



# AEMT Student Minimum Competencies (SMC)

The existing ALS psychomotor Examination was designed with the intent of measuring both procedural/mental knowledge and simple/complex psychomotor skills. With advancements in testing practices, testing science, and the call for modernization and efficiency by stakeholders across the industry, the National Registry is introducing updated examinations as part of its ALS Examination Redesign initiative.

As part of this initiative, the existing psychomotor examination will be discontinued. The mental and procedural skills formerly intended to be evaluated on this psychomotor examination will be transitioned to the National Registry's cognitive examination. The evaluation of physical skills will be transitioned from the psychomotor examination to an eligibility requirement, which must be met before sitting for ALS National Certification examinations. This eligibility requirement is titled Student Minimum Competencies (SMC).

For the NRP Certification, there is already an SMC Matrix, which is overseen by the Committee on the Accreditation of EMS Education Programs, (CoAEMSP). When a candidate completes their accredited Paramedic education program, their program director attests to their completion of the Paramedic SMC Matrix.

For NRAEMT Certification, there is no mandatory accreditation that AEMT education programs must maintain. Therefore, there was no outlined standard for minimum skills competency as a prerequisite for National Certification. State EMS Offices have varying degrees of AEMT physical skills competency requirements to be completed as part of AEMT education programs.



Acting on this imperative, the National Registry partnered with representatives from NASEMSO, NAEMSE, and CoAEMSP to develop a draft AEMT SMC Matrix for use by State EMS Officials as a model guideline. The AEMT SMC Matrix considers many factors that lead to the demonstration of competency. They are:

- (1)** Diversity of encounters involving differing patient ages.
- (2)** Diversity of encounters differing pathology/complaints.
- (3)** Specific AEMT skills.
- (4)** Field experience and capstone field internship requirements.
- (5)** Specific EMT skills.

The AEMT SMC Matrix, as described herein, is a model guideline for use by individual State EMS Offices as they see fit. The individual State EMS Offices ultimately set the requirements for AEMT skills competency, whose completion will be attested to at the point of course completion.

National Registry's Board of Directors will vote on a resolution to introduce the completion of a state's AEMT SMC requirements as a prerequisite for certification. Pending ratification after the 60-day public comment period, the National Registry will publish a timeline for the implementation of policy and application changes. This timeline will include the requirement that beginning July 1, 2024, completion of the state's AEMT SMC requirements will be a prerequisite for National EMS Certification testing.



## What You Need To Know

- ✱ For State Officials, and EMS Educators, the AEMT SMC framework creates a structural guide for progressive skills competency, rooted in evidence through the Scope of Practice model.
- ✱ The AEMT SMC will better ensure entry-level competency through its documentation of progressive proficiency, patient encounters, and team leads, contrasted to the current one-and-done event with the current AEMT psychomotor examination.
- ✱ In early 2023, the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) education committee and the Personal Licensure Council voted to endorse the document. NASEMSO has distributed the AEMT SMC Model Guideline to the state EMS offices across our nation for further state-by-state evaluation and consideration.

## Key Takeaways

- ✱ The AEMT SMC requirement will become a pre-requisite requirement for National Certification July 1, 2024. The AEMT SMC requirement will be set by the individual states, attested to by the program director at the point of a candidate's course completion.
- ✱ The AEMT SMC Matrix is a guidance document, developed by representatives from multiple organizations, to serve as a resource for State EMS Officials and their state approved AEMT Programs. It considers many factors that lead to the demonstration of competency. They are: (1) diversity of encounters involving differing patient ages, (2) diversity of encounters differing pathology/complaints, (3) specific AEMT skills, (4) field experience and capstone field internship requirements and (5) specific skills.
- ✱ The performance examination items will measure clinical judgment.





## Questions

### **Q- How will this affect my state?**

**A-** Each state is expected to adopt the AEMT SMC differently. Please contact your state officials.

### **Q- How many live patient contacts are recommended?**

**A-** 30 exposures during the entire course (Laboratory, clinical, hospital, and field phases)

### **Q- Is the psychomotor examination going away?**

**A-** The sunset of the psychomotor examination will begin July 1, 2024.

### **Q- Why are we changing?**

**A-** The SMC is a better assessment of competency and will capture a more complete picture of a learner's knowledge, skills, abilities, and learning progression.

### **Q- Is the AEMT SMC required? If so, by who?**

**A-** After July 1, 2024, the completion of a state's AEMT SMC requirements, as part of a state approved AEMT education program, will become an eligibility requirement for AEMT certification testing from the National Registry.

## Dates To Know

