



## Emergency Medical Services Program Technical Standards

### TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

South Plains College’s Emergency Medical Service Program has established technical standards and essential functions for the program. The ability to meet these standards and essential functions, with or without reasonable accommodations, is required in order to satisfactorily complete the program.

The college does not discriminate in admission or access to programs on the basis of any characteristic protected by law, including disability. Persons with disabilities are eligible for admission, as long as they can carry out classroom and laboratory assignments; pass written, oral and practical examinations; and meet all of the requirements of the program and generally accepted requirements of the profession, with or without reasonable accommodations.

**Disability & Accommodations Services:** If you have a disability or acquire one, you may be entitled to receive support services and/or accommodations intended to assure you an equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, the program. Reasonable accommodations for students with disability related needs will be determined on an individual basis taking into consideration the technical standards and essential skills which must be performed to meet the program objectives. To receive more information or to apply for services, please contact the Student Disability Services 806-716-4675 (Reese/ATC/Plainview) or 806-716-2577 (Levelland).

Requirements	Standards	Examples
<b>Critical Thinking/Problem Solving</b>	Ability to learn and reason: to integrate, analyze and synthesize data concurrently. Students must have the ability to solve problems rapidly, consider alternatives, and make a decision for managing or intervening in the care of patients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Able to make effective decisions in the classroom and in clinical settings, to new situations and problem-solving, scenarios, reflective of classroom learning.</li> <li>▪ Ability to maintain situational awareness and scene safety in classroom scenarios and in the clinical setting.</li> <li>▪ Ability to calculate medication doses based on weight, volume, etc. both under life-threatening and time constraints.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Must be able to make quick and accurate treatment decisions based on patient complaints and assessment findings.</li> </ul>
<b>Communication</b>	<p>Oral communication skills sufficient to communicate in English with accuracy, clarity, and efficiency with patients, their families and other members of the healthcare team. Such communication includes non-verbal communications, such as interpretation of facial expressions, affect and body language.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Must be able to interview patients, family members, and bystanders.</li> <li>▪ Must be able to communicate verbally by telephone and/or radio equipment.</li> <li>▪ Give verbal directions to or follows verbal directions from other members of the healthcare team and participate in healthcare team discussions of patient care.</li> <li>▪ Convey information to patients and others as necessary to teach, direct and counsel individuals in an accurate, effective and timely manner.</li> <li>▪ Recognize and report critical patient information to other caregivers.</li> <li>▪ Recognize and interpret facial expressions and body language.</li> <li>▪ Receive, write, and interpret written communication in both academic and clinical settings.</li> <li>▪ Interpret and understand written medical treatment protocols and algorithms.</li> <li>▪ Receive, write, and interpret common appropriate medical terminology, acronyms, and mnemonics.</li> </ul>
<b>Motor Skills/Tactile</b>	<p>Sufficient gross and fine motor skills to provide complete physical assessments and safe effective care for patients.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Must be able to perform each psychomotor skill required by the National, State, and/or Accreditation body that</li> </ul>

	<p>Tactile ability sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment of health care needs.</p>	<p>applies to each respective scope of practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrate adequate coordination, balance, speed, and ability to assist and safely guard patients who are walking or performing other activities.</li> <li>▪ Move, adjust, position and transfer patients or equipment.</li> <li>▪ Able to provide emergency treatment to patients.</li> <li>▪ Ability to lift, carry, and balance up to 125 pounds or 250 pounds with assistance.</li> <li>▪ Able to stand for long periods of time (6-8 hours).</li> <li>▪ Possess the ability to walk, climb, squat, bend at the waist, kneel and reach with little to no assistance.</li> <li>▪ Possess finger and manual dexterity necessary to manipulate equipment and perform patient care procedures such as starting IVs, dressing changes, and identify calibrations on syringes.</li> <li>▪ Must be able to provide uninterrupted high-quality CPR for 2 minutes while on the floor.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tactile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ability to feel vibrations (pulses), palpate veins for cannulation and detect changes or abnormalities of surface texture, skin temperature.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Observation</b></p>	<p>Ability to participate actively in all demonstrations, laboratory exercise, and clinical experiences in the professional program component and to assess and comprehend the</p>	<p><b>Visual (corrected as necessary)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Able to accurately discern street signs and address numbers</li> </ul>

	<p>condition of all patients assigned to him/her for examination, diagnosis, and treatment. Such observation and information require the functional use of visual, auditory, and somatic sensations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Able to visually discriminate increment readings on syringes, sphygmomanometers and other various medical equipment.</li> <li>▪ Assess skin color (cyanosis, pallor) and visually discriminate different colored objects.</li> <li>▪ Assess the environment from a distance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Auditory (corrected as necessary)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Respond to normal speaking level sounds, even under personal protective equipment (PPE).</li> <li>▪ Distinguish between normal and abnormal lung and heart sounds, and evaluate blood pressure.</li> <li>▪ Respond to auditory alarms such as monitors, and fire alarms in a quick and safe manner.</li> </ul> <p><b>Smell</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ability to detect odors from patient (foul-smelling drainage, alcohol breath), and smoke.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technological</b></p>	<p>Ability to perform basic computer, software, editing, internet, and browsing skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ability to effectively and accurately document patient care reports in an electronic medium</li> <li>▪ Ability to utilize the technological advancements within each respective scope of practice</li> <li>▪ Locating, opening, closing uploading and downloading files.</li> <li>▪ Use of word processor to create, edit and save documents. Toggling between applications.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Interpersonal Skills</b></p>	<p>Emotional stability and appropriate behavior sufficient to assume responsibility/accountability for actions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be able to cope with a high-stress job that can be fast-paced and</li> </ul>

		<p>emotionally and physically demanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must maintain composure, keeping emotions in check, controlling anger, and avoiding aggressive behavior, even in very difficult situations.</li> <li>• Exhibit ethical behaviors, exercise good judgment, establish and maintain therapeutic boundaries.</li> <li>• Must be able to accept constructive criticism.</li> <li>• Must be able to lead, take charge, and offer opinions and directions to others.</li> <li>• Must be willing to work cohesively as a team member with all agencies and personnel.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Professional Conduct</b></p>	<p>Ability to reason morally and practice in an ethical manner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to present a professional demeanor and attitude at all times.</li> <li>• Ability to use good judgment and remain calm in high-stress situations</li> <li>• Attributes that include compassion, empathy, altruism, integrity, honesty, responsibility and tolerance.</li> <li>• Ability and willingness to become a true patient advocate.</li> <li>• Ability to set aside all personal biases, feelings, and emotions to provide proper patient care.</li> <li>• Ability to engage in patient care delivery in all settings and deliver care to all patient populations, male or female, including but not limited to; Infants, children, adolescents, adults, Geriatrics, individuals with disabilities, medically</li> </ul>

		compromised patients and vulnerable adults.