

Introduction

The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course at Columbia Basin College is the entry-level course to the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) profession and is designed for those who aspire to become an Emergency Medical Technician. The course focuses on EMT roles and responsibilities, basic airway management, patient assessment, medical and trauma emergencies, anatomy and physiology, documentation, lifting and moving, communication and the treatment of the cardiac arrest patient.

The course includes practical labs and a total of 10 hours of clinical experience in the Emergency Room (ER) to provide direct hands-on experience with a variety of patients.

The EMT course at CBC is offered both fall and spring quarters; and is 12 weeks in length. Class attendance is mandatory and compliance with the dress policy, national background check, drug testing, and immunizations are required. EMT classes for 2026 will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 am to 1 pm and 2:30 to 5:30 pm. Supervised clinical experience will be in various medical facilities throughout the Tri-Cities area.

Once accepted into the EMT course, students will be able to register for 12 credits which includes lecture, lab, and clinical. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be eligible to take the National Registry of EMT's EMT examination for certification. (www.nremt.org)

For consideration of acceptance into the course, you must complete the application package and submit by the dates provided.

Complete the EMT application and attach all documents listed on page two. Incomplete applications will not be considered; please be thorough.

Spring 2026	Important Dates
February 4 2026 at noon	Spring quarter application due via email to emsapplications@columbiabasin.edu Spring quarter EMT will start April 7, 2026.
Feb 19, 2026 10am to 1pm	A mandatory EMT Entrance Assessment will be held for the applicants at the CBC Medical Science Center located at 940 Northgate Drive, Richland, from 10am - 1pm in room 307. Failure to attend this meeting will disqualify you from the application process. You will receive an email the week prior to the assessment for registration instructions, please check your email and follow instructions to proceed.

Fall 2026	
July 8, 2026 at noon	Fall quarter application due via email to emsapplications@columbiabasin.edu Fall quarter EMT will start September 15, 2026.
July 23, 2026 10am to 1pm	A mandatory EMT Entrance Assessment will be held for the applicants at the CBC Medical Science Center located at 940 Northgate Drive, Richland, from 10am - 1pm in room 307. Failure to attend this meeting will disqualify you from the application process. You will receive an email the week prior to the assessment for registration instructions, please check your email and follow instructions to proceed.

EMT course Prerequisites:

There are no academic pre-requisites to take the EMT course. However, the following courses are recommended:

- Completion or placement in ENGL 099 or higher
- Completion of Math 050 or higher placement
- Completion of HSCI 147 - Medical Terminology

Please check each box below to ensure you have included all required information with your application package. For more information, contact the Health Science Center at (509) 544-8300.

Course Application Package

Are you registered as a student at CBC? You must have a ctcLink student ID #	
You must include your CBC Email on the application. All communications will be through CBC email only.	
A completed CBC EMT program application (final page of this packet) submitted.	
Valid driver's license. ATTACH A PHOTO COPY OF DRIVERS LICENSE to the application package	
Attach a copy of high school diploma/transcript or equivalent (GED).	
A letter of intent, typed 1-2 pages which should include all the following components: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The reason you want to become an EMT 2. What you believe are the expectations of an EMT 3. Discuss your personal strengths and weaknesses and how those can be an asset to EMS. 4. What are your career plans? How do you plan to use the training provided? 	
Two letters of recommendation, each from a different person with the following perspective of you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Personal character reference <input type="checkbox"/> Employer reference from a previous supervisor or co-worker 	

Submit your completed course application package via email. Please include all required documents in one scanned .pdf document and email to: emsapplications@columbiabasin.edu

Emailed program applications that require a password will be rejected. The program application must be submitted in pdf format as one document.

EMT Entrance Exam & tentative acceptance

Applicants with a complete application package will be invited to take the EMT Entrance Assessment. Individuals with complete applications will receive instructions via email to register for the entrance assessment and pay the associated fee (\$35). The entrance assessment will determine tentative acceptance into the EMT program.

