



First Responder

Information Source: 2009-2010 Perkins Technical Skill Attainment Inventory. The DOE certification code is NREMT003

Funding: Program is on the 2009-10 Industry Certification Funding List

CERTIFICATION NEEDED

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) (www.nremt.org) is the certifying agency for First Responders. You will need to create an account on the NREMT website to gain access to the application page. The specific information for the First Responder certification can be found here: http://www.nremt.org/nremt/EMTServices/reg_1st_history.asp. The application is filled out on line after a student has completed the following entry requirements which are listed here from the NREMT webpage:

- Successful completion of a state-approved First Responder course that meets or exceeds the U.S. Department of Transportation First Responder National Standard Curriculum. You must have completed the course within the past two years. Your Program Director must verify your successful completion of the course on the NREMT web site.
- If you are currently state licensed, you must document successful completion of a First Responder refresher training program within the past two years. If you are not currently state licensed and it has been more than two years from the completion of your First Responder course, you must complete an entire state-approved First Responder course prior to applying for National Certification.
- Complete a National Registry online application, including Licensing Action and Felony statements. The NREMT may deny certification or take other appropriate actions in regards to applicants for certification or recertification when a felony conviction has occurred. Complete information about the NREMT Felony Policy can be found here.
- Verification from the Program Director that you hold a current CPR credential for health care providers and have demonstrated competence in First Responder skills.
- Successful completion of the First Responder cognitive exam that tests your ability to safely and effectively perform emergency patient care.
- Successful completion of a state-approved First Responder psychomotor exam.

If you have a certification that has lapsed:

If your National EMS Certification lapsed as a First Responder within a two year period or you are currently state licensed as a First Responder, you can obtain National EMS Certification by completing a state-approved Refresher course and successfully completing the cognitive and psychomotor examinations. If your EMS certification expired more than two years ago, you must complete an entire state-approved First Responder course, and complete the cognitive and psychomotor examinations.

TEST PREP and EXAM INFORMATION

The certification process is explained on the website. A portion of the information is listed here for your convenience.

All NREMT certification levels require successful completion of both the cognitive and psychomotor exams. Passed portions of the exam (both cognitive and practical) remain valid for a twenty four (24) month period.

Cognitive Examination

The NREMT uses computer adaptive testing (CAT) to deliver the First Responder cognitive exam. With computer adaptive testing, each question is tailored to the individual candidate. This means that if you answer a question correctly, the next question can be slightly more challenging. If you answer a question incorrectly, the following question will be slightly easier. With each question you are asked, the computer algorithm statistically re-estimates your ability. This estimate gets more and more precise as the exam progresses. This means no two exams are exactly alike. The exam, however, is designed so that all competent candidates can pass. The number of items a candidate can expect on the First Responder exam will range from 80 to 110. The maximum amount of time given to complete the First Responder exam is 1 hour 45 minutes. All exams include pilot test items that do not count for or against your exam results. Pilot questions are being evaluated for possible inclusion on future exams. There is no way for you to identify pilot items, so it is in your best interest to answer every question to the best of your ability.

There are two important concepts to remember about CAT:

1. There is no minimum number or percent of correct items needed to pass as with a traditional paper-and-pencil test.
2. All candidates will be challenged to the limit of their ability, so everyone taking the exam will think that it was difficult.

The exam will cover the entire spectrum of EMS care including: Airway and Breathing, Cardiology, Trauma, Medical, Obstetrics and Pediatrics, and EMS Operations. The NREMT will provide feedback on your performance in these areas in the event you are unsuccessful in passing the exam.

Candidates are given three opportunities to pass the cognitive exam. Candidates who fail the examination on the third attempt will be required to repeat the entire First Responder educational program in order to apply for subsequent examination attempts.

In order to pass the exam, you must meet a standard level of competency. The passing standard is defined by the ability to provide safe and effective entry level emergency medical care.

TEST OPPORTUNITIES

The cognitive portion of the NREMT exam is given at authorized Pearson VUE testing center locations on a date and time convenient for you. To schedule your exam:

- Create an account and complete an application on this website.
- Pay your application fee of \$65 which is non-refundable and non-transferable. The fee is required for each attempt at passing the exam.
- You will receive an Authorization to Test (ATT) once you are eligible for the exam.
- Once you receive your ATT, you can then schedule your test with Pearson VUE. Additional scheduling details are provided in the ATT letter. Keiser University is a Pearson Vue Assessment Center. The NREMT exam does not appear on the general PearsonVue list, which is due to the fact that you must have an approval letter to take the exam. Information will be included in the ATT letter.
- Psychomotor Examination
- The psychomotor exam provides a hands-on opportunity for you to demonstrate the skills you have learned. Speak with your instructor or state EMS Office about the format and logistics of completing a state-approved First Responder psychomotor exam.