

Paramedic Class Advisory Committee Report

January 8, 2015

2014-2015 Class

In general, the students are doing great!

Formative assessments for EMS 211 – quiz scores

	Range of scores	Average score
Quiz 5 (N=32)	69.4-98.6	89.3
Quiz 6 (N=32)	74-100	87.3
Quiz 7 (N=32)	86.7-100	95.5

Summative assessment for EMS 211 - Written exam:

	Range of scores	Average score
EMS 211 written (N=32)	80-99.3	92
Score distribution	90's	22 students
	80's	10 students
ECG strip test	86.66-100	98.5

EMS 211 Grades submitted to Harper College

A	(94-100)	10
B	(87-93)	21
C	(80-86)	1

Two students were in peril of failing the class due to low quiz averages (< 80%), but did achieve cumulative averages to make them eligible for the modular exam. One student, who had done well on the quizzes, surprisingly failed the written exam on the first attempt. He required and received intensive tutoring and performed well after assistance. Connie thanked his agency leaders and preceptors for their excellent support and cooperation.

All passed the ECG strip test on the first attempt.

Practical exam

Practical skills tested:

- Respiratory assessment
- Cardiac assessment
- Transcutaneous pacing
- Defibrillation
- Cardioversion

Outcomes: All ultimately passed

All students were introduced to 12 L ECG following completion of EMS 211.

EMS 214 – Hospital Clinical Rotations: Jen Dyer continues to coordinate EMS 214 (Hospital clinical rotations). Students began doing the clinical rotations on November 21st, immediately following successful completion of EMS 210. They had designated days each week during EMS 211 to schedule and complete clinical shifts. At the end of EMS 211 and the two week holiday break, they each should have completed 15 shifts. Each is expected to turn in their signed clinical evaluation forms and enter the assessment and interventions completed by them into the FISDAP software within the time frames specified in their student handbook.

The next module (**EMS 212) is Medical Emergencies**, which historically is not academically difficult but has extremely broad content that requires diligent study all month to keep up and assimilate the information. There is always an emotional letdown after cardiology and the holidays, and about this time in the course, the student have study fatigue and need external motivation to keep going. They have a written and oral project due on a Communicable Disease to measure their authentic literacy. EMS 213 (Trauma and Special Patient Populations) begins in early February. If all academic and hospital clinical requirements are successfully completed by the end of February, EMS 215 (Field Internship) will begin the first week of March. This can be a difficult transition for some students who have managed to be shielded by stronger members of their squads during class and labs.

Updated **contract language and liability hold harmless paperwork** for the Field Internship has been completed between NCH, the System, and the municipal attorney for Hoffman Estates. This agreement continues the two phase internship, as well as more clearly spells out objectives and expected competencies for the students, deliverables of agency preceptors, and hold harmless liability protections for the agencies. Copies of the agreement exhibits have been distributed to system agencies and hospital EMS Coordinators for their information. The preceptors for students in this class will all need to receive additional education to be introduced to and ensure that they understand and meet the stipulations of the agreements. The Advisory Board chiefs expressed the possible need to ensure that all preceptors attend this year's preceptor class. **They will bring the issue of preceptor attendance at class this year to their peers at the Chiefs/Administrators meeting later in the month. Connie will make the contact information for the Hoffman Estates FD attorney available to other agencies who may wish to clarify any of the stipulations in the agreement.**

Licensure exam option: The chiefs voted unanimously at their November meeting that **all paramedic graduates of the NWC EMSS program employed by or sponsored by a System agency would be required to take the National Registry exam** as a means to gain licensure. This is due partially to changes at the federal level that will preclude PMs that did not test via NR, from participating in out-of-state disaster responses under the EMS Compact. It does not require that a paramedic maintain NR certification.

Implications of decision for Field Internship: This change will have the effect of requiring the Field Internship to be completed ON TIME prior to graduation. The students will have to fully meet all requirements for graduation before they can sit for the NR written and practical exams. While the NR written exam is computer adaptive and students may schedule to test at any approved testing center at their own convenience after authorization is given, there is an additional practical exam (in addition to the System final practical exam) that must be precepted by a National Registry representative and scheduled with the NR in advance. Traditionally, students have not always been able to ride every shift day during the internship period due to preceptor and/or student vacation or leave. These gaps will now be problematic. There are mandatory hour and patient care contacts during the internship that must be met and missing multiple days will ensure that the student will not graduate on time. In the past three years, we have had situations where less than 10 students got "real" diplomas on the night of graduation as all internship requirements had not yet been met and they sometimes did not complete the requirements until months after the class was over. **Agencies will need to have back-up preceptors available** to allow students to continue riding while their regularly scheduled preceptors are off. The state requires a minimum of 300 hours of ride time, while the Committee on Accreditation of EMS Programs (CoA) requires more **plus** the patient care contacts stipulated in their student handbook. Connie plans to schedule a NR practical exam at NCH during the last week of June/first week in July to fulfill this requirement. Students not eligible to test by this time will most likely need to travel to other sites to test, most of which are in other states.

Respectfully submitted,



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