

### **EMS Initial Education Program Modifications for COVID-19 - Last Update: 4/17/2020**

Given the current COVID-19 Pandemic and the latest guidance that has come from CoAEMSP, the Georgia Office of EMS and Trauma is allowing for some modification of the requirements for EMS initial education students/programs affected by COVID-19.

#### **NOTES on modifications related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE):**

- Any approved modifications will end once the PHE is over (OEMS will determine).
- Must have approval of the Program Director, Program Medical Director and endorsement by the Program Advisory Committee for **each** modification. All approvals must be documented thoroughly. \*
- Documentation must be kept on **each** modification for **each** cohort/student.
- Must make notification to the Regional EMS Office **prior** to any modification being made. Regional EMS Office will evaluate and may require further documentation or alteration of proposed modification(s).\*\*
- Each EMS initial education program has the responsibility to prepare entry-level competent EMS providers. Just because we are in a Public Health Emergency, this goal has not changed – programs still need to provide the best education and clinical/field experiences possible to prepare their graduates to enter the EMS workforce. We **must** provide **competent EMS professionals** to our communities and the citizens of Georgia.

#### **Progression:**

- Didactic/Skills → Clinical → Field Experience → Capstone Field Internship (Paramedic)
- This may need to be modified during PHE.

#### **Hours:**

- Clinical hours - these hours may need to be modified if there are no clinical sites available.
- Field Experience hours - There is no modification for **State** minimums of hours for EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic. **Program** minimums may have modifications after approval\* and notification to the Regional EMS Office.\*\*
- Non-Capstone Hours (EMT/AEMT/Paramedic):
  - May ride with licensed MFR - if appropriate preceptor.
  - May count time at work if riding with approved/appropriate level preceptor - student may not be in the patient compartment alone with the patient during transport. Must have approval of the program\* and the agency (Agency Director, Medical Director).
  - Student **Must** do the skills/assessments/etc. that they are counting.
  - May not count as team lead.
  - Contracts must be in place for all clinical/field placements.
- Non-Capstone (Paramedic Only):
  - Up to 25% of **State** minimum hours (300, so 25% = 75 hrs) may be done with simulation, which should be done to the level of the NREMT Integrated OOH Scenario and done in real-time (no acceleration of times).

- For simulations to count, students must:
  - Complete a full patient assessment;
  - Determine/direct the management and transport of the patient;
  - Complete a simulated handoff to an RN/MD; and
  - Complete a Patient Care Report (preferably an electronic one).
- Full documentation must be included and available for inspection at any time
- Schedule of the "on-campus" clinicals/field experience must be provided with at least one week notice to the Regional EMS Director and Regional EMS Training Coordinator.

**Skills/Contacts/Assessments:**

- Programs and students must make every attempt to attain all **State** specified minimums during clinical and field rotations (attempts must be documented thoroughly).
- If the student is unable to achieve **State** minimums during clinical and field rotations, the program may supplement up to 50% (per category or skill – see 2020 file review form) with simulated patients. This should be evaluated on a case by case basis close to or after all clinical and field experience hours minimums have been met and must be approved. \*

**Capstone Field Internship:**

- AEMTs are still required to have 1 team lead.
- Paramedics are still required to have 20 team leads and 48 hours minimum for capstone.
- No waivers/modifications are permitted for **State** minimums related to leadership/capstone. CoAEMSP is allowing modifications for Paramedic **Program** minimums.

**NOTE: Any cohort graduating on or after 5/1/2020 should use the 2020 version of the EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic File Review Forms, respectively. The new file review forms are required for all cohorts graduating on or after 6/1/2020. These will be posted on the Office of EMS and Trauma webpage by Monday, 4/19/2020.**