

KZN College of Emergency Care

Higher Certificate in Emergency Medical Care SAQA ID: 120401

The Higher Certificate in Emergency Medical Care (HCert:EMC) is an entry level qualification (NQF 5 & 120 credits) designed to provide individuals with essential skills in Emergency Medical Services. The program focuses on basic life support, patient assessment, and emergency response techniques, preparing graduates to deliver immediate care in pre-hospital environments. The key components includes training in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation, clinical examination, understanding emergency protocols, gaining practical experience through clinical practice placements in a real-world settings within the ambulance services and healthcare facilities.

This qualification also serves as a foundation for advancing to higher education in Emergency Medical Care.

Upon completion, graduates are eligible to register with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) as an Emergency Care Assistance (ECA) to practice within a pre-defined scope with capabilities as determined by the Professional Board for Emergency Care (PBEC).

Programme Structure

Fundamental modules	NQF	Credits	Semester	Pre-requisite
Mental Health and Wellness	5	8	1 st Semester	
End User Computing	5	8	1 st Semester	
Physics	5	8	1 st semester	
Chemistry	5	8	1 st semester	
Foundation of Professional Practice	5	12	1st semester	
Anatomy and Physiology	5	16	1st semester	

Core Modules	NQF	Credits	Semester	
Emergency Medical Care Theory	5	15	2 nd Semester	Chemistry, FOPP, A&P
Emergency Medical Care Practical	5	20	2 nd Semester	Chemistry, FOPP, A&P
Clinical Practice	5	30	2 nd Semester	Chemistry, FOPP, A&P

Program Outcomes

1. Understand the structure of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the role of EMS within the comprehensive health care structures of South Africa.
2. Understanding and application of medical ethics, professional behaviour and relevant legal frameworks are demonstrated through effective verbal and nonverbal communication with all Emergency Medical Services stakeholders.
3. Maintain personal mental and physical health and wellness to cope with the stressors of the emergency care environment
4. Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the principle of the basic sciences as it relates to emergency care.
5. Application of the knowledge and understanding of the principle of human anatomy and physiology as it relates to the ECA scope of practice.
6. Demonstrate the necessary clinical assessment, diagnostic skills and treatment regimes in line with the ECA scope of practice.
7. Render appropriate emergency medical care to the community without any favour or prejudice

Access and Admission Requirements

THE CANDIDATE MUST COMPLY WITH 1. OR 2. OR 3.		
1. Senior Certificate (prior 2009)	2. National Senior Certificate with Higher Certificate endorsement	3. National Certificate (Vocational)
Must have at least a minimum of E symbol on Higher Grade or D symbol on Standard Grade For all of these subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Mathematics • Biology and / or Physical Sciences 	Must have these subjects and rating codes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English (3) • Mathematics (3) or Mathematical Literacy (6) • Life Sciences (3) and / or Physical Sciences (3) • Additional Subject 1 (3) • Additional Subject 2 (3) 	Must have a minimum pass of 60% for these subjects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Mathematics • Life Sciences and / or Physical Sciences
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Admission Point Score (APS) of 18 (Points are calculated for the top six Matric subjects, excluding Life Orientation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass Medical Fitness examination • Pass Physical Fitness assessment 		

Admission Point Score (APS) Calculation

National Senior Certificate (NSC – from 2008)	
APS Rating	Rating/Level
8	7 (90-100%)
7	7 (80-89%)
6	6 (70-79%)
5	5 (60-69%)
4	4 (50-59%)
3	3 (40-49%)
2	2 (30-39%)
1	1 (1-29%)

National Certificate Vocational (NCV)			
APS Rating	Fundamental Subjects	APS Rating	Vocational Subjects
8	(90-100%)		
7	(80-89%)		
6	(70-79%)		
5	(60-69%)		
4	(50-59%)	4	4 (80-100%)
3	(40-49%)	3	3 (70-79%)
2	(30-39%)	2	2 (60-69%)
1	(1-29%)	1	1 (0-59%)

Senior Certificate (SC – Before 2008)						
APS Rating	LANGUAGES			OTHER SUBJECTS		
	HG 1 st Lang	HG 2 nd Lang	SG 1 st Lang	SG 2 nd Lang	Higher Grade	Standard Grade
8	A (90-100%)				A (90-100%)	
7	A (80-89%)				A (80-89%)	
6	B (70-79%)	A (80-100%)	A (80-100%)		B (70-79%)	A (80-100%)
5	C (60-69%)	B (70-79%)	B (70-79%)	A (80-100%)	C (60-69%)	B (70-79%)
4	D (50-59%)	C (60-69%)	C (60-69%)	B (70-79%)	D (50-59%)	C (60-69%)
3	E (40-49%)	D (50-59%)	D (50-59%)	C (60-69%)	E (40-49%)	D (50-59%)
2	F (33-39%)	E (40-49%)	E (40-49%)	D (50-59%)	F (33-39%)	E (40-49%)
1						F (33-39%)

PHYSICAL FITNESS REQUIREMENTS					
2.4km run					
Male			Female		
≤22 years	23-29 years	≥30 years	≤22 years	23-29 years	≥30 years
15 min	17 min	20 min	17 min	20 min	25 min
Male			Female		
Male Push ups: 1min			Female Push ups: 1min		
35	30	25	30	25	20
Sit ups: 1min					
Male			Female		
40	35	30	35	30	25

HCert EMC Classes

Hcert Class 2/2024		Hcert Class 1/2025		Hcer Class 2/2025	
Orientation	01 – 05 July 2024			Orientation	07 - 11 July 2025
Commencement	08 July 2024			Commencement	14 July 2025
First academic break	23 – 27 September 2024			First academic break	06 -10 October 2025
Second academic break	17 December – 03 January 2025			Second academic break	22 December – 09 January 2026
Third academic break	31 March – 04 April 2025			Third academic break	30 March – 07 April 2026
Ends	30 June 2025			Ends	30 June 2026

