



Course Description

Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician



Wilderness EMT, Lander, WY
Offered by the NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute

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Course Features

- National Registry EMT curriculum and testing eligibility
- Wilderness medicine curriculum and testing at WEMT level
- Course Length: 200 hours (20 class days)
- Minimum age: 18
- Class size: 30 students and 3 instructors
- Hospital-based clinical experience with patient care
- College credit available (9 credit hours)

Overview

The Wilderness EMT (WEMT) course is a nationally recognized program that trains participants to respond to emergencies in urban, rural, disaster, and wilderness environments. You will immerse yourself in medicine for an intensive month of instruction and practice. The WMI community values an educational approach that prepares our graduates with the judgment and skills to act with confidence and competence. Our evidence-informed wilderness medicine curriculum emphasizes skills and information that are practical, accurate and relevant. The curriculum is delivered with passion and skill through a balance of scenarios, skills practice and focused lectures. Daily skills sessions and scenarios will prepare you to respond to emergencies with newfound confidence. The integrated wilderness and urban medical curriculum provides you opportunities to utilize your skills in multiple applications. Backcountry topics include, but are not limited to, wound management and infection, reducing dislocations, improvised splinting techniques, long-term patient management, up-to-date information on environmental emergencies and expedition medications. At every opportunity, your WMI WEMT experience is enriched by scenarios practiced in varied conditions and environments—nighttime exercises, extended backcountry days, and multiple-casualty incidents—all enhanced by theatrical moulage to emulate reality. You will also spend time in the emergency room of a regional hospital assisting the Emergency Department staff and providing care to real patients.

The curriculum surpasses all requirements for the National Registry of EMTs–EMT level. Successful completion of practical and written exams will provide Wilderness EMT certification and meet the eligibility requirements to take the National

Registry EMT certification exam. Depending on state-to-state reciprocity protocols, graduates may also sit for their home state exams. Graduates of the course that complete all state requirements may be eligible to work professionally as ambulance, hospital, and backcountry EMTs. For additional information about reciprocity from the National Registry of EMTs to individual states, contact your State Bureau of EMS or visit the following web site:
www.nremt.org/nremt/about/emt_cand_state_offices.asp.

The Wilderness EMT program is NOT a search and rescue, technical rescue, or survival course. The focus of the program is emergency medical care.

Prerequisites

Age

You must be at least 18 years of age on the course start date.

Professional Level CPR certification

Your Healthcare Provider/Professional Rescuer CPR certification must be current through the duration of the WEMT course. Acceptable CPR courses should include the following components: Adult, Child and Infant CPR; foreign body airway obstruction; AED bag valve mask; and testing (both written and practical). CPR certifications with titles other than Healthcare Provider or Professional Rescuer are not inclusive of these skills and will not meet the prerequisite. Unacceptable cards include, but are not limited to, Heartsaver or Heartsaver Plus CPR, Infant and Child CPR, Daycare or Babysitting CPR, Community CPR, Adult CPR. The CPR certification issued with WMI wilderness medicine courses *does not* meet the CPR prerequisite.

Hospital Specific Requirements

You will be sent a list of other prerequisites required by our clinical partners. These may include drug screens, background checks and additional vaccinations.

Student Independent Clinical Experience

EMT students are required to attend clinical observations in designated clinical settings. WMI assigns students to clinical rotations, which take place on one or more weekends during the course. Please remember you are a guest at the clinical facility, observing patients who have come expecting a certain standard of professionalism. Students are expected to demonstrate mature, professional dress, hygiene, and behavior during their clinical rotations.

Clinical dress requirements are as follows:

- Light colored shirt with collar. No T-shirts.
- Dark pants (blue or black).
- Black shoes or boots. No sandals, sneakers, or hiking boots.
- All clothes clean and pressed.
- Watch: analog with second hand or digital with second reference.

Transportation During Clinical Rotations

Students are responsible for their own transportation to the clinical rotations. Transportation is not provided and public transportation is not available. Those without transportation will be expected to carpool to the clinical sites with fellow students. Students may choose to spend the night near the clinical site so it is recommended that students plan on a shared hotel expense.

Wilderness Medicine and EMT Texts

The wilderness medicine textbooks for the course are *NOLS Wilderness Medicine* by Tod Schimelpfenig and the *Wilderness Medicine Handbook* by the NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute. Your wilderness medicine textbooks will be handed out on course.

