Course Description

This course will identify the key points of the legal, political, and regulatory environment associated with the administration and workings of a modern emergency medical service (EMS). The main foci of this course are centered on the mechanics of the legal system, specific laws directly related to the provision and management of EMS, due process and disciplinary procedures for EMS personnel issues, the importance of quality documentation, and the study of specific acts of federal legislation such as the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), and the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA). The importance of the collective body of laws and regulations will be examined as it relates to EMS.

Course Textbook


Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify the major components of the American legal system as they relate to the provision and management of EMS services.
2. Analyze a lawsuit’s provisions to ensure compliance with laws and regulations of EMS.
3. Describe the types of EMS Acts and the specific areas of federal and state legislation that EMS is governed under.
4. Explain negligence and the key components which must be proven in tort-related cases.
5. Distinguish between intentional torts, criminal conduct, and criminal liability relative to providing EMS and their effects on current and future provisions for patient care.
6. Discuss the basics, rules, and benefits of sound documentation needed for the EMS professional and its correlation to protecting oneself from legal actions.
7. Describe the various models of insurance, insurance laws, and regulation of insurance for the EMS professional.
8. Examine state and federal bodies of legislation specific to EMS to include EMTALA, COBRA, and HIPPA.
9. Describe the various mandatory reporting accompanying the provision of EMS care for EMS professionals.
10. Identify the importance of laws and regulations for the EMS management professional that should be adhered to and followed.

Credits

Upon completion of this course, the students will earn three (3) hours of college credit.

Course Structure

1. **Unit Learning Outcomes**: Each unit contains Learning Outcomes that specify the measurable skills and knowledge students should gain upon completion of the unit.
2. **Unit Lesson**: Each unit contains a Unit Lesson, which discusses unit material.
3. **Reading Assignments**: Each unit contains Reading Assignments from one or more chapters from the textbook. Suggested Readings are provided in each unit study guide to aid students in their course of study. The readings themselves are not provided in the course, but students are encouraged to read the resources listed if the opportunity arises as they have valuable information that expands upon the lesson material.
4. **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** These non-graded Learning Activities are provided in each unit to aid students in their course of study.

5. **Key Terms:** Key Terms are intended to guide students in their course of study. Students should pay particular attention to Key Terms as they represent important concepts within the unit material and reading.

6. **Discussion Boards:** Discussion Boards are a part of all CSU term courses. Information and specifications regarding these assignments are provided in the Academic Policies listed in the Course Menu bar.

7. **Unit Assessments:** This course contains four Unit Assessments, one to be completed at the end of Units I, II, IV, and V. Assessments are composed of written response questions.

8. **Unit Assignments:** Students are required to submit for grading Unit Assignments in each unit. Specific information and instructions regarding these assignments are provided below. Grading rubrics are included with each assignment. Specific information about accessing these rubrics is provided below.

9. **Ask the Professor:** This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content related questions.

10. **Student Break Room:** This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates.

### CSU Online Library

There is a virtual library with resources, including both journals and ebooks, to support your program and your course at Columbia Southern University. eResources are accessible 24 hours a day/7 days a week from the CSU Online Library gateway page. To access the library, log into myCSU, and then click on CSU Online Library. Resources are organized in the library by title, but if you click on Research Guides, you will find eResources arranged by subject.

The Library Reference service is available 7 days a week; you can reach CSU’s virtual librarians by emailing thevirtuallibrarian@columbiasouthern.edu. These professional librarians will be glad to help you develop your research plan or to assist you in any way in finding relevant, appropriate, and timely information.

Librarian responses may occur within minutes or hours, but it will never take more than 24 hours for a librarian to send a response to the email address you have provided. Replies to reference requests may include customized keyword search strategies, links to videos, research guides, screen captures, attachments, a phone call, live screen sharing, and meeting room appointments, as well as other forms of instruction.

### Unit Assignments

#### Unit I Assignment

**Negligence Analysis**

Using the resources assigned to this unit, including Chapters 1 and 2 of the book and the Suggested Readings, write a paper that is at least one page in length and in APA format that:

- gives an analysis of negligence,
- identifies what factors contribute to proving negligence, and
- discusses at least three things you can do, in your present position, to ensure negligence does not occur.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

#### Unit II Assignment

**EMS Provider Legal Elements**

Write a paper that covers at least three of the six objectives provided below. Be sure to describe how to improve the legal aspects of your EMS System within your community based on the objectives you decide to use.

1. Identify the Legal ABCs of EMS protections.
2. Describe the duties of the EMS provider.
3. Discuss patient rights as they relate to consent, implied consent, and battery.
4. Explain why refusal of care issues are critical and require sound documentation when they occur.
5. Identify basic do not resuscitate (DNR) orders, living wills, and powers of attorneys as they relate to providing EMS care.
6. Discuss confidentiality with patient information and insurance documentation.

