



INSTRUCTIONAL PACKAGE

EMS 118

Advanced Medical Life Support

Effective Term
Fall 2025/Spring 2026/Summer 2026

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Part I: Course Information

Effective Term: Fall 2025/Spring 2026/Summer 2026

COURSE PREFIX: EMS 118

COURSE TITLE: Advanced Medical Life Support

CONTACT HOURS: 1-0-1

CREDIT HOURS: 1

RATIONALE FOR THE COURSE:

Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS) addresses how to fully assess and manage the most common medical crises in patients, offering a "think outside the box" methodology and emphasizing scene size-up, history, interactive group discussion on potential treatment strategies, and physical exam to systematically rule out and consider differential diagnoses.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to present students with a practical method for the management of adult patients suffering from various medical emergencies. Students will be provided with the practical knowledge and skills to effectively manage on-scene adult medical emergencies.

PREREQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:

Prerequisites: EMS 116, EMS 224, EMS 230, EMS 238

Corequisites: EMS 117, EMS 240, EMS 241 EMS 248, EMS 272

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Please visit the [BOOKSTORE](#) online site for most current textbook information.

Enter the semester, course prefix, number and section when prompted and you will be linked to the correct textbook.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

Paramedic Functional Job Analysis / Technical Standards Paramedic Characteristics

The Paramedic must be a confident leader who can accept the challenge and high degree of responsibility entailed in the position. The Paramedic must have excellent judgement and be able to prioritize decisions and act quickly in the best interest of the patient, must be self-disciplined, able to develop patient rapport, interview hostile patients, maintain safe distance, and recognize and utilize communication unique to diverse multicultural groups and ages within those groups.

Must be able to function independently at optimum level in a non-structured environment that is constantly changing.

Even though the Paramedic is generally part of a two-person team generally working with a lower skill and knowledge level Basic EMT, it is the Paramedic who is held responsible for safe and therapeutic administration of drugs including narcotics. Therefore, the Paramedic must not only be knowledgeable about medications but must be able to apply this knowledge in a practical sense. Knowledge and practical application of medications include thoroughly knowing and understanding the general properties of all types of drugs including analgesics, anesthetics, anti-anxiety drugs, sedatives and hypnotics, anti-convulsants, central nervous stimulants, psychotherapeutics which include antidepressants, and other anti-psychotics, anticholinergics, cholinergics, muscle relaxants, anti-dysrhythmics, anti-hypertensives, anticoagulants, diuretics, bronchodilators, ophthalmics, pituitary drugs, gastro-intestinal drugs, hormones, antibiotics, antifungals, antiinflammatories, serums, vaccines, anti-parasitics, and others.

The Paramedic is personally responsible, legally, ethically, and morally for each drug administered, for using correct precautions and techniques, observing and documenting the effects of the drugs administered, keeping one's own pharmacological knowledge base current as to changes and trends in administration and use, keeping abreast of all contraindications to administration of specific drugs to patients based on their constitutional make-up, and using drug reference literature.

The responsibility of the Paramedic includes obtaining a comprehensive drug history from the patient that includes names of drugs, strength, daily usage and dosage. The Paramedic must take into consideration that many factors, in relation to the history given, can affect the type of medication to be given. For example, some patients may be taking several medications prescribed by several different doctors and some may lose track of what they have or have not taken. Some may be using nonprescription/over the counter drugs. Awareness of drug reactions and the synergistic effects of drugs combined with other medicines and in some instances, food, is imperative. The Paramedic must also take into consideration the possible risks of medication administered to a pregnant mother and the fetus, keeping in mind that drugs may cross the placenta.

The Paramedic must be cognizant of the impact of medications on pediatric patients based on size and weight, special concerns related to newborns, geriatric patients and the physiological effects of aging such as the way skin can tear in the geriatric population with relatively little to no pressure. There must be an awareness of the high abuse potential of controlled substances and the potential for addiction, therefore, the Paramedic must be thorough in report writing and able to justify why a particular narcotic was used and why a particular amount was given. The ability to measure and re-measure drip rates for controlled substances/medications is essential. Once medication is stopped or not used, the Paramedic must send back unused portions to proper inventory area.

The Paramedic must be able to apply basic principles of mathematics to the calculation of

problems associated with medication dosages, perform conversion problems, differentiate temperature reading between centigrade and Fahrenheit scales, be able to use proper advanced life support equipment and supplies (i.e. proper size of intravenous needles) based on patient's age and condition of veins, and be able to locate sites for obtaining blood samples and perform this task, administer medication intravenously, administer medications by gastric tube, administer oral medications, administer rectal medications, and comply with universal pre-cautions and body substance isolation, disposing of contaminated items and equipment properly.

