

What can I do with a degree in...

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

## Why study **EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE?**

A degree in Emergency Medical Care prepares individuals to recognize, assess, and manage medical emergencies in prehospital settings and to supervise ambulance personnel. This program includes instruction in basic and advanced life support procedures.

The first Baccalaureate Emergency Medical Care (EMC) program in the nation, Western Carolina University's EMC Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs through the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions. The Program is one of the only institutions in the nation offering a unique Bachelor of Science (BS) degree dedicated to pre-hospital providers.



## What are the **DEGREE OPTIONS?**

**Bachelor of Science in Emergency Medical Care**

## What are the **CONCENTRATIONS?**

The two available concentration options allow you to focus on an area of interest in either **Health Management** or **Clinical Science**.

**Health Management:** The Health Management concentration prepares graduates for leadership roles in healthcare, EMS administration positions, and graduate school.

**Clinical Science:** The Clinical Science concentration prepares graduates for medical school, physician assistant programs, dental school, physical therapy programs, and graduate school.

## What is the **ADMISSION PROCESS?**

Admission to the residential EMC Program is competitive. To be eligible for the professional course sequence, students must have completed 60 semester hours, including Liberal Studies and pre-professional course requirements, with a minimum 2.5-grade point average. Current paramedic certification is required for entry into the distance education program. Prospective students are encouraged to develop a strong foundation in basic sciences and communications skills. For full admission requirements and deadlines, visit [emc.wcu.edu](http://emc.wcu.edu)

## What **JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?**

Our graduates move on to a variety of roles including: Paramedic, Shift Supervisor, EMS Instructor, Training Officer, Emergency Services Director, Program Director, EMS Director, Clinical Coordinator, Operations Manager, Rescue Operations Supervisor, Critical Care Paramedic, Education Coordinator, etc.

## Who employs **EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE graduates?**

Our graduates are prepared to fill various roles in public & private ambulance services, fire and police departments, hospitals, large industries, city health agencies, park services, ski patrols, and air ambulances.

# MAJOR MAP

**How to use this map:** Review the four categories and suggestions of activities and when you should consider engaging in them. Remember, these are just suggestions! There is a fillable space for you to add in any other ideas you have to set yourself up for success in life after college.

## 1st YEAR

## 2nd YEAR

### EXCEL IN ACADEMICS

What you take will depend on what concentration you expect to have when you apply for the program. Many first-year courses focus heavily on Biology, Chemistry, and Math. Students should take EMC 240 and 241 if they do not yet hold an EMT certification. Check out the [8-semester plan](#) for your concentration and make an appointment with your advisor.

Courses your second year continue into the science fields such as Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Be sure to also get your liberal studies requirements completed by your second year. Check out the [8-semester plan](#) for your concentration and make an appointment with your advisor.

### GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

Check out [WCU's DegreePlus program](#) and choose which events in any of the four categories you want to attend. Categories include: Professionalism, Teamwork, Leadership, or Cultural Responsiveness.

See what on-campus employment opportunities are available by logging in to JobCat via your MyWCU.

Get involved with the Epsilon Sigma Pi, the EMC student organization.

If you are thinking about attending a health-related professional school, start engaging in hands-on experiences required in professional school admissions.

Engage deeper with [DegreePlus](#); choose an additional competency to complete

### BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY

Connect with the [Center for Service Learning](#) and ask about the [Lily Award](#), a program aimed to encourage students to be connected with their community.

Develop deeper relationships with the organizations for which you volunteer. Ask for special projects or responsibilities that you can highlight on a resume.

If you want to [study abroad](#), this is a good year to have that experience. Consider opportunities like [Global Health Internships](#).

### PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE

Further explore your career options or career interests using the [Center for Career and Professional Development's](#) online resources, [Focus 2](#), and Onet Online.

Connect with a career counselor early on to explore opportunities and experiences you can do while in college to further develop your professional resume.