The entrance assessment will evaluate several important areas of knowledge in a very basic way, review of the following topics is recommended:

1. Anatomy & Physiology
2. Biology
3. Math
4. Medical Terminology
5. Scenario/Situational questions
6. Ethical dilemmas

Preparation for the entrance assessment

Khan academy is popular website that offers short tutorials on a variety of subjects. Search Khan academy using the above-mentioned topics (1-3) and review them as needed. One may prepare for the medical terminology section by reviewing medical terminology on the internet, or from the library or taking the HSCI 147 course at CBC. Items 5-6 are difficult to prepare, but success is usually anchored in maturity and good decision making.

National Background Check and Immunization Tracker Account & final acceptance

Applicants, with tentative acceptance into the program based on their performance on the entrance assessment, will be required to complete a background check, and urine drug screening to obtain final acceptance.

The national background check and drug screen are paid for by the applicant. In order to comply with Washington state law and clinical facility agreements, each student must complete a national background check and drug screen prior to final acceptance. Although crimes committed (past and present) will not necessarily prevent you from entering the EMT program, certain crimes may prohibit you from being able to participate in clinical practicum at the local healthcare facilities and/or acquire a license from the state of Washington. Any infraction while enrolled in the EMT program must be self-reported to the instructor.

Applicants with tentative acceptance will be provided information from the Health Science Division to create an account with the college approved vendor to perform your background, track your immunizations and process the drug screen.

Required Immunizations:

Please wait until you receive tentative program acceptance by email before purchasing immunizations.

1. Two-step Tuberculin skin test or a whole blood test within the last 6 months.
2. Hepatitis B three-dose vaccinations AND an IGG surface antibody titer showing immunity.
3. Tetanus Diphtheria & Pertussis (Tdap) - one vaccination since 2016
4. MMR two-dose vaccination or an IGG titer showing immunity or begin the series.
5. Chicken Pox (Varicella) two-dose series or a positive titer showing immunity.
6. Influenza annual vaccination - must be done after September when the current year vaccine is available.
7. COVID vaccine –Proof of vaccination or a completed covid declination form, the covid vaccine is no longer required.

General Information:

Once a student has received final acceptance, the following information will be helpful to guide them with other requirements necessary to maintain enrollment.

- A.** All students are encouraged to have accident/health insurance.
- B.** All students are required to have malpractice insurance. The policy and cost are included in your tuition and course fee.
- C.** Affiliation Information
 - a.** Washington State does not allow an individual to be certified as an EMT without being affiliated with an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) agency. A student DOES NOT have to be affiliated to apply or take the course. However, to become certified as an EMT in Washington state, the student will have to gain affiliation.
 - b.** Additional consideration may be given to applicants with a valid signed EMS agency affiliation. This consists of applicants who are either employed by, or volunteering for, an EMS agency that is recognized by the state of Washington. These agencies provide medical care and/or transport: fire departments, ambulance services, search and rescue organizations, and law enforcement agencies.
 - c.** Despite affiliation, every candidate MUST achieve a minimum passing score to be considered for the program.
- D.** This is a 12-week commitment for two days each week. Student study requirements have been found to be a minimum of three hours per week for each scheduled theory hour (up to 12 hours of theory each week). Attendance is required to successfully complete the Emergency Medical Technician course.
- E.** We understand that EMT school is expensive. Considering books, tuition, uniforms, and immunizations, the typical student will spend approximately \$2,000. For more information, review the CBC website at columbiabasin.edu/finaid. Scholarships and grants may be available through other college offices such as the Workforce Education Center. For more information, please call 509-542-4719 or check out their website at www.columbiabasin.edu/i-am/current-hawk/student-resources/work-force-education-center.
- F.** There are a number of items all students will be required to have for the course:
 - a.** Official CBC EMT T-Shirt (Purchased at CBC Bookstore)
 - b.** Stethoscope
 - c.** Watch with a secondhand

EMT Students must be capable of meeting the performance standards of the CBC EMT Program. If accommodation is necessary to meet any of the standards, it is the student's responsibility to contact the resource center in Pasco for an assessment.