The Paramedic must be able to apply knowledge and skills to assist overdosed patients to overcome trauma through antidotes and have knowledge of poisons and be able to administer treatment. The Paramedic must be knowledgeable as to the stages drugs/medications go through once they have entered the patient's system and be cognizant that route of administration is critical in relation to patient's needs and the effect that occurs.

The Paramedic must also be capable of providing advanced life support emergency medical services to patients including conducting of and interpreting electrocardiograms (EKGs), electrical interventions to support the cardiac functions, performing advanced endotracheal intubations in airway management and relief of pneumothorax and administering of appropriate intravenous fluids and drugs under direction of off-site designated physician.

The Paramedic is a person who must not only remain calm while working in difficult and stressful circumstances but must be capable of staying focused while assuming the leadership role inherent in carrying out the functions of the position. Good judgement along with advanced knowledge and technical skills are essential in directing other team members to assist as needed. The Paramedic must be able to provide top quality care, concurrently handle high levels of stress, and be willing to take on the personal responsibility required of the position. This includes not only all legal ramifications for precise documentation, but also the responsibility for using the knowledge and skills acquired in real life- threatening emergency situations.

The Paramedic must be able to deal with adverse and often dangerous situations which include responding to calls in districts known to have high crime and mortality rates. Self-confidence is critical, as is a desire to work with people, solid emotional stability, a tolerance for high stress, and the ability to meet the physical, intellectual, and cognitive requirements demanded by this position.

Physical Demands

Aptitudes required for work of this nature are good physical stamina, endurance, and body condition that would not be adversely affected by frequently having to walk, stand, lift, carry, and balance at times, in excess of 125 pounds. Motor coordination is necessary because over uneven terrain, the patient's, the Paramedic's, and other workers' well-being must not be jeopardized.

Comments

The Paramedic provides the most extensive pre-hospital care and may work for fire departments, private ambulance services, police departments or hospitals. Response times for nature of work are dependent upon nature of call. For example, a Paramedic working for a private ambulance service that transports the elderly from nursing homes to routine medical appointments and check-ups may endure somewhat less stressful circumstances than the Paramedic who works primarily with 911 calls in districts known to have high crime rates. Thus, the particular stresses inherent in the role of the Paramedic can vary, depending on place and type of employment.

However, in general, in the analyst's opinion, the Paramedic must be flexible to meet the demands of the ever-changing emergency scene. When emergencies exist, the situation can be complex, and care of the patient must be started immediately. In essence, the Paramedic in the EMS system uses advanced training and equipment to extend emergency physician services to the ambulance. The Paramedic must be able to make accurate independent judgements while following oral directives. The ability to perform duties in a timely manner is essential, as it could mean the difference between life and death for the patient.

Use of the telephone or radio dispatch for coordination of prompt emergency services is required, as is a pager, depending on place of employment. Accurately discerning street names through map reading, and correctly distinguishing house numbers or business addresses are essential to task completion in the most expedient manner. Concisely and accurately describing orally to dispatcher and other concerned staff, one's impression of patient's condition, is critical as the Paramedic works in emergency conditions where there may not be time for deliberation. The Paramedic must also be able to accurately report orally and in writing, all relevant patient data. At times, reporting may require a detailed narrative on extenuating circumstances or conditions that go beyond what is required on a prescribed form. In some instances, the Paramedic must enter data on computer from a laptop in ambulance. Verbal skills and reasoning skills are used extensively.

Source: USDOT 1998 National Standard Paramedic Curriculum

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Access to Desire2Learn (D2L), HGTC's learning management system (LMS) used for course materials.

Access to myHGTC portal for student self-services.

College email access – this is the college's primary official form of communication.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION VERIFICATION

Students enrolled in online courses will be required to complete identity verification. Please refer to your Instructor Information Sheet for information regarding this requirement.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

As a matter of courtesy to other students and your professor, please turn off cell phones and other communication/entertainment devices before class begins. If you are monitoring an emergency, please notify your professor prior to class and switch cell phone ringers to vibrate.

NETIQUETTE: is the term commonly used to refer to conventions adopted by Internet users on the web, mailing lists, public forums, and in live chat focused on online communications etiquette. For more information regarding Netiquette expectations for distance learning courses, please visit [Online Netiquette](#).