Check out [CCPD's list of career-building activities](#) and participate in an activity this year, such as attending Career Fair Plus.

Start a spreadsheet of professional schools you wish to apply to in a few years with their admission requirements so that you are aware of what the expectations are.

## Looking for a minor? Consider these options:

Biology  
Chemistry  
Emergency & Disaster Man.

Environmental Science  
Natural Resource Management  
Spanish

### 3rd YEAR

What you take your third year will vary depending on your concentration, but many students will take EMC 320, 321, 340, 341, 350, 351, 360, 361, 370, 381, and 382. Students will also engage in their clinical experiences starting in their third year. Check out the [8-semester plan](#) for your concentration and make an appointment with your advisor.

Engage with your internship site supervisors. Go above and beyond their expectations.

Consider networking with professionals in your field at national or regional professional conferences such as the [EMS World Expo Conference](#).

Continue to build relationships and volunteer with area organizations in your field.

Connect with alumni in your field through [LinkedIn](#)

Visit the CCPD to hone your professional resume and cover letter. Apply for internships. Utilize the [Writing and Learning Commons](#) for MCAT, GRE, and other professional exam preparation sessions. Take the MCAT, GRE, etc. Use [Big Interview](#) to learn more about professional interviews.

Schedule a visit to tour professional schools of your choice, if applicable.

### 4th YEAR

Courses in your final year will continue to focus heavily on EMC topics. Courses include EMC 410, 411, 420, 421, 430, 451, 452, 461, 483, 485, and 496. Check out the [8-semester plan](#) for your concentration, make an appointment with your advisor, complete your degree audit, and [apply for graduation!](#)

Investigate requirements for full-time jobs. Assess what skills or experiences you're lacking and invest time in seeking additional opportunities such as certification programs, classes, or professional development workshops during your last year to fill that gap. Connect with your faculty advisor or career counselor.

Join professional EMS organizations such as the [National Association of EMTs](#) and the [National Association of EMS Physicians](#).

Network with employers and non-profits at the annual Career Fair Plus event, held each October and February.

Apply to professional school, if applicable.

Look for and apply for jobs between 4 and 6 months before graduation.

Polish your resume, cover letter, and interview skills by using the [CCPD](#).

Internships are still the number-one educational experience employers look for in a recent college graduate resume. (Chronicle of Higher Education's study on 50,000 employers)

**DID YOU KNOW?**

# MORE INFORMATION

## **CLINICAL** Information

Students are required to have approximately 800 hours of clinical experience. Most students are placed in their clinical sites starting in their third year through their fourth year in the program.

## **SKILLS LEARNED** in the classroom

The core competencies will center on developing skills, knowledge, and attitudes such as:

- critical thinking
- problem solving
- written and oral communication
- professional teamwork
- analytical and synthetical reasoning
- concentration
- curiosity and creativity
- viewing diverse perspectives

## **KNOWLEDGE** Base

This program will prepare students to:

- Apply critical thinking and decision-making processes

in an emergency setting

- Identify and treat life-threatening medical and traumatic emergencies
- Deliver cutting-edge prehospital medical care
- Understand advanced human pathophysiology
- Analyze research and its application to medical practice
- Be a leader in the medical community

## Professional **RESOURCES**

- National Association of EMS Physicians: [www.naemsp.org](http://www.naemsp.org)
- National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians: [www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)
- North Carolina Office of EMS: [www.oems.nc.gov](http://www.oems.nc.gov)

## **QUESTIONS?**

For questions, please visit the School of Health Sciences Student Services Center at [ssc.wcu.edu](http://ssc.wcu.edu) or visit the Emergency Medical Care website at [emc.wcu.edu](http://emc.wcu.edu)

To schedule an appointment with a career counselor, contact the Center for Career and Professional Development, 828-227-7133 or [careerservices@wcu.edu](mailto:careerservices@wcu.edu).