Dixie State University  
Associate of Applied Science in Emergency Medical Services  
Differential Tuition  

Section I: Request

The Dixie State University (DSU) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program is nationally accredited through two accrediting bodies, Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) and Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). The DSU Emergency Medical Services program receives $37,400 annually beyond payment of faculty salaries and benefits, which is insufficient to operate an educational program of this kind. The program is largely dependent on course fees and program fees to maintain its equipment and supplies. It is proposed that program fees and course fees be discontinued and program differential tuition be implemented. This tuition must cover part of the salary and benefits for one administrative position, in conjunction with other programs in the department, as well as additional funding of program faculty. It covers capital equipment, maintenance, repair and replacement of current equipment, as well as all costs of instruction including clinical education. As this program comprises 3 different certificates, each with their own costs and needs, the program proposes a differential of $80.00 per credit hour be added to the standard DSU tuition.

Section II: Student and Market Demand for the Program*

The DSU Emergency Medical Services program consists of 3 certificates that culminate in an Associate of Applied Science Degree (AAS). The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certificate is 1 semester and accepts up to 25 students per year, the Advanced EMT (AEMT) certificate is also 1 semester and accepts up to 20 students, and the Paramedic certificate is 3 semesters and accepts up to 16 students. DSU is one of 3 USHE institutions which offers this program, but DSU has the only program serving residents of the southern part of the state. DSU Emergency Medical Services graduates consistently find employment, both within Southern Utah and across the region. Program graduates are highly sought after within the area, most notably by first responder agencies in Southern Utah and Southern Nevada, where the majority of the graduates are employed. The program consistently attracts applicants from all areas of Southern Utah, Southern Nevada, and Southern California, but with an emphasis on Washington County. According to Bureau of Labor statistics, Paramedics have an expected job growth of 15% (Much faster than average) nationwide from 2016-2026.
Section III: Impact of Differential Tuition Rates on Student Access and Retention

Differential tuition must be planned carefully in order for the DSU Emergency Medical Services program to remain competitive with other institutions. It must be rolled out and explained adequately in order for students to make informed decisions regarding which school to attend. Students will need to be taught how to compare differential tuition to other institutions’ base tuition and course or program fees. If this is not understood by students, a decrease in applications and enrollment in prerequisite courses may occur. The DSU Emergency Medical Services program is the only program in Southern Utah that has dual accreditation (CAAHEP and CoAEMSP).

Section IV: Tuition Rates of Comparable Programs at Other Institutions*

DSU base tuition with differential tuition fees are competitive with other USHE institutions, while dramatically lower in cost than proprietary institutions. Program costs at the two competing programs in the state allow us to increase our tuition and remain competitive. UVU has a base tuition cost of $11,452, while Weber State has a base tuition cost of $14,648. The tuition and fees of the DSU Emergency Medical Services program are all inclusive, including uniforms, books and all necessary supplies. Each of these other institutions within the state add course fees, books, uniforms, and other supplies to the total cost listed. The cost of the individual certificates for DSU students with differential tuition will be: EMT $2,989, AEMT $2,391 and Paramedic $11,320.

*Data retrieved online through institution websites, it does not include all course and labs fees; DSU data equals base tuition plus EMS program differential tuition.
Section V: Potential Earnings Capacity of Program Graduates

New graduates from the DSU Emergency Medical Services program usually start at approximately $17.00 per hour depending on location and setting. A full time, entry level paramedics can expect between $35,000 and $40,000.00 per year. The starting salary in many other states is higher.

Section VI: Societal Importance of the Program

EMT’s, AEMT’s, and paramedics, are often the first ones to arrive at the scene following an emergency, ranging from house fires to car accidents and everything in between. Lives are often hanging in the balance, and these professionals must act quickly to save them. EMTs and paramedics care for the sick and wounded while quickly transporting them to a nearby medical facility. EMTs and paramedics often work side by side with police officers and firefighters to provide the best all-around care in emergency situations. The scope of practice for these professionals is quickly expanding to include in home care, and in hospital care, such as the emergency department. This program is vital to our society, as these are the first responders that run in to help, while everyone else runs out. There is not a more basically important program in the university. The underlying purpose of this program is to serve the community.