



Texas Department of State Health Services

GETAC

EMS Education Committee

EMS Course Coordinator Survey

Submitted by

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Background

Survey Objectives

The GETAC EMS Education committee during its August 2007 meeting was asked to investigate the needs and status of EMS education in Texas to guide future initiatives. After several subsequent EMS Education Committee meetings discussing the intended audience and what questions should be asked, a survey was crafted for DSHS certified EMS Course Coordinators.

The primary objective of the survey is to:

- **determine course entry requirements;**
- **determine course length in contact hours;**
- **number of enrolled and graduating students;**
- **faculty education requirements;**
- **clinical site locations;**
- **pass rates;**
- **medical director involvement.**

Data Collection and Methodology

Department of State Health Services provided a list of all Texas certified course coordinators' email. The email list was based on emails that are on file for course coordinators to access the National Registry of EMTs website. Lance Villers, PhD, LP from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (GETAC EMS Education member) volunteered to distribute and compile the committee-created survey. Using SurveyMonkey (<http://www.surveymonkey.com>), the survey was created and sent online to 150 course coordinators.

The Governor's EMS/Trauma Advisory Council's (GETAC) EMS Education Committee needs your help. In order to make informed decisions about the future of EMS education, the EMS Education Committee needs data about the current state of EMS education and training in Texas.

We are requesting information about your program so the Committee can make recommendations and decisions about many upcoming state and national initiatives and changes.

We are sending this survey directly to you based on your status as an EMS education program director with the National Registry of EMTs. This survey is part of GETAC's commitment to represent the needs and interests of EMS education in the state.

Should you have any questions or concerns about this survey please contact: Lance Villers, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, GETAC EMS Education Committee member, 210-567-8760 or a GETAC EMS Education Committee member.

The survey contained 25 questions pertaining to the objectives listed above. Survey responses are summarized in Table 1 and 2.

Table 1. Number of potential respondents from initial population

# of Potential Respondents Provided for the Survey	# of Potential Respondents Provided for Survey with email addresses	# of Potential Respondents Provided Without email addresses	# of Potential Respondents were sent emails with link to the survey
364	157	207	157

Table 2. Number of actual respondents of those potential respondents who received emails with survey link

# of Potential Respondents Provided for the Survey	# of Potential Respondents Provided for Survey with email addresses	# of Potential Respondents Provided Without email addresses	# of Potential Respondents were sent emails with link to the survey
157	7	79	53% (79/150)

Findings

GETAC Survey

1. What type of educational program do you coordinate?		Response Percent	Response Count
Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/>	21.0%	26
Basic	<input type="checkbox"/>	29.8%	37
Both	<input type="checkbox"/>	49.2%	61
<i>answered question</i>			124
<i>skipped question</i>			0

2. ECA		Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Lecture		48.88	2493	51
Skills/Lab		23.23	1092	47
Clinical/Internships		2.70	116	43
<i>answered question</i>				52
<i>skipped question</i>				72

3. EMTB		Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Lecture		109.63	9209	84
Skills/Lab		53.09	4247	80
Clinical/Internship		66.23	5563	84
<i>answered question</i>				84
<i>skipped question</i>				40

4. EMTI (does not include EMTB)			
	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Lecture	139.49	6277	45
Skills/Lab	74.31	3121	42
Clinical/Internship	132.86	5846	44
		<i>answered question</i>	45
		<i>skipped question</i>	79

5. EMTP (does not include EMTB)			
	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Lecture	398.77	22331	56
Skills/Lab	175.34	9293	53
Clinical/Internship	388.35	21359	55
		<i>answered question</i>	56
		<i>skipped question</i>	68

6. How many courses of each of the following do you offer yearly?			
	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
EMTB	3.95	300	76
EMTI	1.70	73	43
EMTP	1.69	88	52
		<i>answered question</i>	78
		<i>skipped question</i>	46

7. How many students were enrolled in your program during Academic Year 2006-2007?

	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
EMTB	65.91	4943	75
EMTI	21.36	897	42
EMTP	37.62	1881	50
	<i>answered question</i>		77
	<i>skipped question</i>		47

8. How many students graduated from your program in Academic Year 2006-2007?

	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
EMTB	48.35	3433	71
EMTI	14.18	553	39
EMTP	27.54	1322	48
	<i>answered question</i>		74
	<i>skipped question</i>		50

9. Indicate the minimum educational requirements of your teaching faculty and preceptors for each of the following positions:

	DSHS Provider or Instructor Certification	Instructor or Provider in various "card courses"	Two year college degree	Four year college degree	Graduate degree	Response Count
Program Director or Coordinator	24.7% (19)	5.2% (4)	27.3% (21)	32.5% (25)	10.4% (8)	77
Full-time teaching	32.8% (21)	23.4% (15)	32.8% (21)	9.4% (6)	1.6% (1)	64
Part-time teaching	43.2% (32)	43.2% (32)	13.5% (10)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	74
Clinical Preceptors	54.4% (37)	35.3% (24)	10.3% (7)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	68
	<i>answered question</i>					77
	<i>skipped question</i>					47

10. Indicate the number of faculty you have in the falling positions

	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Full Time Teaching Faculty	2.22	153	69
Full Time Precepting Faculty	1.12	66	59
Part-time Teaching Faculty	8.92	678	76
Part-time Precepting Faculty	6.99	482	69
	<i>answered question</i>		77
	<i>skipped question</i>		47

11. Please indicate which of the following serve as preceptors for students in hospital/clinical settings: (Select all that apply)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Full Time or Part-Time Teaching Faculty from your educational program only <input type="checkbox"/>	19.5%	15
Hospital staff only <input type="checkbox"/>	31.2%	24
Both program full and part-time faculty and hospital staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	50.6%	39
Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	6.5%	5
	<i>answered question</i>	77
	<i>skipped question</i>	47

12. Please indicate the type of students assessments you utilize <u>most often</u> in your classes:			Response Percent	Response Count	
Instructor or Program-created questions and exams	<input type="checkbox"/>		37.7%	29	
Textbook publisher test banks	<input type="checkbox"/>		49.4%	38	
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>		13.0%	10	
				answered question	77
				skipped question	47

13. Please indicate the type of clinical sites you use for student clinical experiences (Select all that apply)			Response Percent	Response Count	
Emergency Room	<input type="checkbox"/>		100.0%	77	
Operating Room	<input type="checkbox"/>		51.9%	40	
Labor and Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>		67.5%	52	
Intensive Care Unit (includes Surgical, Cardiac, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>		58.4%	45	
Cardiac Catheterization Lab	<input type="checkbox"/>		31.2%	24	
Pre-operating Room	<input type="checkbox"/>		7.8%	6	
Psychiatric Unit	<input type="checkbox"/>		19.5%	15	
Non-emergency EMS (transfer services)	<input type="checkbox"/>		20.8%	16	
Emergency EMS (911 services)	<input type="checkbox"/>		97.4%	75	
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>		28.6%	22	
				answered question	77
				skipped question	47

14. Please indicate which of the following simulator training and mannequins you use in your program: (Select all that apply)		Response Percent	Response Count
Human patient simulators (Sim-man, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	63.2%	48
Web or computer program-based simulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	38.2%	29
Training scenarios (moulage, scripted scenarios, MCI, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	84.2%	64
Standard CPR or airway mannequins	<input type="checkbox"/>	98.7%	75
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	7.9%	6
		<i>answered question</i>	76
		<i>skipped question</i>	48

15. If able, would you replace some hospital or EMS field experience with human patient simulators?		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	42.1%	32
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	57.9%	44
		<i>answered question</i>	76
		<i>skipped question</i>	48

16. Do you have dedicated laboratory/skills training space (other than classroom teaching space)?		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	51.9%	40
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	48.1%	37
		<i>answered question</i>	77
		<i>skipped question</i>	47

17. For the Fall 2006 to Summer 2007 academic year, what were the percentages of first time pass rates for your students on the NREMT written examinations for each of the following levels? (Please type in only the percentage number, e.g., 50 for 50%)

	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
EMTB	58.60	4459	65
EMTI	57.83	1677	29
EMTP	60.93	2498	41
	answered question		67
	skipped question		57

18. Is your program CoAEMSP accredited?

	Response Percent	Response Count	
Yes <input type="text"/>	16.0%	12	
No <input type="text"/>	68.0%	51	
In progress <input type="text"/>	10.7%	8	
Other (Please specify) <input type="text"/>	5.3%	4	
	answered question		75
	skipped question		49

19. Does your educational program currently offer any programs on-line (Internet, video-conference, CD/DVD, blended, etc.)