Part II: Student Learning Outcomes

To prepare competent entry-level Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedics in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills) and affective (behavior) learning domains.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES and ASSESSMENTS*:

Upon completion of an AMLS course participants should be able to:

1. Use of scene size-up, history, interactive group discussion on potential treatment strategies, and physical exam to systematically rule out and consider possibilities and probabilities in treating patients' medical crises.
2. Use an initial assessment-based approach that progresses to a diagnostic-based approach to quickly develop the best treatment plan.
3. Discuss interactive/case-based lectures include the following topics: altered mental status and neurologic disorders, respiratory dysfunction, shock, Chest discomfort, Endocrine, metabolic and environmental disorders, abdominal discomfort, Infectious disease, and toxicological emergencies, hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction.

Part III: Grading and Assessment

EVALUATION OF REQUIRED COURSE MEASURES/ARTIFACTS*:

Students' performance will be assessed, and the weight associated with the various measures/artifacts are listed below.

EVALUATION*

Pretest	25%
Skills Stations	25%
Post Test	50%
	100%

****Students, for the specific number and type of evaluations, please refer to the***

Instructor's Course Information Sheet.

GRADING SYSTEM:

Please note the College adheres to a 10-point grading scale A = 100 – 90, B = 89- 80, C = 79 – 70, D = 69 – 60, F = 59 and below.

Grades earned in courses impact academic progression and financial aid status. Before withdrawing from a course, be sure to talk with your instructor and financial aid counselor about the implications of that course of action. Ds, Fs, Ws, WFs and Is also negatively impact academic progression and financial aid status.

The Add/Drop Period is the first 5 days of the semester for **full term** classes. Add/Drop periods are shorter for accelerated format courses. Please refer to the [academic calendar](#) for deadlines for add/drop. You must attend at least one meeting of all your classes during that period. If you do not, you will be dropped from the course(s) and your Financial Aid will be reduced accordingly.

Part IV: Attendance

Horry-Georgetown Technical College maintains a general attendance policy requiring students to be present for a minimum of 80 percent (80%) of their classes in order to receive credit for any course. Due to the varied nature of courses taught at the college, some faculty may require up to 90 percent (90%) attendance. Pursuant to 34 Code of Federal Regulations 228.22 - Return to Title IV Funds, once a student has missed over 20% of the course or has missed two (2) consecutive weeks, the faculty is obligated to withdraw the student, and a student may not be permitted to reenroll. **Instructors define absentee limits for their class at the beginning of each term; please refer to the Instructor Course Information Sheet.**

For online and hybrid courses, check your Instructor's Course Information Sheet for any required on-site meeting times. Please note, instructors may require tests to be taken at approved testing sites, and if you use a testing center other than those provided by HGTC, the center may charge a fee for its services.

Part V: Student Resources



THE STUDENT SUCCESS AND TUTORING CENTER (SSTC):

The SSTC offers to all students the following **free** resources:

1. Academic tutors for most subject areas, Writing Center support, and Academic Coaching for college success skills.
2. Online tutoring and academic support resources.
3. Professional and interpersonal communication coaching in the EPIC Labs.

Visit the [Student Success & Tutoring Center](#) website for more information. To schedule tutoring or coaching, contact the SSTC at sstc@hgtc.edu or self-schedule in the Penji iOS/Android app or at www.penjiapp.com. Email sstc@hgtc.edu or call SSTC Conway, 349-7872; SSTC Grand Strand, 477-2113; and SSTC Georgetown, 520-1455, or go to the SSTC [Online Resource Center](#) to access on-demand resources.



STUDENT INFORMATION CENTER: TECH Central

TECH Central offers to all students the following free resources:

1. Getting around HGTC: General information and guidance for enrollment, financial aid, registration, and payment plan support!
2. In-person and remote assistance are available for Desire2Learn, Student Portal, Degree Works, and Office 365.
3. Chat with our staff on TECH Talk, our live chat service. TECH Talk can be accessed on the student portal and on TECH Central's website, or by texting questions to (843) 375-8552. Visit the Tech Central website for more information. Live Chat and Center locations are posted on the website. Or please call (843) 349 – TECH (8324), Option # 1.



HGTC LIBRARY:

Each campus location has a library where HGTC students, faculty, and staff may check out materials with their HGTC ID. All three HGTC campus libraries have librarians and staff who can aid with research, computers to support academic research and related school-work, and individual/group study rooms. Printing is available as well at each location. Visit the [Library](#) website for more information or call (843) 349-5268.

STUDENT TESTING:

Testing in an **online/hybrid** course and in **make-up exam** situations may be accomplished in a variety of ways:

- Test administered within D2L.