Recruitment for July 2026 Intake

ACTIVITY	DATE
Applications open	02 February 2026
Applications close	02 March 2026
Selection process commence	23 March 2026
Medical assessment due	17 April 2026
Physical assessment	17 April 2026
Selection process finalized	20 May 2026
Orientation	06 to 10 July 2026
Commencement of programme	13 July 2026

Diploma: Emergency Medical Care

The Diploma in Emergency Medical Care (D:EMC) is a mid-level qualification (NQF 6, 360 credits) designed to prepare individuals for careers in Emergency Medical Care, with an emphasis on developing adaptable professionals to meet the health needs of developing nations

This diploma can lead to various career opportunities in Emergency Medical Services, including role as a paramedic, and other related positions. Additionally, it may serve as a stepping stone to further education, such as a bachelor's degree in emergency medical care or related fields.

This qualification has been designed as a 3-year professional Diploma as mandated by the Council of Higher Education (CHE) and the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA): Professional Board of Emergency Medical Care (PBEC)

The minimum duration for the Diploma in Emergency Medical Care is three (3) years of registered study and the maximum duration is five (5) years of registered study. Students who do not complete the qualification within the prescribed period will be excluded from further registration.

Programme Structure

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Annual/ Semester	NQF level	Subject Lecturer	Pre-requisites	C0- Requisite	
Year 01								
Foundations of Professional Practice	FPPD01	12	1 st Semester	5		Admission Requirements	None	Fundamental
Physics I	PHYD01	8	1 st Semester	5		Admission Requirements	None	Fundamental
End User Computing	EUCD01	8	1 st Semester	5		Admission Requirements	None	Fundamental
Mental Health and wellness	MHWD01	8	2 nd Semester	5			None	Fundamental
Chemistry I	CHED01	8	2 nd Semester	5			None	Fundamental
Anatomy and Physiology I	APD01	16	Annual	5			None	Fundamental
EMC: Theory I	EMCTD01	18	Annual	5			✓	Core

EMC: Practical I	EMCPD 01	12	Annual	5			✓	Core
EMC: Clinical Practice I	CPD01	30	Annual	5			✓	Core
Total Credits		120						
Year 02 (Pre-requisite- 1st Year Modules)								
Physiology II	PHYS01	12	1 st Semester	6		Anatomy & Physiology	None	Core
Pharmacology	PHARM 01	6	1 st Semester	5			None	Core
Primary Health Care	PHC01	6	1 st Semester	6			None	Core
EMC Theory II	EMCTD 02	24	Annual	6		EMC T I, EMCP I, CP I	✓	Core
EMC Practical II	EMCPD 02	18	Annual	6		EMC T I, EMCP I, CP I	✓	Core
Clinical Practice II	CPD02	30	Annual	6		EMC T I, EMCP I, CP I	✓	Core
Rescue 1	RES01	24	2 nd Semester	6				Core
Total Credits		120						
Year 03 (Pre-requisite- 2nd Year Modules)								
EMC Theory III	EMCTD 03	24	Annual	6		EMCT II, EMCP II, CP II	✓	Core
EMC Practical III	EMCP03	36	Annual	6		EMCT II, EMCP II, CP II	✓	Core
Clinical Practice III	CPD03	60	Annual	6		EMCT II, EMCP II, CP II		Core
Total Credits		120						
Total Programme Credits		360						

Program Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate the knowledge and understanding of the role and structure of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) within the comprehensive health care structures of South Africa.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the application of medical ethics, professional behaviour and relevant legal frameworks.

3. Apply the principles of mental health and wellness to identify and manage stress and burnout.
4. Apply knowledge and understanding to perform skills required to use information technology.
5. Demonstrates an integrated knowledge and understanding of the basic science principles as it relates to emergency care.
6. Demonstrate integrated knowledge and understanding of the principles of human anatomy and physiology as it relates to emergency medical care.
7. Perform clinical assessment, diagnostic skills and treatment regimes in line with the Diploma scope of practice.
8. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of primary health care principles and practices and apply them to emergency care according to the scope of practice relevant to the programme.
9. Demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of the properties of drugs and their interactions in the body.
10. Demonstrate and apply knowledge, skills and techniques pertaining to high angle rescue, extrication of motor vehicle, and fire rescue.

Access and Admission Requirements

Applicants must comply with either point one, two, three or four

<p>To register for the qualification, the candidate must comply with 1. Or 2. Or 3.</p> <p>And:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 19 matric points • Pass Medical 	<p>1.</p> <p>Senior Certificate</p> <p>(prior 2009)</p>	<p>2.</p> <p>National Senior Certificate with Higher Certificate endorsement</p>	<p>3.</p> <p>National Certificate (Vocational)</p>
	<p>Must have at least a minimum of E symbol on Higher Grade or D symbol on Standard</p>	<p>Must have these subjects and rating codes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English (4) • Mathematics (3) or 	<p>Must have a minimum pass of 60% for these subjects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English

Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass Physical Assessment 	Grade For all of these subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Mathematics • Biology and / or Physical Sciences 	Mathematical Literacy (6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Sciences (3) and / or Physical Sciences (3) • Additional Subject 1 (3) • Additional Subject 2 (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics • Life Sciences and / or Physical Sciences
<p>Add any additional subjects for a total of six subjects not including life orientation, functional maths, and maths literacy and a third language.</p>			
<p>4. Additional Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Physical Fitness Assessment ✓ Medical Examination Assessment ✓ Environmental <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acrophobia Test • Aquaphobia Test • Claustrophobia Test 			