

on call

When Student Health Services' offices close for the night, student EMTs are just getting started. From early evening to midmorning, they patrol the campus, ready to serve in case of emergency.

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SHIFT IN GEAR Eamon Shaw (Economics + Spanish) suits up and makes dinner prior to his shift.



BREAK TIME EMTs lounge and chat together before their shift begins.





Q&A

EAMON
SHAW

ECONOMICS + SPANISH



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HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AN EMT?

Since my first semester [of] junior year ... [so] October 2021.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO BECOME

AN EMT? I am hoping to become a doctor one day, and I'm also interested in public health. Access to public health and service to the community is really important to me ... so knowing [becoming an EMT] was a volunteering opportunity and a great way to serve my peers, I applied.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF BEING

AN EMT? I see two sides to it. On a day-to-day [basis], probably just getting to interact with my closest friends on campus. [But] just in the ways that I've grown — becoming someone who's so visible and for lack of [a] better word, necessary — has taught, or maybe [given] me, a new perspective on the responsibilities of what [it] means being a student leader and student advocate.

WHAT DOES A DAY ON THE JOB LOOK

LIKE? All of our shifts start at 5 p.m. because that's when the [Student Health Services] closes. So that way, students have 24/7 healthcare. We meet at our EMT apartment/student area to grab phones and radios and keys, and [then] drive to Public Safety. We

test our radios and pagers, and then after that, we go outside and do a gear check, making sure that we have everything we could ever need for that shift. And then, since we have golf carts and we stay on campus, we're able to do whatever [we] want. I typically come to the [Lion's] Den, do homework, hang with friends, and then if I get a call, I drop everything and go do that. Usually, there's about one or two calls on a night; on the weekends, usually three. There's been up to six, it really depends. The next morning, if we had a call the night before, we take the report to Student Health Services, turn in our radios and pagers, then go about our day.

I feel like everyone assumes we get intoxicated patients. I'm not gonna say that's not the case, but that's not even close to [the] majority of calls we get. Throughout the week, we get medical calls, trauma calls, orthopedic calls and psychiatric calls. That's kind of the preliminary measures you can call us for anything.

HOW DO YOU THINK BEING AN EMT HAS HELPED YOU MOVING FORWARD IN THE

FUTURE? I think it's really affirmed my career path. I was a little more apprehensive about how I would like caring for patients

normally, but with this, I've really come to enjoy it, even more so than I thought. Going forward, I'm going to take all this knowledge and experience and use it to push into the career I want. I want to go into public health ... access to free health is my passion, so I think this has really affirmed that.

TO ANYONE WHO WANTS TO JOIN THE EMTS, WHAT KIND OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE THEM?

I would definitely say to not be afraid. If you see us on campus during our shift, say hi; it's hard to miss us in our uniform. It doesn't hurt to get a feel about how it would be, so talk to us. I would [also] say to get started early — since, before you apply, you have to be nationally certified, so make sure that gets done — and before you join [Emergency Medical Services], make sure that your schooling and mental health is on lock.

Always, always [prioritize] mental health, I feel like people who want to become EMTs are really into it for the right reasons, but sometimes they put people above their own selves, so don't be afraid to prioritize your needs, too.