



Program Policies

Please read the following policies carefully, then sign and return this form, indicating that you have read, understood, and agreed to the policies.

Program Policies

We have written the following policies with the physical and emotional safety of our students, staff and the public as our first priority. Beyond this, our responsibility is to train outstanding EMTs and provide an unparalleled educational experience for students in the outdoor field. An EMT is expected to have unquestionable integrity and an ability to manage stressful and life-threatening situations. This program will provide the training and experience to prepare our students for these situations and requires complete compliance with our policies.

Safety

- Aerie reserves the right to remove any student for what, at Aerie's sole discretion, is deemed unsafe behavior. Examples may include refusal to adhere to required safety precautions, participation in unplanned-unapproved activities, and a poor attitude that, in Aerie's opinion, detracts from the safety or educational experience of the other students and staff.
- No student of Aerie Backcountry Medicine shall be allowed to display violent or threatening behavior (including but not limited to, verbal threats, threatening gestures, and actual physical acts) to other students, instructors, other personnel, or guests/visitors. Any such behavior is grounds for immediate dismissal and subsequent failure of this program.
- Students exhibiting behaviors that are inconsistent with those required of an EMT will not be permitted to finish the program. Aerie does not take lightly the possibility of removing a student from class; however, we will do so whenever we feel that the student is a safety or behavioral hazard to her/ himself and/or others.

Attendance

- You will invest a lot of time, energy and money in the program. Aerie wants you to get the most out of this program and have the best chance of passing. 100% attendance will help you achieve this goal. **NO unexcused absences will be tolerated.** An Aerie instructor or the Aerie Office must be notified in advance of any absence. Any unexcused absence is grounds for dismissal and subsequent failure of this program.
- Up to 24 hours of **excused** absences are allowed. However, keep in mind that **some activities are not able to be made-up** yet are required for successful completion of this program. For this reason, it is crucial that the student contact the instructor(s)



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as early as possible regarding future absences. It is the responsibility of the absent student to arrange for make-up of missed content.

- *Note:* Not all requests for **excused** absences are granted.
- Punctuality is required. You will not be allowed to participate in program sessions if you are tardy by 15 minutes or more; these absences will count toward total allowable excused absences. Prior notification of tardiness is required if it is to be excused.
- Clinical time is required. 12 hours of hospital emergency department observation and 12 hours of ambulance ride-along will be scheduled. All policies herein apply to these clinical settings. Name badges are the property of Aerie and must be returned upon completion of clinical time.
- Review sessions are optional, times and dates to be determined.

Evaluation and Grading

- **Payment and enrollment in this program does not assure successful completion.** Students failing to keep up with required work or who consistently score poorly on exams may be removed from the program.
- Multiple-choice exams:
 - **Exams require a cumulative score of 70% or better to pass the overall program.**
 - Approximately 1/2 of the exams will be Take-Home/Open-Book.
 - Approximately 1/2 of the exams will be In-Class-Exams.
 - Make-up exams are allowed for exams scores of less than 70% (or missed exams due to excused absence).
 - A score of 80% or better is required on all make-up exams
 - If the student scores less than 80% on the make-up exam, remediation, based on instructor recommendation, is required to pass.
 - All exams will be averaged for a final program percentage (based on 100% scale) and assigned a letter grade. Grading scale: *A 90-100; B 80-89; C 70-79; D 60-69; F 59 or below.*
- Evaluation of practical skills will be based on current National Registry of EMTs and Montana Board of Medical Examiners examination checklists, which will be distributed after the program begins.
- Practical skills will be assessed by instructors throughout practice sessions, scenarios, and specific skill evaluations performed as a group or one on one.
- **All practical skills must be passed** prior to the end of this program for successful completion.
- National and State practical exams are typically scheduled for the week immediately following the last day of class. Check with your instructors to confirm the dates.
- Eligibility for testing depends on successful completion of the EMT coursework, including passing all written exams and practical skills.



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- Any recording (audio, visual, or otherwise) of any lecture, scenario, debrief, or discussion is not permissible. Exceptions to this clause must be granted in writing from Aerie Management prior to the recording.

Facilities

We are guests of multiple organizations throughout the program and will follow their policies and guidelines at all times

- Respect the flora and fauna living at each facility
- Be courteous to employees of our facilities
- No alcohol or illegal drug use permitted during any part of program hours and at the discretion of the instructors or facility hosts
 - If an instructor believes that a student's off-time alcohol use is interfering with that student's program performance in any way and/or is a safety threat, the student will be removed from the program.

