Collin College EMS Program Statement of Functional Ability

Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic is a practice discipline with cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor performance requirements. The knowledge, skills, and abilities required to safely and effectively practice emergency care span various areas. Adapted from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Collin College EMS program has identified the functional abilities an Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic must possess to practice safely and effectively.

To ensure a student's decision to pursue a career in Emergency Medicine is the correct choice, the Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic Program asks all students to review the requirements carefully and sign the Statement of Understanding of Functional Abilities.
These functional abilities are the non-academic requirements of the program, and they comprise the physical, emotional, and professional demands of EMS personnel. Students should consider whether they can perform the following functions, with or without accommodations.

Please review the functional abilities required to perform effectively in the EMS profession.
After reviewing the functions, if a student determines they are unable to perform any of the skills listed and they have a documented disability, they need to determine if a reasonable accommodation can be provided. Throughout a student's educational program, they will find themselves in various learning experiences and need to consider the specifics of each situation to determine if reasonable accommodations can be provided. To request an accommodation, a student should contact the ACCESS office and present documentation of their disability.

Functional Abilities required to perform effectively in the EMS profession are listed below. This list is not all inclusive and other subtle necessities could be needed to adequately perform the essential duties of an EMS professional.

Gross Motor Skills

Move within confined spaces
Maintain balance in a standing position
Move body from one side to another
Reach above shoulder
Reach below waist
Reach out front and to the side of the body

Fine Motor Skills

Pick up objects with hands
Grasp small objects with hands

Write with pen or pencil
Key/type
Pinch/pick/twist/ squeeze with fingers
Good eye-hand & foot coordination
Simultaneous hand, wrist & finger movement

Physical Endurance

Walking and Standing for extended periods (minimum of 8 hours)
Sustain repetitive motions (e.g., CPR)
Climbing and Balancing
Stooping, Kneeling, Crouching, Crawling

Physical Strength/Mobility

Lift, carry, and balance up to 125 pounds (250 pounds with assistance)
Carry equipment/supplies
Use upper body strength (CPR)
Squeeze with hands
Ability to squat or modified squat
Ability to move quickly
Ability to climb and descend a flight of stairs
Ability to walk independently without the assistance of a cane, walker, crutches, wheelchair, or the aid of another person

Environment

Work in cold or extreme heat with or without temperature changes
Work in wet and/or humid conditions
Work in noise and/or vibration
Work in hazards
Work in atmospheric conditions
Tolerate exposure to common allergens
Tolerate odors

Senses: Vision, Hearing, and Smell

See objects up to 20 inches away (small needles)
See objects up to 20 feet away
Use depth perception and peripheral vision
Distinguish color and color intensity
See in conditions of a low light, no light, or bright flashing lights
Hear and discriminate speech at normal conversational sound levels
Hear faint voices and body sounds (shallow breathing)
Ability to discriminate speech in noise
Hear in situations when not able to see (back turned, mask)
Detect differences in body and environmental odors

Tactile

Feel vibrations
Detect environmental temperatures
Feel differences in surface characteristics
Feel differences in sizes & shapes
Distinguish subtle differences through skin

Reading

Read medication/prescription labels
Read and understand digital and computer displays
Accurately read a road map
Review written reports for accuracy
Read and understand written documents, including professional journals

Math

Tell and measure time
Ability to conduct essential math functions, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, without using a calculator
Compute fractions and decimals
Perform quick and precise mathematical calculations using ratio and proportion
Document numbers in records

Interpersonal skills

Establish positive rapport with faculty, EMS personnel, patients and family members, co-workers/peers
Negotiate interpersonal conflict
Demonstrate respect for diversity in culture, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, and abilities/disabilities
Interact as a member of the healthcare team

Communication Skills

Exhibit & comprehend nonverbal cues
Speaks, write, read, and understand English
Listen & comprehend spoken/written word
Communicate verbally with diverse cultures and age groups
Collaborate with others
Use a telephone or, radio dispatch, or other communication device for care coordination

Emotional Stability

Ability to interact with and support patients
Independent and confident
Adapt to changing environments
Establish professional relationships
Accept feedback appropriately
Accept responsibility for own actions
Ability to use good judgment and remain calm in high-stress situations

Ability to assume the role of team leader

Critical Thinking

Comprehends & follows instructions
Sequence information
Make decisions independently
Adapt decisions based on new information
Synthesize knowledge and skills
Plan/control activities for others
Identifies cause-effect relationships
Draw valid conclusions expediently relevant to patient's condition, often using limited information.

Analytical Thinking

Problem solve
Transfer knowledge from one situation to another
Process and interpret information from multiple sources
Apply math concepts
Analyze & interpret abstract and concrete data
Prioritize Tasks (time management)
Evaluates outcomes
Use short & long-term memory