



Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your inquiry concerning the Emergency Medical Care Distance Learning Program at Western Carolina University. This unique curriculum has as its objective to graduate individuals who possess the knowledge and credentials to assume a leadership position in emergency medical services. Our primary focus is preparing students for administrative, research, and teaching careers in emergency health care.

The curriculum consists of two concentrations. Students may choose from Science (lab sciences may require attendance on campus or at your local community college) or Health Management. As such, we are well equipped to provide a varied educational experience to the distance learning student who has already completed a paramedic training program or U.S. Army SOCM or 18D training.

The EMC Distance Learning Program is designed such that working EMS professionals and military personnel will be able to earn their BS degree without interfering with their family and work commitments. The program is delivered predominantly over the Internet, although a single 2-day lab session on the Cullowhee campus is required (military personnel are exempt from this requirement). This mixture of online learning and traditional lab session minimizes the inconveniences of missing work to attend class yet permits faculty and students to interact in a traditional learning environment.

Although distance education affords some conveniences not available at campus-based programs, the teaching and learning methods are very different from the traditional, lecture-based instructional model. Potential students are encouraged to perform a self-inventory of their learning styles to ensure that they are well-suited for the unique challenges of learning at a distance, particularly with regards to time management.

Classes begin in August of each year. If you are interested in applying to the next cohort, please complete the [EMC program application](#). In addition, you must apply to the University if you have not done so. Your WCU and EMC application must be received and complete (including receipt of transcripts) **no later than January 15**. If you need to apply to the University, you may apply online using the [Distance Learning Application](#).

Should you be admitted to the Program, you must complete a mandatory orientation session prior to beginning your courses. This orientation session is delivered over the Internet, during which students will be oriented to the Program and receive instruction in Blackboard, the software program used to deliver course materials over the Internet. Details regarding the orientation session will be included in your acceptance letter which will be delivered via email.

I hope you will consider attending Western Carolina University and pursuing a bachelor's degree in Emergency Medical Care through our Distance Learning Program. Being a young profession, the need is great for trained and educated individuals to take leadership roles in emergency medical services planning, supervision, education, and research. I feel strongly that this program prepares the student for those positions.

If you have questions about the Emergency Medical Care Program or the application process, please email me at [wmandeville@email.wcu.edu](mailto:wmandeville@email.wcu.edu).

Sincerely,

Austin Mandeville MHS, NRP  
Distance Program Coordinator  
Emergency Medical Care Program



## Application Instructions

All application materials should be submitted by **January 15** for August enrollment. Applications that remain incomplete on January 15 will not be considered for admission.

Please use the checklist below to be certain that your application is complete.

1. If you have not done so already, please complete the [Distance Learning Program application to Western Carolina University](#). **Make sure the application says WCU Distance Learning at the top.** We have a resident campus program, as well, and it uses a separate application. Completing the wrong application will delay your application and you will not get accurate communication from the university.  
\* Note for completing the application: Do not list on the application any previous community colleges you've attended for non-college credit (con-ed courses); list only those institutions for which you attended and received college credit. You may apply online at:
2. Pay the application fee as part of the university application process. (You can pay this during the online university application.)
3. Request official transcripts from all institutions from which you have received academic credit. Send them to the following address:  
**Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
Western Carolina University  
102 Cordelia Camp Building  
Cullowhee, NC 28723**  
Do not submit any transcripts for non-credit courses such as ACLS, PALS, or other continuing education courses to the WCU admissions office. Do not enclose copies of your transcripts with the application. Transcripts must be mailed directly from the registrar of the school(s) you attended to the WCU admissions office.
4. If you served, also request a copy of your Military transcript sent to the address above.
5. Complete the [EMC Distance Learning Program application](#).