Your paper should be at least one page in length. It is recommended that you utilize the Suggested Readings from Unit II to complete this assignment.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**Unit III Article Review**

Using one of the case law examples contained on page 42 of your textbook (also provided below), write a review of the case law and how it has changed or enforced the Scope of Practice for EMS professionals. Your review should be at least two pages in length (not to include the reference page) and be written utilizing APA guidelines. You are encouraged to use the internet to aid your research efforts.

- *Hospital Corporation of Northwest, Inc. v. Arizona Department of Health Services*
- *Mercy Tidewater Ambulance Service v. Carpenter*
- *Schultz v. Rural/Metro Corp.*

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**Unit IV Case Study**

You are the EMS manager for a large, urban EMS response agency. You have been informed that your agency is facing litigation for an intentional tort and you are being asked for your assistance in shaping their defense.

Using the four elements necessary to prove negligence, outline a paper crafting the defenses needed to protect your organization from this litigation.

- Include the above listed assignment points garnered from your own experiences, and use the content of the assigned reading material.
- Identify your steps in assisting your provider with their defense.

Your paper should be at least two pages in length.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**Unit V Case Study**

Using the information presented in Unit V, develop a training process for new employees. Your training should focus on

- criminal liability for the EMS professional,
- due process rights and problems with due process, and
- criminal issues affecting the provision of EMS.

The paper should be at least two pages in length.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**Unit VI Case Study**

**Improving Documentation**

As an EMS Manager, develop a system to assist in training your subordinates in the elements of proper documentation. Your training should

- describe the legal benefits of proper documentation,
- identify the good rules of proper documentation,
• include the above listed assignment points garnered from your own experiences and the content of the assigned reading material, and
• identify your steps in preventing negligence from occurring.

Your paper should be at least two pages in length. It is recommended that you utilize the Suggested Readings from Unit VI to complete this assignment.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**Unit VII Case Study**

**Insurance**

Using the information from the text, provide a synopsis of the importance of insurance for the EMS industry. Include in your response the importance of insurance to an individual practitioner in EMS. Also, discuss the ramifications if insurance is voided or revoked when a claim is initiated.

The paper should be at least two pages in length.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**Unit VIII Assignment**

**EMS Mandatory Reporting**

Based on your local, state, or entity requirements, write a paper of at least one page describing the mandatory reporting requirements for your current position. Be sure to list all that are applicable to your current scope of practice and level of training and experience. Remember to identify your steps in assisting your provider with mandatory reporting.

Information about accessing the Blackboard Grading Rubric for this assignment is provided below.

**APA Guidelines**

The application of the APA writing style shall be practical, functional, and appropriate to each academic level, with the primary purpose being the documentation (citation) of sources. CSU requires that students use APA style for certain papers and projects. Students should always carefully read and follow assignment directions and review the associated grading rubric when available. Students can find CSU’s Citation Guide by clicking here. This document includes examples and sample papers and provides information on how to contact the CSU Success Center.

**Grading Rubrics**

This course utilizes analytic grading rubrics as tools for your professor in assigning grades for all learning activities. Each rubric serves as a guide that communicates the expectations of the learning activity and describes the criteria for each level of achievement. In addition, a rubric is a reference tool that lists evaluation criteria and can help you organize your efforts to meet the requirements of that learning activity. It is imperative for you to familiarize yourself with these rubrics because these are the primary tools your professor uses for assessing learning activities.

Rubric categories include: (1) Discussion Board, (2) Assessment (Written Response), and (3) Assignment. However, it is possible that not all of the listed rubric types will be used in a single course (e.g., some courses may not have Assessments).

The Discussion Board rubric can be found within Unit I’s Discussion Board submission instructions.

The Assessment (Written Response) rubric can be found embedded in a link within the directions for each Unit Assessment. However, these rubrics will only be used when written-response questions appear within the Assessment.

Each Assignment type (e.g., article critique, case study, research paper) will have its own rubric. The Assignment rubrics are built into Blackboard, allowing students to review them prior to beginning the Assignment and again once the
Assignment has been scored. This rubric can be accessed via the Assignment link located within the unit where it is to be submitted. Students may also access the rubric through the course menu by selecting “Tools” and then “My Grades.”

Again, it is vitally important for you to become familiar with these rubrics because their application to your Discussion Boards, Assessments, and Assignments is the method by which your instructor assigns all grades.

Communication Forums

These are non-graded discussion forums that allow you to communicate with your professor and other students. Participation in these discussion forums is encouraged, but not required. You can access these forums with the buttons in the Course Menu. Instructions for subscribing/unsubscribing to these forums are provided below.

Click here for instructions on how to subscribe/unsubscribe and post to the Communication Forums.

