

Executive Summary

Emergency Medical Technician Agreement Surveys

**First Responder
Emergency Medical Technician – Basic
Emergency Medical Technician – Intermediate
Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic**

September 30, 2008

Introduction:

The following represents the results of an agreement survey distributed to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) professionals in Ohio. On August 25, 2008 provosts, chief academic officers, and regional campus deans as well as career-technical adult directors and teachers were invited to identify appropriate persons within their institutions to respond to an electronic survey. The survey asked specific questions about the learning outcomes needed to facilitate transfer of students from public career-technical institutions (secondary and adult) to public colleges and universities in Ohio.

The first step in facilitating transfer of course work was to establish learning outcomes, to be used to identify equivalent content taught by career-technical institutions and higher education alike. During the summer of 2008 a panel of emergency medical technician experts identified the learning outcomes needed to transition from career-technical education to colleges and universities. Four levels were created: (1) First Responder, (2) EMT - Basic, (3) EMT – Intermediate, and (4) EMT – Paramedic.

The learning outcomes are shown in documents called Career-Technical Assurance Guides (CTAGs) and within each CTAG are unique identifiers called Career-Technical Articulation Numbers (CTANs). These CTAGs and CTANs were endorsed by the EMT Training Committee of the Ohio Department of the Public Safety's, Division of Emergency Medical Services. Moreover, the State Board of Emergency Medical Services endorsed all four documents as well as the college credit hours associated with each CTAG.

Before the CTAGs can be implemented and a guarantee of college credit offered, educators and EMT professionals from around Ohio reviewed each CTAG and stated their agreement or disagreement. Survey takers were asked to pay particular attention to the credit hour values for each of the CTAGs.

Summary and Impression:

Response Rates

Response rates of the various sectors were more than adequate to arrive at valid conclusions.

42 Career-Technical Institutions provided 58 responses
6 University main or regional campuses provided 6 responses
15 Two-year colleges provided 17 responses
10 Others provided 14 responses (e.g., fire departments or private EMS training facilities)

Summary: Total Institutions = 73 Total Responses = 95

Recommended Credit Hours

In each of the four areas respondents strongly supported the recommended credit hours; however, several persons expressed concern that the credit hours may be too generous for each of the areas. The Two-year Campus Operating Manual and Ohio Administrative Code, Rule 3333-1-04 provides definitions for awarded credit hours. The recommended credit hours assigned by the faculty panel, are consistent with these definitions and rules. It is true that some institutions offering fewer course credit hours than those recommended on each CTAN would need to adjust their courses to meet the minimum hours. The net effect would be an equalization of credit hours under the statewide guarantee.

Upon considering comments made by the respondents about the assigned credit hours, the EMT writing panel reaffirmed their original recommendations.

First Responder

Respondents overwhelmingly agreed that the credit hours assigned to the First Responder CTAN were appropriate. Moreover, all 85 respondents agreed that the learning outcomes appropriately described the skills and knowledge needed to transition from career-technical adult education into higher education and receive college credit for First Responder content.

Please note that some of the comments provided by respondents are outside the authority of the Ohio Board of Regents and/or the Ohio Department of Education. Via this document, these comments will be shared with the appropriate authority. That authority may choose to act on such comments at its own discretion. About one-half of the comments about the First Responder CTAN were directed at the credit hour values assigned to the CTAN. Some suggested higher or lower credit hour values, however,

95.3% of respondents agreed that 2 semester or 3 quarter hours of college credit is appropriate for the First Responder content.

Questions regarding the First Responder CTAN.

1. Do you approve of the hours (2 semester/3 quarter hours) recommended for this CTAN?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	95.3%	82
No	4.7%	4

2. Do you approve of this CTAN?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	100%	85
No	0%	0

Comments regarding the First Responder CTAN.

