

Education Rule Proposals-FAQ's

1. NCOEMS is considering a proposal that would require an associate degree or higher to become a credentialed North Carolina Paramedic.
 - a. The rule change **will not** affect Emergency Medical Technicians, Emergency Medical Responders or Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians.
 - b. The proposal would only affect new Paramedic applicants (To include legal recognition) who are applying for a Paramedic credential after July 1, 2023.
 - c. All current Paramedics will not be required to obtain their associates degree or higher.
 - i. Including individuals applying for legal recognition with an initial Paramedic credential issued before July 1, 2023.
 - d. The proposal has been discussed and documented in the 2019 release of the National EMS Scope of Practice document.

2. When will a decision be made?
 - a. NCOEMS is in an exploratory phase now and the NC EMS Advisory Council has appointed a Task Force to hold hearings across North Carolina to receive input on the rule proposals.
 - b. The Task Force will make recommendations to NCOEMS regarding the draft rule proposal.
 - c. Once complete, NCOEMS will enter the standard rulemaking process with additional public comment period and public hearings as required by statute.
 - d. At the earliest, these rules would not be in effect until mid/late 2020.

3. Has NCOEMS received comments or letters of support/opposition?
 - a. NCOEMS has received several comments through email, public meetings, and meetings with our shareholders/stakeholders.
 - b. NCOEMS has received multiple letters of support from State and National organizations.

4. NCOEMS is considering a proposal that would require instructors to possess a degree by July 1, 2023.
 - a. This would only affect new Level I and Level II applicants who are applying for instructor credentials after July 1, 2023.
 - b. All current Level I and Level II Instructors will not be required to obtain their associates degree or higher.
 - c. Level I Instructors will be required to have a minimum of an associate degree.
 - d. Level II Instructors will be required to have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree.

5. OEMS is considering a proposal that would require educational institutions to possess accreditation or a valid letter of review from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)
 - a. This would apply to Advanced Education Institutions (AEI), wishing to provide initial Advanced EMT or Paramedic Education.
 - b. The proposal would only affect new Advanced EMT or Paramedic courses offered after date agreed upon
 - c. Could my local institution continue to teach Advanced EMT or Paramedic courses for continuing education or recertification?
 - i. Yes

6. Advanced EMT programs are not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), why is the OEMS requiring this?
 - a. In the 2019 release of the EMS Scope of Practice document, CAAHEP Accreditation for the Advanced EMT programs is recommended by January 1, 2025.
 - b. The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) has sought input over the last few years regarding the Accreditation of Advanced EMT Education.
 - c. To be proactive, NCOEMS would require the Advanced EMT course to be offered in an accredited or Letter of Review (LOR) program.
 - d. This would assist EMS programs to move towards competency-based education. Additionally, this would allow the Institutions Advisory Committee in setting the minimum accepted patient contacts and skills for Advanced EMT Program completion to mirror the accredited Paramedic Programs.

For a complete copy of the draft proposed rules:

<http://www.ncems.org/pdf/EducationRules-2019-02.pdf>