



**Free Physician-Led Continuing Education
Opportunities for EMS Providers,
Sponsored by the Alabama Fire College**

THE ALABAMA EMS CHALLENGE STRIVES TO IMPROVE EMS CARE IN ALABAMA THROUGH PROVIDING FREE, ACCESSIBLE, HIGH-QUALITY, PHYSICIAN-LED EMS CONTINUING EDUCATION THAT IS ALWAYS PRAGMATIC, DATA-DRIVEN, EVIDENCE-BASED, AND OUTCOME-ORIENTED.

The Alabama EMS Challenge program, started by Dr. Will Ferguson, is an on-going program that is making an impact on patient outcomes through the delivery of free, high-quality, physician-lead EMS continuing education. The program features physician instructors and is always pragmatic, data-driven, evidence-based, and outcome-oriented.

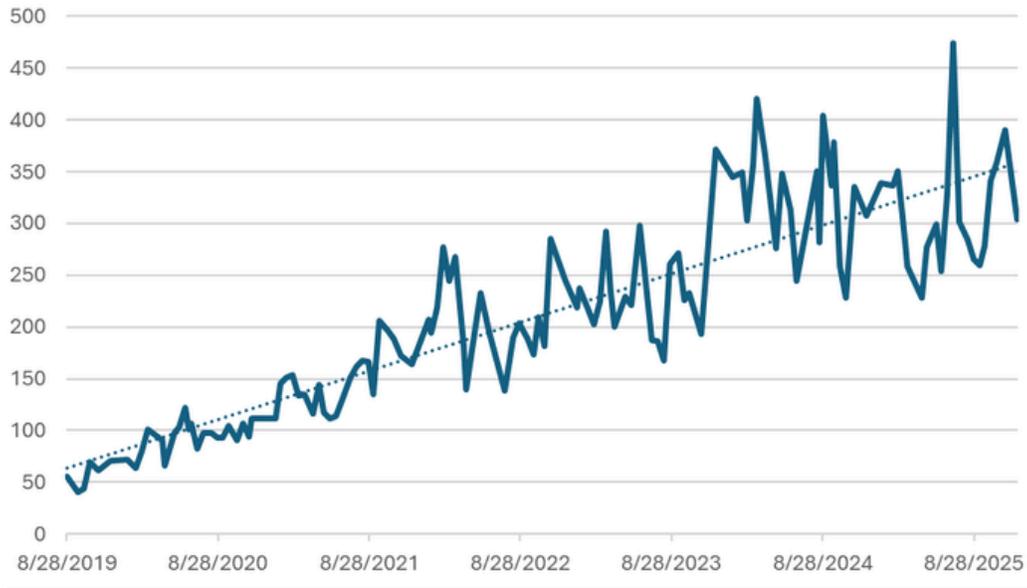
Initially, the curriculum was a monthly lectures series combined with an annual cadaver-based skills training session. It has now grown into bi-monthly lectures, delivered online and in-person, combined with regional and statewide skills labs, all with minimal financial overhead! The two hour classes are high-intensity and include didactic content that exceeds the scope of practice for Alabama paramedics to provide context and challenge, followed by two hours of hands-on skills or simulation training. Classes are typically offered on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month to provide frequent, digestible educational pieces. In addition, Alabama EMS Challenge provides cadaver lab educational experiences at least three times a year.

All Alabama EMS Challenge classes are approved by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) for National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) continuing education credit. We also offer continuing education credit opportunities for nurses through the Alabama Chapter of the Emergency Nurses Association, and for physicians through The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Department of Emergency Medicine. Alabama EMS Challenge is sponsored by the Alabama Fire College and sees continued growth with a positive impact on patient care, all while decreasing the training burden of fire departments across the state. This program could be easily reproduced and tailored to the needs of specific agencies, regardless of location or available financial support.

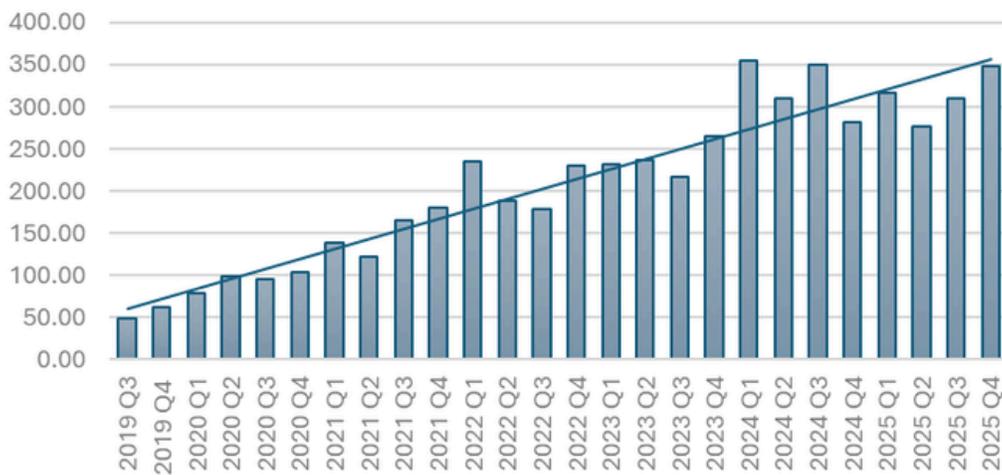
GOALS

- Provide a framework to develop new physicians as EMS educators, both in a didactic environment and via a multidisciplinary simulation program.
- Provide frequent, high-quality training that is physician-led and clinically relevant.
- Challenge EMS providers to expand their knowledge and skills for the benefit of their patients (and themselves).
- Design and implement training programs that standardize the content of Alabama EMS providers' continuing education to research-establish best practices where available.
- Provide short-term, mid-term, and long-term planning to ensure the perpetual delivery of relevant EMS education, both continuing and at the foundational level via the Alabama EMS Challenge program.
- Develop and improve the relationships between EMS providers and in-hospital providers by providing a platform for mutual education and providing EMS teaching opportunities for emergency medicine physicians and EMS Fellows.
- Raise EMS Community awareness of the program to increase support for data collection, research initiatives, cost of accomplishing the mission statement, and outside training opportunities for Alabama EMS providers and educators.

OVERALL ATTENDANCE TREND



LAST 5 YEARS' AVERAGE ATTENDANCE (BY QUARTER)



2025 ATTENDEE DEMOGRAPHY

Average attendance per event	311
Professional Firefighters	74%
Volunteer Firefighters	6%
EMS/RN/Physician (non-Firefighter)	20%
Unique individual participants	5,978
Hours of training issued (live events)	12,988
Unique Alabama agencies participating	568
YouTube subscribers	1,663
YouTube video views	16,300



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