- Test administered in writing on paper.
- Test administered through Publisher Platforms (which may have a fee associated with the usage)

Furthermore, tests may have time limits and/or require a proctor.

Testing candidates must make their appointments 24 hours in advance.

Students must bring a physical ID in order to take a test.

Proctoring can be accomplished either face-to-face at an approved site or online through our online proctoring service. To find out more about proctoring services, please visit the [Online Testing](#) section of the HGTC's Testing Center webpage.

The **Instructor Information Sheet** will have more details on test requirements for your course.

DISABILITY SERVICES:

HGTC is committed to providing an accessible environment for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations are encouraged to visit HGTC's [Accessibility and Disability Service webpage](#) for detailed information.

It is the student's responsibility to self-identify as needing accommodations and to provide appropriate documentation. Once documentation is submitted, the student will participate in an interactive process with Accessibility and Disability Services staff to determine reasonable accommodations. Students may begin the accommodations process at any time; however, accommodations are **not retroactive** and will only be applied from the point at which they are approved. Students must contact the office **each semester** to renew their accommodations.

For assistance, please contact the Accessibility and Disability Services team at disabilityservices@hgtc.edu or 843-796-8818 (call or text).

COUNSELING SERVICES:

HGTC Counseling Services strives to optimize student success through managing personal and academic concerns that may interfere with achieving educational goals. Staff are available to every student for assistance and guidance on personal matters, academic concerns and other areas of concern. HGTC offers free in-person and telehealth counseling services to students. For more information about counseling services, please reach out to counseling@hgtc.edu or visit the website the [Counseling Services webpage](#).

STATEMENT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

Our sincere commitment to both effective business management and equitable treatment of our employees requires that we present this Policy Statement as an embodiment of that commitment to the fullest.

Discrimination is conduct that includes unjust or prejudicial treatment based upon an individual's sex, race/color, religion, national origin, age, disability, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, political ideas, marital or family status, pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, including, but not limited to, lactation, genetic information, genetic identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation that excludes an individual from participation in, denies the individual the benefits of, treats the individual differently, or otherwise adversely affects a term or condition of a person's working or learning environment. This includes failing to provide reasonable accommodation, consistent with state and federal law, to persons with disabilities.

INQUIRIES REGARDING THE NON-DISCRIMINATION/TITLE IX POLICIES:

Student and prospective student inquiries concerning Section 504, Title II, Title VII, and Title IX and their application to the College or any student decision may be directed to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Dr. Melissa Batten, VP Student Affairs

Title IX, Section 504, and Title II Coordinator
Building 1100, Room 107A, Conway Campus
PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528-6066
843-349-5228
Melissa.Batten@hgtc.edu

Employee and applicant inquiries concerning Section 504, Title II, and Title IX and their application to the College may be directed to the Vice President for Human Resources.

Jacquelyne Snyder, VP Human Resources

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Officer and Title IX Coordinator
Building 200, Room 205B, Conway Campus
PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528-6066
843-349-5212
Jacquelyne.Snyder@hgtc.edu

TITLE IX REQUIREMENTS:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination.

HGTC prohibits the offenses of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and will provide students, faculty, and staff with necessary information regarding prevention, policies, procedures, and resources.

Any student, or other member of the college community, who believes that they have been a victim of sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking may file a report with the college's Title IX Coordinator or campus law enforcement*.

*Faculty and Staff are required to report these incidents to the Title IX Coordinator when involving students. The only HGTC employees exempt from mandatory reporting are licensed mental health professionals (only as part of their job description such as counseling services).

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PO Box 261966, Conway, SC 29528-6066
843-349-5212

Jacquelyne.Snyder@hgtc.edu

PREGNANCY ACCOMMODATIONS

Under Title IX, colleges must not exclude a pregnant student from participating in any part of an educational program. Horry-Georgetown Technical College is committed to ensuring that pregnant students receive reasonable accommodations to ensure access to our educational programs.

Students should advise the Title IX Coordinator of a potential need for accommodations as soon as they know they are pregnant. It is extremely important that communication between student, instructors, and the Title IX Coordinator begin as soon as possible. Each situation is unique and will be addressed individually.

Title IX accommodations DO NOT apply to Financial Aid. Financial Aid regulations do not give the College any discretion in terms of Financial Aid eligibility.

Certain educational programs may have strict certification requirements or requirements mandated by outside regulatory agencies. Therefore, in some programs, the application of Title IX accommodations may be limited.

To request pregnancy accommodations, please complete the *Pregnancy Intake Form* that can be found [here](#).