

Emergency & Fire Management Services Pathway Review 2021-2022
Public Comment & Response

44005/Introduction to Emergency Medical Services (previously: History of EMS)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

I was thinking we had discussed that there would be a new course with a new number assigned, titled: CPR/Basic Life Support in the Technical Level at a .5 credit. Also, that the EMS First Responder/EMR course would be a 1.0 credit and in the Application Level. I teach the EMR course as a hands-on application of skills, so was thinking it could be in the Application Level. Benchmark 8.5 indicates students will "Assess, prioritize, and treat patients in a multiple person/injury scenario. The words "assess" and "treat" indicate hands on application skills.

KSDE RESPONSE:

This particular discussion did not pertain to the 44005/Intro to EMS course. In the first Committee meeting adding a new CPR/Basic Life Support course was suggested at the Technical Level. 44050-First Aid/CPR/EMR was not supposed to move up from the Technical Level. EMT I did move to the Application Level. 44050-First Aid/CPR/EMR is meant to prepare students for EMT I & II and Fire Science I & II.

44050/EMS First Responder (First Aid/CPR/EMR) (previously: First Aid/CPR/EMR)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Would like for the committee to review initial feedback from meetings regarding the additional course for EMR at a 1.0 credit to allow for this information to be covered adequately. The competencies listed for 44050 are written for EMR. There was a separate document prepared with the Basic Life Support CPR competencies but not included in the public comment documents. That missing set of competencies can be covered in the 0.5 credit course. Some mapping has been missed which needs to be addressed before the pathway is finalized.

2. This course as written is covering EMR competencies and way more than what can be covered in a 0.5 semester long course for 1-hour. The college credits for this course at most institutions is 5 hours and would not be able to satisfy the lab hours. Additionally, the committee discussed this course to be retitled "CPR Basic Life Support" or "Basic Life Support for First Responders" and creating an additional course titled "EMS First Responder."

KSDE RESPONSE:

In the first Committee meeting it was discussed that 44050 – First Aid/CPR/EMR should be changed to a 1.0 credit course by instructors that taught the course for both secondary and postsecondary. KSDE was on board with this change initially due to the committee feedback. However, during the second Committee meeting there was feedback against the 1.0 change

stating that the 44050-First Aid/CPR/EMR course is needed to prepare for Firefighter I, EMT I, Law Enforcement I, etc. It was stated that 44050 needed to be kept as .5 in the pathway for scheduling purposes and pathway/strand differences as well as teacher licensure issues depending on how the school is using the course locally (CPR/First Aid vs. CPR/BLS vs. EMR). CPR/Basic Life Support is a healthcare provider level of CPR. In turn, EMR would include everything for the CPR/BLS Certification (meaning competencies from the proposed CPR/Basic Life Support are already offered in the 44050/EMS First Responder-First Aid/CPR/EMR course). Therefore, we would essentially have been offering two different types of "CPR" courses for .5 credit, since the whole committee didn't agree on upgrading 44050 to 1.0 credit. The course description currently states that the 44050 course is "designed to instruct students in the requirements and skills to obtain national certifications for First Aid, CPR, and/or Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)." CPR/BLS could also be added into this description making the course flexible to all school districts.

Due to teacher shortages and committee resources, consultant received a rough draft of the CPR/Basic Life Support course after the pathway had already been submitted for public comment. The proposal was a .5 credit course, but did not include the First Aid competencies that 44050/EMS First Responder (First Aid/CPR/EMR) course offers. Therefore, if we changed 44050 to 1.0 credit, we would have to offer a .5 class that covers First Aid in addition to CPR to maintain equity to all career/pathway options within the LPSCS Cluster. When comparing the current 44050-First Aid/CPR/EMR course to the proposed NEW #-CPR/BLS course, they are literally only two benchmarks apart [Benchmark 2.0: Preparatory Skills for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Providers and Benchmark 3.0: Performing First Aid Techniques (American Red Cross)]. Any change made to this course will impact the Corrections, Security, Law, & Law Enforcement Services and Health Science Pathways as well.

