



**Washington State Department of Health Guideline  
Instructor Course Equivalency for  
Senior EMS Instructor (SEI) Candidacy  
January 2017**

**Background**

RCW 70.168.060 authorizes the department to establish statewide standards, personnel training requirements and programs.

WAC 246-976-031 lists requirements for initial recognition of an SEI to include “successful completion of an instructor training course by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), an instructor training course from an accredited institution of higher education, or equivalent instructor course approved by the department.”

At the time this rule language was implemented, the USDOT made available EMS instructor courses. However, the USDOT transitioned from providing courses to developing the National Guidelines for Educating EMS Instructors in 2002 in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Association of EMS Educators. Since that time a significant number of EMS instructor courses with variable delivery models and content have become available to people seeking to become an EMS instructor.

The Washington State EMS Education Committee adopted the National Guidelines for Educating EMS Instructors in 2005. The department identified approved courses that meet the instructor course requirement in WAC 246-976-031. The list of approved courses is in the EMS Training Program and Instructor Manual (DOH 530-126) and includes:

- A teaching certificate issued by a state board of education, or completion of an accredited post-secondary school of instruction, or
- National Association of EMS educators (NAEMSE) Instructor Course, part 1, or
- NFPA 1041: Fire Service Instructor I and II, or
- Department of Defense Instructor Courses, i.e. U.S. Army Basic Instructor Course (ABIC) [previously Total Army Instructor Training Course (TAITC)], or similar, or
- The Professional Education and Resource Company (PERCOM) online EMS instructor course
- Centers for Domestic Preparedness (CDC) Instructor Training Course (40 hour) plus additional GAP material, to be covered by SEI. Gap material available from DOH contact [HSQA.EMS@doh.wa.gov](mailto:HSQA.EMS@doh.wa.gov) for more information.



## **Emerging Issues and Trends**

Although Washington State performs above the national average on National Registry testing, recent trends in National Registry testing scores indicate a slight decline in passing scores between 2012 and 2016.

The department receives regular inquiries regarding which instructor courses meet the USDOT and NHTSA standards. The department should ensure information is easy to locate and written in plain talk.

Often, candidates complete instructor courses that are not approved by the department. Time, effort, and money invested become an issue when candidates are ineligible to become SEIs because their initial course is not approved and does not meet the standards.

Stakeholders in rural and critical access areas within the state have expressed concerns regarding access to approved EMS instructor courses.

EMS instructors often invest in a number of other EMS-related instructor courses such as the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians' (NAEMT) instructor courses to teach card classes such as Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS), Emergency Pediatric Care (EPC), and Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS). The American Heart Association also requires an instructor course to teach basic and advanced pediatric and adult life support courses. Many of these courses have similar content related to the standards of instruction. There is little or no reciprocity between these courses for existing knowledge, and the redundancy and personal investment to hold so many instructor credentials often does not outweigh the benefits of holding them. Future work should include an evaluation of reciprocity among instructor courses, bridge content, national EMS instructor certifications, and continuing education and/or performance objectives for department certified EMS instructors.

The department has developed this guideline to address some of these issues.

### **What does this mean for people seeking an initial EMS instructor course to meet the SEI prerequisite?**

In August of 2016, the State Education workgroup re-affirmed that the 2002 National Guidelines for Educating EMS Instructors is the adopted minimum state standard for initial instructor courses.

The list of department approved courses is provided in the EMS Training Program and Instructor Manual (DOH 530-126).

EMS providers must verify the instructor course they select meets the 2002 National Guideline for Educating EMS Instructors before taking an initial instructor course.

- To verify if your course is approved, check the department DOH website.



- If your course is not listed on the DOH website, contact the department at [HSQA.EMS@doh.wa.gov](mailto:HSQA.EMS@doh.wa.gov).
- For the department to evaluate if an instructor course meets the 2002 National Guidelines for Educating EMS Instructors, you must provide the following information:
  - Name and contact information for the organization who hosts and instructs the course;
  - A copy of the course outline, which must include course objectives and goals;
  - A gap analysis or crosswalk between the course and the 2002 National Guideline for Educating EMS Instructors Curricula.

**What does this mean for Washington State certified EMS training programs who want to develop and hold their own initial EMS instructor course to meet the SEI prerequisite?**

- Washington State-approved EMS training programs may submit a pilot project proposal outlining:
  - Name and contact information for the organization who hosts and instructs the course;
  - Course agenda to include dates and time;
  - A copy of the course outline, which must include course objectives and goals;
  - A gap analysis or crosswalk between the course and the 2002 National Guideline for Educating EMS Instructors Curricula.
- If your training program is interested in conducting an initial EMS instructor course, contact the department at [HSQA.EMS@doh.wa.gov](mailto:HSQA.EMS@doh.wa.gov) for additional assistance.