1. There is a draft change of the First Responder curriculum to 48 hours. The rule is 4765-12-02.
2. 1 semester or 2 quarter hours [is suggested].
3. 4 quarter hours [is suggested].
4. 2.5- 3.0 hours [is suggested].
5. The recommended hours published in the minutes of the ODPS EMS Board differ from these.
6. This is what we offer here.
7. This will be a great help for all vocation schools and their students.
8. This is based upon the current number of theory hours involved in this class.
9. Low-flow O2 by nasal cannula was not mentioned.
10. This is a 40 hour course as a minimum. A 2 credit hour semester course would not provide sufficient time to meet the required 40 hours.
11. I think that this particular level needs to be applied for any time of degree program. But if credit hours are given then I guess that's appropriate depending on degree. I just don't see a degree where this [is] relevant for Fire/EMS.

EMT – Basic

Respondents overwhelmingly agreed that the credit hours assigned to the EMT- B CTAN were appropriate. Moreover, 82 of 86 (95.3%) respondents agreed that the learning outcomes appropriately described the skills and knowledge needed to transition from career-technical adult education into higher education and receive college credit for EMT-B content.

Please note that some of the comments provided by respondents are outside the authority of the Ohio Board of Regents and/or the Ohio Department of Education. Via this document, these comments will be shared with the appropriate authority. That authority may chose to act on such comments at its own discretion.

As with First Responder many comments were directed at the credit hour value assigned to the EMT-B CTAN. However, 87.2% of respondents agreed that 7 semester or 10 quarter hours of college credit were appropriate for the EMT-B content. Some confusion may exist with the credit hours. College credit would be awarded to persons holding current Ohio certification as an EMT-Basic when such persons have completed their EMT-Basic course work at a public career-technical institution and upon matriculating into an emergency medical associate degree program. Thus the student would be excused from taking EMT-Basic content and would receive college credit for the completed content. Please note that the credit awarded for EMT-B does not replace any portion of the EMT – Intermediate or EMT – Paramedic curricula as these are separate courses of study.

Questions regarding the EMT – Basic CTAN.

1. Do you approve of the hours (7 semester/10 quarter hours) recommended for this CTAN?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	87.2%	75
No	12.8%	11

2. Do you approve of this CTAN?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	95.3%	82
No	4.7%	4

Comments regarding the EMT – Basic CTAN.

1. The program is required to be 130 hours. Since some of the hours are spent in a laboratory setting I can see where the credit could be 10 credit hours in a quarter system. The problem could be tuition cost to the students at a University. At 150\$ a credit hour that could be \$1500 in tuition. At this time that price is outside of the current cost of EMT-Basic education. The University would lose in the market for students because of the high tuition. I would recommend making the credit hour comparable to what a student may spend outside of the University tuition. For example, 6 - 8 credits.
2. 9 semester hours [is suggested].
3. 5-6 hours [is suggested].
4. 5 semester or equivalent quarter hours [is suggested].
5. We have determined that 7 quarter hours is an appropriate credit value because lab hours do not translate at the same value as classroom hours. We break it down to 5 classroom hours and 6 lab hours. Three lab hours are equal to one classroom hour for the purpose of determining the credit hours we grant for an EMT-Basic.
6. 8 hours [is suggested].
7. 12 quarter hours [is suggested]
8. Would recommend 8 hours.
9. We have it as a 5 credit hour course
10. 8-9 hours [is suggested].
11. 8 quarter hours [is suggested].
12. 8-9 semester hours [is suggested].
13. The new scope of practice for the EMT-Basic is not reflected in the learning outcomes. The new skills are under the direction of a physician or designee:
 1. Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP)
 2. Supraglottic airway of pulseless and apneic patients
 3. End tidal carbon dioxide monitoring and detecting
 4. Assisting with EMS-provided epinephrine with verbal medical direction
 5. Assisting with EMS-provided nitroglycerin with verbal medical direction
 6. Assisting with EMS-provided metered dose inhaler with verbal medical direction
 7. Setting up of an intravenous administration kit
 8. Set up and application of a cardiac monitor
 9. Set up and application of a 12-lead electrocardiogram