Ask the Professor

This communication forum provides you with an opportunity to ask your professor general or course content questions. Questions may focus on Blackboard locations of online course components, textbook or course content elaboration, additional guidance on assessment requirements, or general advice from other students.

Questions that are specific in nature, such as inquiries regarding assessment/assignment grades or personal accommodation requests, are NOT to be posted on this forum. If you have questions, comments, or concerns of a non-public nature, please feel free to email your professor. Responses to your post will be addressed or emailed by the professor within 48 hours.

Before posting, please ensure that you have read all relevant course documentation, including the syllabus, assessment/assignment instructions, faculty feedback, and other important information.

Student Break Room

This communication forum allows for casual conversation with your classmates. Communication on this forum should always maintain a standard of appropriateness and respect for your fellow classmates. This forum should NOT be used to share assessment answers.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards (8 @ 2%)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Assessments (4 @ 8%)</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article Review</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Studies (4 @ 6%)</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments (3 @ 6%)</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Schedule/Checklist (PLEASE PRINT)

The following pages contain a printable Course Schedule to assist you through this course. By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted.
# EMS 4303, Legal, Political, and Regulatory Environment of EMS

**Course Schedule**

By following this schedule, you will be assured that you will complete the course within the time allotted. Please keep this schedule for reference as you progress through your course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit I</th>
<th>Legal, Political, and Regulatory Environment of EMS Systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Review: | - Unit Study Guide  
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide |
| Read: | - [Chapter 1: Mechanics of the Legal System](#)  
- [Chapter 2: Navigating through a Lawsuit](#)  
- **Suggested Reading:** See Study Guide |
| Discuss: | - **Discussion Board Response:** Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)  
- **Discussion Board Comment:** Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time) |
| Submit: | - **Assessment** by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)  
- **Assignment** by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time) |

**Notes/Goals:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit II</th>
<th>Provider Duties and Patient Rights in EMS Systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Review: | - Unit Study Guide  
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide |
| Read: | - [Chapter 3: Duties of the EMS Provider](#)  
- [Chapter 4: Patient Rights](#)  
- **Suggested Reading:** See Study Guide |
| Discuss: | - **Discussion Board Response:** Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)  
- **Discussion Board Comment:** Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time) |
| Submit: | - **Assessment** by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)  
- **Assignment** by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time) |

**Notes/Goals:**
# Course Schedule

## Unit III

### Legal, Political, and Regulatory Environment of EMS Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review:</th>
<th>Unit Study Guide</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Activities (Non-Graded):</strong></td>
<td>See Study Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 5:</strong> Medical Authority and Practice Acts</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 6:</strong> Good Samaritan Laws and Immunities</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Submit:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Article Review:</strong></td>
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Notes/Goals:

## Unit IV

### Negligence and Intentional Torts of EMS Systems

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<tr>
<th>Review:</th>
<th>Unit Study Guide</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Learning Activities (Non-Graded):</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Read:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 7:</strong> Negligence</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chapter 8:</strong> Intentional Torts</td>
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<td><strong>Suggested Reading:</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Case Study:</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Notes/Goals:
### Course Schedule

#### Unit V: Criminal Violations and Due Process of EMS Systems

| Review:         | Unit Study Guide
|                 | Learning Activities (Non-Graded): See Study Guide
| Read:           | Chapter 9: Criminal Violations
|                 | Chapter 10: Due Process and Disciplinary Procedures
|                 | Suggested Reading: See Study Guide

| Discuss:        | Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)
|                 | Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)

| Submit:         | Assessment by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)
|                 | Case Study by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)

#### Unit VI: Importance of Documentation for EMS Systems

| Review:         | Unit Study Guide
|                 | Learning Activities (Non-Graded): See Study Guide
| Read:           | Chapter 11: Documentation
|                 | Suggested Reading: See Study Guide

| Discuss:        | Discussion Board Response: Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)
|                 | Discussion Board Comment: Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)

| Submit:         | Case Study by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)

Notes/Goals: None
## Unit VII
### Understanding Insurance, COBRA, and EMTALA for EMS Systems

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 12: Insurance
- Chapter 13: COBRA and EMTALA
- **Suggested Reading:** See Study Guide

**Discuss:**
- **Discussion Board Response:** Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)
- **Discussion Board Comment:** Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)

**Submit:**
- **Case Study** by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)

**Notes/Goals:**

## Unit VIII
### Public Service and Interagency relationships for EMS Systems

**Review:**
- Unit Study Guide
- **Learning Activities (Non-Graded):** See Study Guide

**Read:**
- Chapter 14: Public Service and Interagency Relationships
- **Suggested Reading:** See Study Guide

**Discuss:**
- **Discussion Board Response:** Submit your response to the Discussion Board question by Saturday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)
- **Discussion Board Comment:** Comment on another student’s Discussion Board response by Tuesday, 11:59 p.m. CST (Central Time)

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**Notes/Goals:**