

## Essential Skills and Abilities — Emergency Medical Technician

The Emergency Medical Technician student must have the abilities and skills necessary to provide competent patient care. These skills and abilities include: observation; communication; motor ability; conceptualization; integration and quantification; and behavior/social acceptability. Communication compensation can be made for some handicaps in certain areas, but a student should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. The use of a trained intermediary is not acceptable, in that a student's judgment or physical skills must be mediated by someone else's power of observation, selection or action. Please see addendum for competency statement.

The following abilities and skills are necessary to meet the requirements of the curriculum:

1. **Observation:** The student must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.
2. **Communication:** The student must be able to speak, to hear, and to observe patients in order to provide instructions and elicit information. The student must be able to describe changes in mood, activity, posture and perceive nonverbal communications. A student must be able to communicate effectively and empathetically with patients. Communication includes speech as well as reading and writing. The student must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.
3. **Motor:** Students should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other assessment procedures. A student must have sufficient motor skills to gain access to patients in a variety of care settings and to manipulate equipment central to performing diagnostic procedures. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movement, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. A student must also be prepared to care for patients under inclement weather and environmental conditions. The student must be able to maintain adequate physical conditioning as to not put himself, the patient, or team members in jeopardy.
4. **Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:** These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem-solving, the critical skills demanded of all health professionals requires all of these intellectual abilities.
5. **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** A student must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of his/her intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with people. Students must be able to adapt to changing environment, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are all personal qualities necessary for members of the health profession.

Illinois Central College affirms that all students enrolled in the EMT Program must possess those intellectual, ethical, physical, and emotional capabilities required to undertake the curriculum and to achieve the levels of competence required by the faculty for safe professional practice.