

FAQ REGARDING CAPCE RECOGNITION OF NSP CURRICULUM

May 2025

1. **What is CAPCE?** CAPCE is the Commission on Accreditation for Pre-Hospital Continuing Education. It is “an accrediting body charged with the review and accreditation of EMS continuing education” in the U.S. See <https://capce.org/> for more details.
2. **What is the relationship between CAPCE and NSP?** In 2024, CAPCE recognized NSP as an approved provider of continuing education for recertification of Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) and EMTs at all three levels: EMT, Advanced EMT, and Paramedic. See <https://capce.org/Home/Providers>.
3. **What benefit does CAPCE recognition provide to OEC Technicians?** Some OEC Technicians are also licensed EMTs. EMTs must renew their licenses every two years. For many EMTs, continuing education is the preferred recertification avenue. For OEC Technicians who are EMTs at any level, CAPCE recognition affirms the validity of NSP courses directly related to EMS patient care for use as continuing education hours (CEH). For OEC Technicians who are not EMTs, CAPCE recognition provides only the intangible reassurance that NSP’s emergency care curriculum aligns with nationally accepted standards in EMS patient care.
4. **How does CAPCE recognition affect patrollers who are EMTs but not OEC Technicians?** For EMT-qualified patrollers, the recognition provides an incentive to join NSP, since NSP membership offers a pathway to enrollment in courses that count toward recertification. The recognition also provides an incentive to become OEC Technicians via the recently revised Modified Challenge, since annual OEC Refreshers will count as CEH.
5. **Isn’t EMT recertification a state-by-state issue?** Nominally, it is. Practically speaking, 48 states accept current certification by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) as sufficient qualification for renewal of the state licensure. EMTs should check with their state’s emergency medical services office to determine whether NREMT certification suffices. NREMT, “established in 1970 as a non-profit organization, is the *Nation’s Emergency Medical Services Certification* organization.” See <https://www.nremt.org/> for more details.
6. **How does CAPCE recognition affect patrollers who already use NSP courses, such as the OEC refresher, as CEH?** In these cases, CAPCE recognition won’t make a difference. It will make a difference (a) for EMTs who previously have not been able to use NSP training as CEH and (b) for EMTs who take NSP courses outside the OEC program, where previously there has been no formal guidance on how many CEH the courses provide.
7. **What is the relationship between CAPCE and NREMT?** According to NREMT’s website, NREMT “accepts [State EMS Office](#) accepted and [CAPCE](#) accredited education, education from EMS education programs, and U.S. accredited academic credit, college course or credit provided by the National Registry Alternative Recertification Credits Policy. All education must be directly related to EMS patient care.”
8. **How many continuing education hours are required for EMT recertification?** The number of hours required varies by state. NREMT recertifies EMTs on a two-year cycle, with the number of CEH required in every two-year cycle varying by level of licensure:
 - EMR: 8 hours
 - EMT: 40 hours
 - Advanced EMT: 50 hours
 - Paramedic: 60 hours
9. **How many CEH can an NSP member earn every two years from NSP training?** The answer to this question is still pending. NSP must answer several questions, subject to CAPCE approval. NREMT requires specific numbers of hours in five content areas:

- Airway
- Cardiology
- Trauma
- Medical
- Operations,

with at least 10 percent of the total content focused on pediatrics. NSP must determine how many hours each NSP course provides in each content area. See the next question.

10. **Which NSP disciplines count?** CAPCE has not restricted which NSP disciplines may qualify as having content directly related to EMS patient care. NSP's Education Committee, with guidance from the Education Department in the national office, must review CAPCE's criteria and develop a proposal for which disciplines count and, in each, which courses cover which content areas. Clearly, courses in the Outdoor Emergency Care program count, the only issues being how many hours and what content areas each course covers. NSP also delivers emergency care content in the Avalanche, Bike, Mountain Travel and Rescue, Nordic/Backcountry, Outdoor Emergency Transportation, and Outdoor Risk Management programs.
11. **NSP members complete courses delivered by other providers. Will these courses count as CEH?** Although CAPCE recognition of NSP has no bearing on this question, it is relevant to EMT-qualified NSP members. All traditional NSP members must hold current CPR certification at the professional level and complete the Federal Emergency Management Agency's online course, IS 100, An Introduction to the Incident Command System. Some courses in the Avalanche and Mountain Travel and Rescue Programs also require completion of FEMA's IS 200 and IS 700 courses. NREMT accepts CPR refreshers as CEH in the cardiology content area. NREMT also accepts IS 100, IS 200, and IS 700 as CEH in the medical and operations content areas. For details, see <https://public.powerdms.com/Nat9346/documents/2703086>.