

## COMPARING TRADITIONAL FORMAT EMT CLASSES WITH HYBRID FORMAT EMT CLASSES

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As education has transitioned from classroom settings to online settings across disciplines, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) field has followed suit. This research looked at the current formats of Emergency Medical Technician classes offered at the University of Utah and the benefits and limitations of each. EMS education institutions have followed this trend of online education most commonly in the form of hybrid classrooms where part of the course is taught online and part of the course is taught in a classroom. What must be explored is whether this transition to hybrid classrooms has improved, jeopardized, or maintained the level of preparation that Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) possess at the completion of the class.

The questions guiding the research were: Is there a difference in class average exam scores between hybrid classroom classes and traditional classroom classes? Is there a correlation between first-attempt state certification pass rates in hybrid courses versus traditional classroom courses? Retrospective, quantitative data from ten semesters of hybrid classes and the same ten semesters of traditional format classes was analyzed in SPSS using Independent Samples t-Tests. Written exam scores and Practical exam scores were considered separately. The research also looked at state certification pass rates for written exams and practical exams from four semesters of hybrid classes and traditional classes.

The results showed a statistically significant difference in only one category. In class practical exam scores for hybrid classroom classes were significantly greater than those of traditional classroom classes. There was an apparent trend of lower certification pass rates for state certification practical exams; however, the data set was too small for a statistical significance to be determined.

This research on EMT classes will open the door to explore the merits and shortcomings of hybrid classrooms in other EMS education.