14. According to state BOR advisement, our credit hour assignment for this course is 5 hours and would be no more than 6. Increasing credit hours will increase the cost of the EMT-B course and may limit students who enroll.
15. One reason we use a lower number of quarter hours for this program is to keep the cost down, but we do not consider a lab hour equal to a classroom hour.
16. This is in line with what we offer here.
17. This will be a great help for all vocational schools and their students.
18. Would like to see clinical hours increased to 20 but I understand that sites are becoming more of an issue as time goes by, so what to do?
19. Based upon current theory hours in class
20. The only change I would make is to include a current state EMT certification, EMT-B or higher, or National Registry at EMT-B or higher.
21. Our minimum passing rate is 77% on all exams
22. All credit hours should be the same ratio e.g., First Responder (40 hrs.) should be 2-3 credit hours and EMT-B (130 hrs.) should be 8-9hours. In both 16.25 hours equal 1 credit hour.
23. I believe the calculation of the hours is incorrect -- I believe the ratio of lecture to lab hours is off.
24. Six patient assessments five adult one pediatric required for successful completion

EMT - Intermediate

Respondents overwhelmingly agreed that the credit hours assigned to the EMT- I CTAN were appropriate. Moreover, 69 of 72 (95.8%) respondents agreed that the learning outcomes appropriately described the skills and knowledge needed to transition from career-technical adult education into higher education and receive college credit for EMT-I content.

Please note that some of the comments provided by respondents are outside the authority of the Ohio Board of Regents and/or the Ohio Department of Education. Via this document, these comments will be shared with the appropriate authority. That authority may chose to act on such comments at its own discretion.

As with First Responder and EMT – B many comments were directed at the credit hour value assigned to the EMT-I CTAN. However, 91.2% of respondents agreed that 8 semester or 12 quarter hours of college credit were appropriate for the EMT-I content. Some confusion may exist with the credit hours. College credit would be awarded to persons holding current Ohio certification as an EMT-Intermediate when such persons have completed their EMT-Intermediate course work at a public career-technical institution and upon matriculating into an emergency medical associate degree program. Thus the student would be excused from taking EMT-Intermediate content and would receive college credit for the completed content. Please note that the credit

awarded for EMT-I does not replace any portion of the EMT – Paramedic curricula as it is a separate course of study.

Questions regarding the EMT – I CTAN?

1. Do you approve of the hours (8 semester/12 quarter hours) recommended for this CTAN?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	91.2%	67
No	8.2%	6

2. Do you approve of this CTAN?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	95.8%	69
No	4.2%	3

Comments regarding the EMT – I CTAN.

1. We charge students 10 quarter hours for the Intermediate class. Our thoughts are that there are three hours of hands on training each week. This permits us to lower the cost for students to take the class hence making it more available to low income students.
2. 9 semester hours is suggested.
3. 6-7 semester hours is suggested.
4. 7 or 8 quarter credit hours is suggested.
5. Would recommend 10 but do not offer this course at this time.
6. 8 quarter hours is suggested.
7. The granting of lab credit has never been 1 lab hour + 1 credit hour at any institution that I have attended or taught at. The additional income by increasing the credit hours would be helpful on some levels, but I think it would be counterproductive at our institution.
8. This will be a great help for vocational schools and their students. I feel that this will help our profession grow and the paramedic students will be able to work toward a degree.
9. The EMT-B and EMT-I courses are basically the same number of classroom hours. Why would the Intermediate course give more credit hours? Also, would a

student receive 15 semester hours if he/she took the Basic and the Intermediate courses?

10. My only change would be to include current certification at EMT-I or higher.
11. Need to include the required skills portion per the Div of EMS to match our curriculum
12. I believe the calculation of the hours is incorrect -- I believe the ratio of lecture to lab hours is off.