FINAL DECISION *(after receiving additional feedback from Committee members):*

Additional research was done to determine the number of seat hours via American Red Cross that are necessary for First Aid/CPR vs. CPR/BLS vs. EMR. In addition, this was compared to the 5 credit hours/80 seat hours at JCCC (= 90 seat hours secondary) to obtain the EMR certification. Here are the numbers for comparison:

American Red Cross:

- CPR = 2.5-3 seat hrs.
- First Aid/CPR = 4-6 seat hrs.
- BLS = 4-5 seat hrs.
- EMR = 56 seat hrs. (includes CPR/BLS)

JCCC Program:

- CPR/BLS = 1 credit hr./16 seat hrs.
- EMS First Responder (EMR) = 5 credit hrs./80 seat hrs.

- EMT = 10 credit hrs./160 seat hours (for comparison EMT I + II = 180 seat hours at secondary)

Based on the above numbers, EMR certification competencies could be completed in one semester (@1 hr. per day/5 days per week) and still have additional hours/days left over to make sure high school students were given enough time to be proficient to sit for the available ARC certifications. Adding the additional proposed seven competencies under Benchmark 7.0 would not justify enough of a difference between the current .5 credit class and the proposed 1.0 credit course addition. Due to listed seat/credit hours data, it is necessary to retain the .5/44050-EMS First Responder class (remove First Aid/CPR/EMR from the title for local flexibility) and to not increase the course to 1.0 credits. In turn, it is not necessary to change the pathway to incorporate the proposed separate First Aid/CPR/BLS (.5 class) option because those competencies could be completed in 10-12 seat hours. In addition, state-weighted funding cannot be approved for First Aid/CPR/BLS certifications as a stand-alone class (i.e. comparable to OSHA certification).

In summary, the 44050/EMS First Responder (.5 credit) course description will be updated to state: "A technical level course designed to instruct students in the requirements and skills to obtain national certifications for First Aid/CPR or CPR/BLS and/or Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)." This indicates that districts will still cover all the benchmarks/competencies, but will have a choice to offer different levels of certification(s) based on their local pathway and student needs. This option aligns with postsecondary, ARC certifications, KS BEMS requirements, and allows flexibility for different careers/pathways: Corrections/Security/Law Enforcement, Emergency Services, Fire Services, and Health Sciences. While this isn't the outcome that had been originally proposed, when updating statewide pathway courses the agency must align with the formal data. If districts determine that students need an additional .5 class (i.e. EMR Certification Prep) to cover the competencies, they could choose to map a second semester class as a .5/1 of 1/T.

44060/EMT I

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Title of the courses are an issue as they are in conflict with state certification. These course titles imply that the course leads directly to state certification. It should be called EMS I.

KSDE RESPONSE:

The description for this course states: "The first of two application level courses designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to attain Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification."

Students must take EMT I & II in order to test to gain state certification. This is the same name that has been used for these courses in the past. When it was suggested in a secondary meeting to remove EMT I & II and rename as EMS I & II, the majority of committee members did not want to make this change. It was said that this would be confusing and that they wanted the level I & II courses to align with postsecondary by keeping the EMT name. At that point all benchmarks/competencies for both EMT courses were combined and split up accordingly.

44065/EMT II

PUBLIC COMMENT:

This course should be called EMS II.

KSDE RESPONSE:

The description for this course states: "The second of two application level courses designed to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to attain Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification."

Students must take EMT I & II in order to test to gain state certification. This is the same name that has been used for these courses in the past. When it was suggested in a secondary meeting to remove EMT I & II and rename as EMS I & II, the majority of committee members did not want to make this change. It was said that this would be confusing and that they wanted the level I & II courses to align with postsecondary by keeping the EMT name. At that point all benchmarks/competencies for both EMT courses were combined and split up accordingly.