



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Emergency Medical Technician Experience Program (EMTEP)?

In 2022, the Center for Pre-Health Advising (CPHA) and the Fire Department of Mount Horeb (FDMH) partnered to launch EMTEP. EMTEP is a two-year program that seeks to improve access and equity in healthcare by supporting staffing in rural emergency services and providing professional development experiences to diverse groups of students interested in healthcare careers. EMTEP is a pathway for undergraduate students at UW-Madison to become EMT-Basic-certified and gain clinical experience and enhanced professional networks in preparation for future careers in healthcare, such as medicine, nursing, and others.

Is prior healthcare experience needed to join EMTEP?

No, prior healthcare experience is not needed.

Can I take classes at UW while attending the Summer EMT-Basic course?

Yes, you can take other summer classes in addition to the EMT-Basic course. Current EMTEP members successfully completed UW-Madison courses while attending the EMT class at Madison Area Technical College.

Can I join EMTEP if I am already EMT-certified?

Yes, current EMTs are encouraged to apply. You may be eligible for EMT tuition reimbursement.

How do the two funding paths differ?

If accepted to EMTEP, you will be offered admission through one of two paths. Path 1 includes a CPHA scholarship to cover all EMT-Basic certification costs, such as EMT class tuition. Students accepted through Path 2 pay for these expenses upfront and receive a full refund after completing the program. Prices may vary slightly from year to year. In 2023, the total cost of EMT-Basic tuition and books at Madison Area Technical College was ~\$1,400/student.

Is a two-year commitment required?

Yes, a good faith two-year commitment is integral to your success in EMTEP. After obtaining your EMT license, Year 1 will focus on familiarizing you to medical equipment, patient care protocols, and standard operating procedures specific to FDMH. During Year 2, you will be able to participate in patient care decision making in the prehospital setting, shadow physicians at UW Hospital to expand your understanding of prehospital-to-inpatient continuity of care, and gain leadership experience as an EMTEP instructor, peer-mentor, transportation coordinator, or outreach/social media liaison.

I would be a Senior during Year 1 of EMTEP and will have graduated by Year 2. Can I still join?

Yes, you can join EMTEP as a Senior if you plan to continue in the program for one year after graduating from UW. Two current EMTs joined EMTEP as Seniors in Summer 2022 and graduated from UW in Spring 2023. They continue to be part of EMTEP and are employed as in-hospital technicians while working to strengthen their applications for medical school.

Can I join FDMH directly if I am not accepted to EMTEP?

Yes, you can join FDMH without being accepted to EMTEP. Due to funding limitations, EMTEP may not be able to accept all qualified applicants. In this case, you may re-apply directly to FDMH for volunteer positions as ambulance driver, EMT, or firefighter. Please note that these volunteer pathways are independent from CPHA, have different funding/reimbursement mechanisms and hourly requirements, and do not include transportation and shadowing.

Can I pursue additional emergency certifications during EMTEP?

Yes, you may pursue additional certifications during EMTEP, such as Advanced EMT (AEMT), ambulance driver, or firefighter, provided you continue fulfilling all EMTEP requirements, including weekly Monday night trainings and bi-monthly weekend shifts. Please note that additional FDMH requirements may apply.

What are Monday trainings like?

We meet every Monday at ~5:30pm for in-person or virtual training. For in-person training, we meet at UW and either train on campus or travel to FDMH (transportation to FDMH is provided). In-person training focuses on hands-on simulation-based scenarios. For virtual training, we meet on Zoom and discuss operational and medical concepts, including pathophysiology lectures and case reviews with our physician partner.

EMTEP training is scheduled in accordance with UW-Madison's academic calendar. Training is not scheduled during holidays, winter break, spring break, and final exam weeks. Training during the summer between Year 1 and Year 2 is only offered on the fourth Monday of the month. Training duration typically varies from ~1-3 hours per session.

What are weekend shifts like?

Teams of two EMTEP students are typically assigned to one weekend ambulance shift every eight weeks for the entire duration of the two-year program. Weekend shifts begin at 6pm on Friday and end on Sunday at 6pm. Please plan to arrive by ~5:30-5:45pm on Friday to help prepare the ambulance for your shift and be prepared to stay a few hours past 6pm on Sunday in case there is a 911 call right before shift change. Transportation to and from FDMH will be provided.

Each EMTEP student works with a driver and a crew chief, who may be certified at the AEMT or Paramedic levels. Together, you will respond to 911 calls in a large, mostly rural region of southwest Dane County. Depending on the type of call, you will work with other emergency professionals, such as firefighters and law enforcement officers.

There are two ambulances at FDMH: a primary ambulance that responds to most calls and a secondary ambulance that responds when the primary is already on another call. EMTs may alternate between the primary and secondary ambulances throughout the weekend. During down time, you can rest, cook, workout, watch TV, play games, or study. Bedrooms and bathrooms are private and clean sheets, towels, and body wash/shampoo are provided.

CONTACT US

If you have further questions, please contact Julio Diaz at jdiaz@fdmh.org