Attitude

- Almost nothing is less tangible and yet more important than a student's attitude. Attitudes are infectious, affecting the morale and well being of fellow students and staff alike. Aerie reserves the right to remove a student from the class for what it deems to be a pervasive and persistent negative attitude and/or an attitude that distracts other students and/or Aerie staff from successful completion of the program.

Harassment

- Aerie Backcountry Medicine is committed to creating and maintaining a learning environment in which all students, instructors, other personnel, and guests/visitors can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of all forms of harassment (including sexual harassment), exploitation, or intimidation. All allegations or threats will be taken seriously and are grounds for immediate dismissal and subsequent failure of this program
- Aerie Backcountry Medicine does not tolerate any action or statement that discriminates against another because of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, creed, marital or veteran status, age, or the presence of a physical, mental or sensory disability and that such behavior is also prohibited by local, state, and federal laws. Any form of discrimination is grounds for immediate dismissal and subsequent failure of this program.

Physical Demands

- This program is physically demanding, as is the job of EMTs on the street or in the backcountry. Aptitudes required for this program include good physical stamina,



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endurance, and body condition that would not be adversely affected by the following National Registry requirements:

- walking 2-5 miles on uneven terrain while carrying 35 pounds of weight,
- standing for 2-12 hours,
- sitting for 2-4 hours,
- lifting 100 pounds of weight,
- crawling, crouching, kneeling, bending, balancing, reaching above shoulder height and to the floor.

Physical Modesty

- Some degree of contact is helpful during the program in order to practice and improve assessment techniques, especially during practice scenarios. However, rude or illicit behavior will not be tolerated, even if it is in a joking manner. Please approach an Aerie instructor if you are not comfortable with the level of physical contact during the program.

Personal Beliefs

- Aerie Backcountry Medicine students, employees, facility hosts and your future patients will come from diverse political, religious, and economic backgrounds. We require our students to respect this diversity by not making comments that offend or threaten individuals for their beliefs.

Attire

- Please refer to the gear list you will receive in the student packet for a complete checklist of clothing you will need for the program.
- Casual attire that is both comfortable and functional is adequate for all classroom sessions.
- **Professional dress (NO jeans, t-shirts, tennis shoes, hiking boots, opened toed shoes, or exposed abdomens) is required for all clinical settings (ambulance ride-along and emergency department observation).** When in these settings, you represent Aerie Backcountry Medicine, your fellow students and the hospital/ambulance where you are doing your clinical time. Please ask an Aerie instructor if you have questions regarding professional dress. Being removed from the clinical setting due to inappropriate dress could result in you not being able to be rescheduled, in turn resulting in failure of this program.
- We will hold class outside in any weather, so please review and follow the gear lists. In addition, please wear or bring an extra set of clothing that can get dirty or even stained during scenarios. Please ask an Aerie instructor if you need any extra clothing or have questions regarding appropriate cold weather layering.



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General

- Keep an open mind and be prepared to be critiqued
- Keep up on the reading
- Be flexible with the schedule – it will change

Dismissal

This program operates within, and abides by, specific guidelines established by, among others:

- Aerie Backcountry Medicine
- National Registry of EMTs (please review the NREMT [Eligibility, Disciplinary and Appeal Process](#))
- State of Montana Board of Medical Examiners
- University of Montana (please review the University of [Montana Student Conduct Code](#))



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Failure to abide by the above program policies will result in immediate dismissal from this program and subsequent failure without refund.

In the event of dismissal, a student will be responsible for his own food, lodging and travel from that point forward. Aerie is not responsible for providing transportation back to trailheads, airports or town. Aerie will not reimburse a student for expenses incurred after their expulsion.

In the event that a student decides to drop from the Semester, similarly, all expenses are the student's responsibility.

In the event that a student is injured, ill, or otherwise requires evacuation or medical care during the program, the student is responsible for all expenses associated with this event. This will include transportation to and from trailheads/ remote villages, any food/ lodging expenses incurred during recuperation, and any other expense associated with the student outside of the program's planned schedule.

For all of the above reasons, Aerie strongly recommends that students have comprehensive medical and trip insurance and that they review these policies with their insurer before beginning the program. Aerie recommends [Global Rescue](#) for these services.

Students with Disabilities

Every effort will be made by Aerie Backcountry Medicine and its instructors to reasonably accommodate students with special needs while balancing the needs of the entire class and the required curriculum. ***It is the student's individual responsibility to notify the instructors of any disability or special need.***



Program Policies

I have read and understood this document and accept all the terms of the Semester in Wilderness Medicine Program Policies outlined above.

Participant Signature _____

Participant Name (Please Print) _____

Date _____