere from typically 30 to 90 minutes away from the NCOAE campus but occasionally further. We have great partnerships with several Ambulance Services and Emergency Rooms where past students have performed in a professional manner under the guidance of the Paramedics, Nurses, and Doctors. These clinical sites do not get paid or get additional benefits for allowing you the opportunity to learn there. In fact, some go above and beyond to give every opportunity to the student if he or she works well with their system and expectations.

Clinicals are a hit-or-miss opportunity; emergencies do not happen when planned, which requires EMS to be a dynamic profession. Some shifts are slow and students do no more than wash the ambulance, change bed linens, and study. These are good opportunities to get in extra study time or to capitalize on your exposure to equipment and highly trained professionals who are not involved with immediate patient care. Most healthcare professionals are very open to helping students who take the initiative to ask pertinent questions, or to find out what equipment is what and how to use all of it. Other shifts are very busy with call after call, or patient after patient. You may be called into assisting with CPR while Paramedics are getting medications and AEDs ready, or you may get to assess vital signs and lung sounds on sick or injured people. You may be asked to pull manual traction on fractures while doctors apply casts, or to observe in surgery. Everything you see will prepare you for the real world of EMS and your new role in it.

It is important to arrive on time and in the right clothing to conform to approved dress codes. During your first week of class, you will be provided with an EMT shirt. You will need bring black or navy cargo pants and black safety toe boots.

A professional personal appearance is important when you are taking care of other people. In addition to the above dress code, personal hygiene is mandatory. All bodies must be clean and neat, freshly shaved (neat facial hair is acceptable), and free from odors and strong perfumes. Long hair must be pulled back, and body art or tattoos must be concealed. Some sites may require the removal of excess jewelry or non-traditional piercings.

## **Safety**

Even observing, there is always the possibility of contact with body fluids. Appropriate clothing and appearance helps reduce the risk of exposure. Your instructor will explain the latest infectious disease concerns and precautions. Host sites require you to have completed, or at least begun, a Hepatitis B series before your program. You should also have received all childhood immunizations.

Due to an increase in tuberculosis diagnoses, all healthcare workers should have PPD (TB) testing on a regular basis. As a requirement for observations, EMT students must provide proof of a PPD test within six months prior to the start of their course. We ask that you have the PPD testing completed and the Hepatitis B series at least begun before your arrival and that you bring proof for each from the attending doctor or clinic.

### **Required Background Check**

NCOAE and clinical partners requiring all students to obtain a background check before the start of your course. Without one, you will not be allowed to complete your clinical work. The background check is completely confidential, and will automatically be transferred directly to the database at NCOAE, releasing you for clinical. The cost of a background check varies depending upon the state you live in (NCOAE has no control over this cost). To obtain your background check, please follow specific link included on the confirmation email you received upon enrolling. Please follow the directions carefully and feel free to contact the **NCOAE office at 910-399-8090** if you have any trouble accessing the website.

# A-EMT Class & Gear Lists

## If you are camping:

- Tent, tarp, or sleeping system
- Personal sleeping and living gear

## If you are staying in the bunkhouse:

- Sleeping Bag
- Pillow
- Twin sheet to cover mattress
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## And the following items:

- Stove, fuel, cooking gear \* optional
- Outdoor shoes
- Headlamp for night travel on trails
- Towel and shower shoes
- Cash for laundry, groceries, etc.
- Sunscreen

## Classroom:

- Course textbook
- Pens, pencils, paper for note taking \*optional
- Laptop/device for test taking

## Clinical Visits:

- Black or Navy Cargo Pants
- **NO** jeans, Carhartt's, or similar
- Black safety toe shoes
- **NO** heels, sandals, hiking boots, or old athletic shoes
- White T-shirt to wear under clinical top \* optional
- EMS Shirt (you will be issued a polo in the first week of class)