EMT Performance Standards	Examples
Critical thinking ability sufficient to exercise sound EMS judgment. Reasoning skills sufficient to perform deductive/inductive thinking for EMS decisions.	Identify cause/effect relationships and make appropriate judgments in clinical situations.
Communication abilities sufficient for effective interaction in verbal and written form.	Able to obtain information, explain treatment procedures, initiate health teaching, describe patient situations, perceive nonverbal communication.
Gross and fine motor function sufficient to provide safe and effective care.	<p>Gross Motor: Gross motor skills sufficient to provide the full range of safe and effective health care activities (move within confined spaces, reach above head, etc.)</p> <p>Fine Motor: Fine motor skills sufficient to perform manual psychomotor skills (pick up items with fingers) and sustain repetitive movements (CPR).</p> <p>Physical Strength Physical stamina sufficient to perform client care activities for entire length of work shift (push, pull, support and lift 125 pounds of weight, position ambulate and transfer clients, defend self against combative clients, etc.)</p>
Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess needs of clients.	Able to hear monitor alarm and emergency signals, able to listen and hear breath sounds, able to hear normal speaking level sounds.
Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary for care.	Ability to observe patients, visualize appearance of a surgical wound, depth perception, peripheral vision, distinguish color and color intensity.
Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.	Able to perform palpation of a pulse, perceive temperature or functions of a physical exam.
Emotional health sufficient to totally utilize her or his intellectual abilities. Able to function effectively during stressful situations.	<p>Interpersonal Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups, respecting social, cultural, and spiritual diversity. Negotiate interpersonal conflict. Establish rapport with clients and with co-workers. Able to adapt to ever-changing environments, displaying flexibility, learning to function in the case of uncertainty that is inherent in EMS.</p>

Emergency Medical Technician**Course Estimated Costs**

All stated costs are estimated and subject to change. However, the following figures may be used as a general guideline to assist applicants in preparing for the costs associated with EMT enrollment.

Item	Cost
1. CBC tuition EMT 101 estimated cost (12 Credits), fees	\$1800 (approx.)
2. Entrance Assessment	\$35
3. Textbook bundle includes electronic workbook	\$195 (approx.)
4. Background Search and drug screen	\$157.75
5. Immunizations (if you do not have your history available)	\$400 (variable)
6. Internship shirt (available at CBC Bookstore)	\$25
7. National Registry exam at end of quarter	\$70

If you have additional questions related to vaccination requirements, contact Carolene Hall at cehall@columbiabasin.edu or call the Health Science Center at (509) 544-8300.

**Washington State Emergency
Medical Technician Training****Qualification Requirements****Qualification Requirements for Washington State EMT Certification:**

At the completion of the EMT course, the following steps must be satisfied to be recognized as a Washington State Emergency Medical Technician. Additional information will be provided during the course.

- A.** Students must be at least 18 years old to certify in Washington State
- B.** Students must have a high school diploma or GED in order to apply for EMT Certification with Washington State Department of Health.
- C.** Student must successfully complete a WA State DOH Approved EMT Course and obtain a certificate of completion. Successful course completion in and of itself will not provide licensure or certification; all of the steps listed here must be satisfied.
- D.** Student must pass the WA State Psychomotor Exam for EMT (offered at program completion)
- E.** Student must pass the NREMT EMT exam
- F.** Affiliation with an EMS Organization recognized by the WA State DOH
- G.** PD to work as an EMT



EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN
COURSE APPLICATION
2026 SPRING & FALL

2026 Emergency Medical Technician Course

Please complete this application, and required documents; submit as one document via email:
For questions, call the Health Science Center at (509)544-8300 emsapplications@columbiabasin.edu

Demographic Information

Last Name First Middle

Birthdate CBC Student ID Number WA Driver's License Number (must be current)

Address City State Zip

Phone Message Phone CBC Email Address (required)

Are you currently a certified healthcare provider (circle) ☐ EMR ☐ RN ☐ MA ☐ Other: _____

High School Attended Date Graduated Location of High school (City, State)

If high school equivalency through GED,
state where and when test was taken: _____

Location Date

Applicant Signature Date

EMS Agency Data

☐ Check here if none

EMS Agency Affiliation

Fire Chief or Supervisor Daytime Phone

Agency Mailing Address

Affiliate Agency Verification

I, the undersigned, hereby verify the above-named individual is a member of this EMS/Fire Agency, and is sponsored by this agency to attend initial EMT training.

Fire Chief or Supervisor Signature Date