EMT - Paramedic

Respondents overwhelmingly agreed that the credit hours assigned to the EMT- P CTAN were appropriate. Moreover, 68 of 71 (95.8%) respondents agreed that the learning outcomes appropriately described the skills and knowledge needed to transition from career-technical adult education into higher education and receive college credit for EMT-P content.

Please note that some of the comments provided by respondents are outside the authority of the Ohio Board of Regents and/or the Ohio Department of Education. Via this document, these comments will be shared with the appropriate authority. That authority may chose to act on such comments at its own discretion.

One disclaimer needs mentioned. The 30 semester/45 quarter hours of credit to be granted to matriculating students may clash with an institution's residency requirements. In such cases, students must meet the degree requirements set forth by the degree granting institution.

According to the minutes of the July 7, 2008 meeting of the EMT Writing Panel, 30 semester/45 quarter hours of college credit were recommended by the faculty panel.

Questions regarding the EMT – P CTAN.

1. Do you approve of the hours (30 semester/45 quarter hours) recommended for this CTAN?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	88.9%	64
No	11.1%	8

2. Do you approve of this CTAN?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	95.8%	68
No	4.2%	3

Comments regarding the EMT-P CTAN.

1. 35 semester hours is suggested.
2. 24 semester hours without college level A & P; 27 semester hours if college level A & P is included.
3. 36-40 hours is suggested.
4. 36 quarter hours is suggested.
5. 38-40 quarter hours is suggested.
6. 24-26 semester hours is suggested.
7. 24-25 hours is suggested.
8. 40 quarter hours is suggested.
9. This is a comment in relation to all of the EMS courses. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) training is mandatory for certification in the State of Ohio. Courses IS-100 and IS 700 are a requirement for certification at any level of EMS provider.
10. Increasing the credit hour to 30 semester hours would increase the cost of paramedic courses possibly limiting enrollment. 30 Credit hours is more than half of our current requirement for completion of the Associate Degree of Emergency Medical Services or Fire Services. This may not be looked upon favorably by our College Board.
11. My, admittedly unscientific, review of the websites for the Colleges offering the paramedic certification showed a range of 24-28 semester hours/36-42 quarter hours. I'm a bit confused, to say the least . Is the EMT-Basic credit being

included here also? If not, we would be giving⁹ the student who had completed EMT-B and paramedic 55 quarter hours. That is over half the hours in our degree program. Other than general education courses, where is the “value-added” in the degree? I don’t find time for additional EMS courses.

12. I was on the OBOR committee and do not have recollection of us coming to the 45 qtr. hrs. conclusion; I have seen at least one e-mail sent to Bob Casto from another committee member with the same question/confusion. Some clarification is needed as to how the 45 hours was reached. IF a pre-requisite Anatomy, Physiology and Pathophysiology course is included in those hours, then we are a little closer to what the majority of college paramedic program quarter hours are, but I don't think that is the case.
13. This is exactly in line with what we are doing.
14. Will additional hours be awarded for the Anatomy & Physiology that is required prior to entering the Paramedic Program?
15. We do not have a medic program but intend to start one in the near future.
16. Credit condition 3 doesn't support hospital based programs that must meet same training requirements.
17. This will be a great help to vocational schools and their students. Paramedic students will now be able to receive credit and then obtain a degree.
18. Clinical hour requirements and skills numbers requirements
19. All levels should have the same ratio e.g., 16,25 = 1 credit hour
20. This is a very difficult course structure to determine credit hours. The clinical component is very large. There are potential pre-requisites and co-requisite issues. I am comfortable that 45 is very close to a reasonable number. However, with 45 credit hours, the cost of this program for some areas of the state will increase.
21. No comment we do not offer this course.
22. Only if this follows the National Standard Paramedic curriculum.

Key:

CTAN = Career-Technical Articulation Number

CTAG = Career-Technical Assurance Guide