

School Name	Hero's Academy, Benton, IL
Course Name	Emergency Medical Technician
Format	Blended

Key Results Since 2010, 100 percent of students using CourseConnect: EMS passed the Illinois State Emergency Medical Technician Licensing Exam on the first attempt, compared to the nationwide average pass rate of 68 percent.

Submitted by

Tom Stoudt, Paramedic and Instructor, Hero's Academy

Course materials

CourseConnect Virtual EMS Academy: EMT

About the Program

An emergency medical professional with twenty years of experience, Tom Stoudt created Hero's Academy to help meet the growing need for qualified emergency medical technicians. Hero's Academy exists to provide emergency medicine students an education that is flexible, personalized, and affordable. Concluding that a traditional, on-ground, lecture-based approach could not offer the outcomes-based mastery essential for emergency medicine students, Stoudt created the first and only Illinois Department of Public Health approved online EMT-B training course using CourseConnect: EMS.

Stoudt's online EMT training course prepares students to:

- Pass the Illinois State Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Licensing Exam the first time
- Pass the National Registry EMT Exam (NREMT)
- Respond capably to real life situations encountered as an EMT
- Succeed in an emergency medicine career

"Working in the field with new EMTs, I saw that the traditional classroom lecture method of teaching did not meet students' needs. Students simply were not acquiring the skills needed to perform the critical functions of emergency medicine. Many EMS students are transitioning from existing careers; they need a course that is flexible, personalized, and that exploits all of the technologies EMTs will use on the job. CourseConnect enables me to deliver an education to students where and when they are able to learn. Students work at their own pace and fit their studies around job and family responsibilities."

"My course is learner-centered and outcome-based.

CourseConnect provides an ideal foundation because every element is designed to empower students to achieve mastery. Students are able to learn at their own pace, on their own schedule, and in the style that works most effectively for them. We are not constrained by the artificial limits of a specific classroom or a limited calendar. Students take charge of their learning and of their career goals."

"CourseConnect enables students to work at their own pace and to fit their studies around a full-time job and family responsibilities."

Implementation

"CourseConnect is the entire foundation of my course. The CourseConnect approach is ideal for self-paced learning. For each lesson, students read the textbook chapter, view the online Lesson Presentation, participate in the Discussion Forums, complete the Assignments, test their understanding with the Quizzes, review the chapter PowerPoints, and then complete the Chapter Test. At every point in the lesson sequence, students receive feedback about their progress. When students participate fully, they develop a rock-solid mastery of the concepts and techniques they need to succeed."

“Since adopting CourseConnect, 100 percent of my students have passed the state EMT licensing exam. By contrast, the nationwide average pass rate is just 68 percent.”

Benefits

“The CourseConnect videos help students acquire skills so effectively. A textbook can show photos in a sequence. But until you’ve seen, for example, an airway placed in a patient, it’s very hard to explain the skill. With CourseConnect, students can watch the video as many times as they need until they feel comfortable with the procedure. When students come to class after seeing the video, they are already familiar with the procedure. I find that I only need to demonstrate the skill once. Students have done the essential learning with CourseConnect and are ready to demonstrate mastery. I can test students on that particular skill and then move on in the curriculum.”

“My course is learner-centered and outcome-based. CourseConnect provides an ideal foundation because every element is designed to empower students to achieve mastery.”

Results and Data

Students using CourseConnect in Tom Stoudt’s blended (on-ground and online) classes performed significantly better than students in Illinois and nationwide who did not use CourseConnect. Among students using CourseConnect, 100 percent passed the Illinois statewide EMT licensing exam compared with a nationwide average 68 percent.

“Students typically score significantly lower on my tests than they do on the state exam. I construct my tests to rigorously probe students’ understanding. I want my students to have the skills and knowledge to face any situation capably and calmly. As an EMT for more than twenty years, I feel there is no such thing as overpreparing in emergency medicine.”

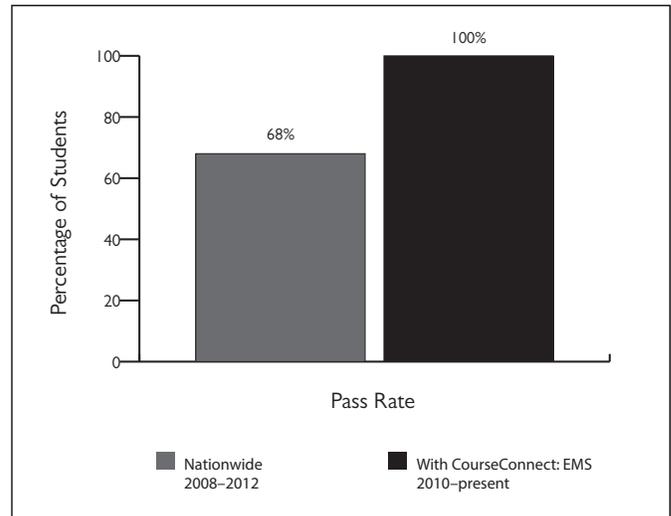


Figure 1. EMT Licensing Exam Pass Rates: Nationwide and Hero's Academy Using CourseConnect: EMS, 2008-Present

Conclusion

“CourseConnect has proven to be the ideal learning solution for my students and instructors. As a leader in the emergency medicine field, I’m proud to deliver highly competent, trained EMTs to meet the growing need for such professionals. CourseConnect is definitely the foundation of that success.”