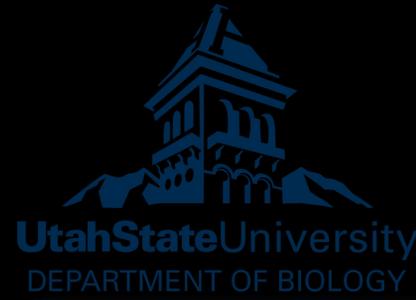


Internship with Smithfield Fire and EMS

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Abstract

Advanced EMT internship involved treatment of any medical emergency. The most common incidents I saw were motor vehicle accidents, and emergencies of cardiac, respiratory, and diabetic origin.

As an aspiring emergency room doctor, running ambulance calls provides hands on experience in providing basic emergency care, interacting with doctors and ER staff, learning the body's compensatory mechanisms and how to manipulate them for the best patient outcomes, and learning to lead a team in providing medical care.

Lessons Learned

This semester provided a lot of experience in acting as a healthcare provider, correctly interpreting signs and symptoms, formulating a treatment plan and implementing said plan. The mechanics and skills of being an Advanced EMT are taught in the Advanced EMT class. I set out to learn things that cannot be taught in a classroom: assertive leadership, organization, good communication skills, and teamwork. When working with up to 5 people, all with different experience and skill levels, these elements are key. Emergency scenes can easily become chaotic under the supervision of an inexperienced healthcare provider. This is only mitigated by a confident and assertive leader. Furthermore, communicating details of patient treatment to other care providers and ER staff is imperative to good patient outcomes. Although it can be intimidating to pass off a patient to a doctor with more training, education, understanding and experience; fostering good relationships with doctors at our local hospitals proved to be educational in both emergency care as well to my personal goals.