The urban EMT textbook for the course is *Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Injured*, 10th edition, by the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. Your EMT textbook will be shipped to you at the address you provide on your Course Statement form once we have received payment in full. You should begin reading your EMT textbook immediately upon receipt!

Testing and Exams

Multiple-choice quizzes and exams are integrated throughout the WEMT course. Successful course completion is evaluated by practical and written exam performance. The multiple-choice exams are challenging and long. If it has been some time since you last took a multiple-choice exam, please seriously consider practicing prior to your arrival at the course. Public libraries
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are good places to find resources for generalized testing practice. Additional self-study support is at:
<https://rendezvous.nols.edu/content/section/48/713/>

Upon successful completion of the course, students will take the State Practical Exam. Upon successful completion of this practical exam, students are qualified and eligible to take the National Registry EMT (NREMT) computer-based exam, which may be conducted at an off-site location on the last morning of the course. There is an additional \$70 fee for the NREMT computer-based exam. Please come prepared to pay the testing fee by the second week of your course. This fee can be submitted to the NREMT online via credit card or by check sent to the NREMT. We have found that online payment is the quickest and most reliable way to ensure eligibility for testing at the end of your course. Your course instructors will provide information regarding the online payment process. *For additional information regarding NREMT computer-based testing, please refer to the following web link: www.nremt.org/nremt/about/CBT_home.asp.*

Academic Testing Accommodations

Students with documented learning disabilities who have been granted accommodations for written testing in the past will need to submit documentation immediately to the NREMT in order to secure accommodations for their computer-based NREMT exam. Please be advised, students seeking testing accommodations are required to take their computer-based test at a Pearson VUE Professional Testing Center and will not be able to take the test on the last day of the course. The Pearson VUE Testing Center Accommodations Coordinator will assist individuals in finding a center convenient to them.

- Visit the NREMT website and follow the checklist for applying for accommodations:
www.nremt.org/nremt/about/policy_accomodations.asp
- Please also notify the WMI Registrar, that you are seeking accommodations: (866) 831-9001 ext 2372 or wmi_admissions@nols.edu.

Certification

Successful completion of the course and all testing provides National Registry EMT certification and Wilderness EMT certification from the NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute. If eligible, you will receive a WMI WEMT card and certificate of completion prior to your departure; the National Registry EMT card is mailed separately from the National Registry of EMTs office.

Course Tuition: \$3,745

Tuition includes instruction and materials, clinical experience, professional liability insurance and group medical equipment use. Tuition does not include travel to the course site, expenses associated with clinical experience, or the National Registry EMT computer-based testing fee.

A \$300 deposit is required to enroll in the course.

Tuition Protection Program

The Tuition Protection Program (TPP) is a tuition protection plan available for purchase. The goal of this program is to protect you against tuition loss should you be unable to participate in or complete your WMI WEMT course. Additionally, the program may help pay for evacuation costs from a remote course location. Details are available in the plan brochure at this link (http://www.nols.edu/enrolled/admissionforms/tuition_protection.pdf). All other questions about this plan should be referred to the Plan Administrator at 1-800-797-2297.

The cost of the Tuition Protection Program is automatically added to your balance for this course upon enrollment. If you want the program, pay no later than the time you pay your balance. If you do not wish to participate in the Tuition Protection Plan you must decline this coverage when you pay the balance of your course tuition. The cost of the plan is equal to 6% of your total tuition. The tuition program is applicable only to this specific course and is not transferrable or refundable.

Scholarship or Financial Aid

- WMI offers a limited amount of scholarship assistance for students in our Wilderness EMT courses. Scholarship aid is available to applicants who show great potential to excel as WMI students and who would be unable to attend without financial aid. The typical award ranges between \$500 and \$1,000. Students must pay a \$1000 deposit and register for a WEMT course before their application will be considered. For more information visit:
http://www.nols.edu/wmi_test/admissions/financial_aid.shtml.
- If you currently receive federal financial aid, please contact the WMI Registrar at wmi_admissions@nols.edu or (866) 831-9001 ext 2372.

For More Information

Questions? Contact the NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute via phone 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. MST Monday–Friday at (866) 831-9001 or via email at wmi@nols.edu.