	Response Percent	Response Count	
Yes <input type="text"/>	32.9%	25	
No <input type="text"/>	67.1%	51	
	answered question		76
	skipped question		48

20. Are your students required:			
	Yes	No	Response Count
To have a drug screen for admission into your program?	36.5% (27)	63.5% (47)	74
To have a drug screen for clinical attendance in hospitals/clinics or EMS services?	52.7% (39)	47.3% (35)	74
To show proof of immunizations for program admission or clinical participation?	93.4% (71)	6.6% (5)	76
To undergo a criminal background check prior to program admission or clinical attendance?	81.6% (62)	18.4% (14)	76
		<i>answered question</i>	76
		<i>skipped question</i>	48

21. Prior to admission, do you assess students' reading and/or math competencies?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	53.2%	41
No	<input type="checkbox"/>	46.8%	36
		<i>answered question</i>	77
		<i>skipped question</i>	47

22. Please indicate how you assess reading and math competencies:	
	Response Count
	41
<i>answered question</i>	41
<i>skipped question</i>	83

23. Has the medical director of your education program taken the national medical directors course?			Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>		31.0%	22
No	<input type="checkbox"/>		69.0%	49
answered question				71
skipped question				53

24. How many hours per month does your medical director teach in each of the following venues:			
	Response Average	Response Total	Response Count
Lectures	7.22	491	68
Clinical instruction in hospital	7.49	442	59
Clinical instruction in skills/lab	1.22	72	59
answered question			68
skipped question			56

25. Please indicate if your medical director is involved in the following areas:			
	Yes	No	Response Count
Student admission	19.4% (14)	80.6% (58)	72
Curriculum review	89.2% (66)	10.8% (8)	74
General consultation	98.7% (75)	1.3% (1)	76
Run form/PCR review	45.1% (32)	54.9% (39)	71
answered question			76
skipped question			48

Subjective Responses

Question 11 asked coordinators who served as preceptors for students in hospital clinical settings. "Other" responses included:

- "Medics";
- "EMS";
- "Part-time teaching faculty";
- "preceptors not college faculty";
- "hospital staff and EMS staff".

Question 12 asked to indicate the type of assessment used most often in class. "Other" responses included:

- "Textbook exams that have been validated by faculty";
- "Agency that designs EMS tests";
- "Program has used Textbook publisher testbanks for many years, started creating questions and exams during last 18 months, currently using both to create exams, will no longer use publisher when instructor based exam testbank completed";
- "Test Banks, Essay questions, oral stations";
- "Combination: Platinum Testing Software - All Exiting Exams Textbook Publisher Test Banks - Module Exams Faculty Generated Test Banks - Module Exams";
- "I use a mix of both textbook publisher test banks, program created questions as well as on line test banks";

Question 13 asked to indicated the type of clinical sites used for clinical experiences. "Other" responses included:

- Pediatric Nursing Home;
- Pediatric Trauma Center;
- Minor Emergency Centers
- PT, x-ray, med-surgery floors, postpartum, nursery;
- Dialysis Unit, Poison Control Center, Respiratory Care Department., Pediatric clinic.

Question 14 asked to indicate the type of simulation training and mannequins used. "Other" responses included:

- "All equipment that would be carried on an ambulance";
- "OB mannequins";
- "Standardized patients"

Discussion

This survey asked EMS course coordinators questions pertaining to course hours, entry requirements, clinical locations, pass rates, accreditation, and medical director involvement. The average ECA course was 75 contact hours, EMT was 229 hours, EMT-Intermediate was 347 hours, and Paramedic was 962 hours.

When comparing the number of enrolled students to graduated students, graduation rates were: EMT 73%, EMT-I 67%, and Paramedic 73%; 68% of the responding programs were not CoAEMSP accredited.

Regarding coordinator and teaching faculty minimal educational requirements, 32.5% required a four year degree of program directors. For full-time teaching faculty, 32.8 required either a minimum of DSHS Provider or Instructor certification or a two-year degree (32.8%). Graduate degree were only a minimum requirement for 10.4% of program directors or coordinators. Coordinators used an average of 2.2 full-time faculty and 8.9 part-time teaching faculty in their programs. Regarding precepting for clinical experiences, 50.6% of the responding coordinators used both full- and part-time faculty and hospital staff, 19.5% were full- or part-time teaching faculty from the educational program only. When asked about replacing some hospital or EMS clinical experience for human patient simulators, 57.9% indicated they would not even be able to do so. Also, 48.1% of the respondents indicated they did not have dedicated laboratory or skills training space for students.

For EMS program prerequisites, 81.6% required a criminal background check, 36.5% required a drug screen, and 93.4% required proof of immunizations. 53.2% of the programs assess reading and/or math competencies using Accu-placer, THEA, HOBET, civil service examinations, SAT, ACT, Compass, TABE, college or employer-based examinations, and transcript reviews.

Medical director involvements was highest in hospital clinical instruction (7.5 hours per month) and classroom lecture (7.2 hours per month). Most medical directors involvement was indicated to be for "general consultation" (98.7%) and curriculum review (89.2%).

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