Mission Statement: “To improve the health and well-being of the University of Arizona community by providing rapid and high quality emergency response services, and education on campus safety issues.”

University of Arizona Emergency Medical Services (UAEMS) is a 24/7/365 emergency response agency that is run and staffed by University of Arizona Students. The University of Arizona EMS crew is staffed with a minimum of two state and nationally certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) who respond to calls in an Emergency Response Vehicle. UAEMS responds to all 9-1-1 medical emergencies on campus and in the surrounding areas, providing comprehensive coverage for the university community. On the scene of a medical emergency, the UAEMS crew gathers patient information, obtain vital signs and provide pre-hospital treatment in preparation for transport. This expedited treatment can increase the chances of patient survival and/or limit the development of long-term injury during life threatening emergencies.

In addition to 9-1-1 response, UAEMS provides large-scale incident response for University and community events on campus. Most notably, University EMS has provided full medical coverage for the Tucson Festival of Books for five years, University of Arizona Spring Fling for four years and all University of Arizona Tailgates for two years. University EMS also works with other medical agencies such as Southwest Ambulance Company and Tucson Fire Department to provide Advanced Life Support services for events such as the University of Arizona Commencement. This combined coverage provides the best possible health care to event attendees and increases the mutually beneficial relationship between the university and major public safety agencies.

In addition to the consistent benefit of having an Emergency Medical Service unit solely dedicated to the 40,000+ students on the University of Arizona Campus, UAEMS continues to improve community access to free and low cost educational opportunities. UAEMS participates in many public outreach events to increase the awareness and education of the campus community on important medical and health issues. UAEMS partners with other public service agencies such as the University of Arizona Police Department, Campus Health Services and Tucson Fire Department to improve the health, safety and well being of University of Arizona students. One of the longest standing partnerships is between UAEMS and Sarver Heart Center in pursuit of a HeartSafe campus. With cardiovascular disease resulting in the greatest number of deaths per year, providing cardiac resuscitation education to the public is imperative. UAEMS and its partners educate UA students, faculty and members of the community on the importance of CPR and the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in the event of sudden cardiac arrest. UAEMS also began a partnership with Integrated Community Solutions to Active Violence Events (ICSAVE) in Fall 2017 to provide free bleeding control training and increase community preparedness to the level of an NCEMSF “EMS Ready” Campus.

University of Arizona EMS continuously uses response data to advise our campus partners on key issues such as substance abuse, assault, and other community safety risks.
This practice of continuous statistical analysis allows University of Arizona EMS to implement the most effective community education campaigns and prepare for potential community health issues. UAEMS also acts as a pioneer in the collegiate EMS field by practicing research-based medicine in partnership with it’s Base Hospital, Banner University Medical Center, and the University of Arizona College of Medicine. This allows us to provide the most advanced and beneficial emergency medical care possible.

University of Arizona EMS currently has 56 students in its membership base, all of which hold their Emergency Medical Technician certification. UAEMS also offers 2-3 scholarships annually to outstanding students interested in obtaining their EMT certification and working at the University. UAEMS is a volunteer service during the fall and spring semesters and is a paid service during the winter break. UAEMS service provides clinical experience and volunteer hours to University of Arizona students in pursuit of higher education and advanced career opportunities in the medical field. Paid UAEMS service provides career development opportunities to UA students that allow them to gain skills needed for the real world without having to compromise their dedication to academics or responder well-being. University of Arizona EMS is currently able to provide job opportunities to 12 student workers over the winter break. Increased funding for student staffing would not only increase campus safety by continuing UAEMS service throughout the summer break but would provide 36 additional job opportunities.

University of Arizona EMS provides a unique opportunity for students to directly help other students and their community, while gaining experience in their intended career field. Due to restrictions in larger scale EMS services, it is difficult for those new to the field to gain hands on experience, despite high levels of training. UAEMS provides an opportunity for University of Arizona students to use their skills, maintain rigorous training practices and continuously develop as they advance in both their careers and their studies. UAEMS is focused on improving both the efficacy of student career development as well as the well being of responders. This program challenges student EMTs to meet high expectations, understand the difference they can make in their community and practice for success in their future careers.

In 2018, UAEMS marked its’ fifth year of EMS service. A review of the impressive UA alumni that worked in UAEMS makes it clear that this service is not only a valuable medical resource for the UA community but an effective career builder for student workers. UAEMS alumni are now out in the world continuing their commitment to public service through careers in medicine, the fire service, public health and many other areas.