



COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

PATHWAY: FIRST RESPONSE

Initiative Description

Emergency Medical Services is a service initiative where students, under the guidance of faculty, will participate in a longitudinal education/community experience throughout all four years of medical school that helps them develop an understanding and skillset to care for patients in the prehospital setting. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) provide out of hospital emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical services (EMS) system. In the first two years students will complete the educational and practical skills training required for them to obtain their National Registry Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT) certification. M3 through M4 students will meet CEL program requirements by completing VB EMS shifts during the academic year.

Annual Student Activities

- Participate in the on-boarding process for local EMS locations.
- Complete a minimum of one EMS shift per semester.
- Attend at least one ride-along approximately every 90 days to stay active as a volunteer.
- In total, complete 10 EMS shifts throughout the academic year. Complete the OSHA exam on an annual basis.

Community Outcomes/Results

- ↑ Increase the number of EMTs and Emergency Medical Services offered to our local communities
- ↑ Reducing the burden on other providers and hospital systems by reducing the number of patients in hospital beds, nursing homes, or emergency rooms.
- ↑ Increasing access to primary care by providing services such as routine wound care and/or checkups for uninsured or underinsured patients who are otherwise unable to access services.

Facilitators

Barry Knapp, MD, RDMS, FACEP

Partners

- Virginia Beach EMS

The Need

- In the United States, there are roughly 240 million 911 emergency calls per year. Of those calls, approximately 60% require EMS services
- The professionals that respond to those medical emergencies on ambulances and fire apparatus are EMTs and Paramedics and are vital to the Healthcare chain of survival.
- EMT training typically takes about 6 months and about 180 hours of training to complete providing a barrier for some to join the workforce.
- EMTs provide the majority of out of hospital emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients and must have the knowledge and skills necessary to stabilize and safely transport both non-emergency and those with life threatening emergencies.