

Position Statement



The National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) is the leading national organization of professional EMS Educators. The association represents over 1500 individuals involved in every level of EMS education. The National Association of EMS Educators supports the mission statement, content and the fundamental principles included in the document entitled: *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*.

The *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach* is based upon broad concepts of theory and practice in EMS education presented in the *EMS Agenda for the Future* (1996). The *EMS Agenda for the Future* (1996) has been endorsed by the entire EMS community. The National Association of EMS Educators accepts and approves the five major attributes of the components of EMS education contained in the document.

The National Association of EMS Educators position of support is based upon the following tenets:

1. The *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach* is a visionary document defining the future direction of EMS education. It is a tool that clearly describes the goals for improving EMS education at current levels, as well as providing the flexibility needed to meet the educational needs of the changing field of EMS. The *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A System Approach* builds upon a vision to create a comprehensive plan for a national EMS education system that will result in improved efficiency in the education process, enhanced consistency in the quality of the EMS education and greater competency of the entry-level EMS provider.
2. A Task Force representing the full range of professions involved in EMS education including EMS administrators, physicians, regulators, educators, and providers designed the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*. In the end the document emerged with five essential attributes that will guide the future process of EMS education throughout the nation.

3. The *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach* describes an interdependent relationship among the five system components: National EMS Core Content, National EMS Scope of Practice Model, National EMS Education Standards, National EMS Certification, and finally, National EMS Education Program Accreditation. The document identifies specific groups responsible for the development and revision of each of the five components of the agenda. While each component has the ability to stand on its own merit, it is widely recognized that a synergistic effect will be created when all five attributes are in place in the EMS education system.

The five component attributes are as follows:

The National EMS Core Content

This is a comprehensive list of knowledge and skills needed for out-of-hospital emergency care. Specification of the Core Content is primarily a medical concern and will be led by the medical community, with input from other stakeholders from the EMS community.

The National EMS Scope of Practice Model

The Practice Model divides the National EMS Core Content into specific levels of EMS practice. It defines minimum knowledge and skills for each level of EMS provider. Since this determination is fundamentally a system issue, the system regulators will have the lead in its development, with input from other stakeholders. This component replaces the National EMS Education and Practices Blueprint (1993).

The National EMS Education Standards

This component replaces the current models for National Standard Curricula. It will specify the minimum terminal learning objectives for each level of EMS practice. This is essentially an educational issue; therefore, it will be developed predominately by professional EMS educators with input from other stakeholders.

The National EMS Education Program Accreditation

National Accreditation of programs will be expanded to include all levels of EMS instruction. This will result in enhanced consistency of quality of instruction and educational outcomes at all levels of EMS education. To achieve national accreditation, educational institutions, and other providers of EMS instruction will need to provide instructional programming that is consistent with the National EMS Education Standards.

The National EMS Certification

National EMS certification will be available for all levels of EMS providers. National certification will enhance the consistency of the quality of educational programs and thereby enhance the quality of the EMS care delivered by nationally certified graduates of accredited institutions. In order to be eligible for National EMS Certification, a student must have graduated from an institution that is nationally accredited.

The National Association of EMS Educators promotes quality education to serve the present and future needs of society in the professional field of Emergency Medical Health Service. The National Association of EMS Educators promotes and supports the teaching and learning environment outlined in the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*. Endorsement is given to the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach* as it supports and fosters critical thinking skills, professional values, ethical practice, teaching skills, content knowledge and cultural pluralism in the delivery of EMS education. The National Association of EMS Educators further endorses the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach* as it encourages excellence in teaching, research and service, and provides for opportunities for cooperation, collaboration and strategic linkages between all essential components for the delivery of quality emergency medical care for the citizens of the United States. Therefore, let it be known that on this day, May 6, 2000, that the National Association of EMS Educators supports the concepts as described in the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*.