



## How Do I Become an Accredited Institution?

Thank you for your interest in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) education. By law, only those Ohio institutions accredited by the State Board of Emergency Medical Services (EMS Board) may offer initial training to individuals wishing to obtain an EMS certificate to practice. A certificate of accreditation is awarded to an Ohio institution that has met all of the requirements to provide quality EMS training.

Requirements for EMS accredited institutions are outlined in the law, Ohio Revised Code (ORC), and rule, the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). **You will especially want to refer to OAC 4765-7-02** which details the criteria for an EMS certificate of accreditation. The law and rule can be downloaded using a link on the Ohio Division of EMS website - <http://ems.ohio.gov/rules.htm>.

Of utmost importance is the selection of a program director to oversee the EMS training program and a program Medical Director that specializes in emergency medicine. By law all EMS courses must be developed under the direction of a physician who specializes in emergency medicine. For more information on the Ohio approved curricula see: OAC 4765-12 (First Responder); 4765-15 (EMT-B); 4765-16 (EMT-I); and 4765-17 (EMT-P).

All courses offered must be taught by an individual who holds a certificate to teach as an EMS Instructor, Assistant EMS Instructor or EMS Continuing Education Instructor. You may also use a Special Topics Instructor (STI) until February 1, 2010. For more information on instructor qualifications see OAC 4765-18.

To obtain an initial application for a certificate of accreditation, contact an Education Coordinator at the Division of EMS. The Education Coordinator can provide consultation on the application and will assist you with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the application or curriculum requirements.

Ohio Division of EMS  
Attn: Linda Mirarchi, PhD  
EMS Education Coordinator  
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Columbus, OH 43223  
800/233-0785  
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Upon receipt of your completed application, the program director will be contacted to schedule an on-site review. The on-site review will include a meeting with the program administrators, instructional staff and the medical director. A review of the program facilities, equipment, and a sampling of clinical or field internship sites is also conducted during an on-site visit. Following the on-site review, a recommendation will be presented to the State Board of EMS.

Per ORC 4765.17, the EMS Board has 120 days from receipt of the application to take action.