

# Functional Position Description for the ALS Provider

## Introduction

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The following is a position description for the Advanced Life Support Provider within Virginia. This document identifies the minimum qualifications, expectations, competencies and tasks expected of the Advanced Life Support Provider.

## Qualifications for State Certification

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To qualify for state certification, the applicant must at a minimum:

1. meet minimum state entry requirements.
2. meet course requirements such as attendance and grades.
3. successfully complete all certification/licensure examination(s).

## Competencies

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The Advanced Life Support Provider must demonstrate competency in handling emergencies utilizing basic and advanced life support equipment and skills in accordance with the objectives in the Virginia EMS Education Standards for the Advanced EMT and the U.S. Department of Transportation National EMS Education Standards for the Paramedic to include having the ability to:

- verbally communicate in person, via telephone and telecommunications using the English language;
- hear spoken information from co-workers, patients, physicians and dispatchers and in sounds common to the emergency scene;
- ability to lift, carry, and balance up to 125 pounds (250 with assistance);
- ability to interpret and respond to written, oral, and diagnostic form instructions;
- ability to use good judgment and remain calm in high-stress situations and take on the role of a leader.
- read road maps; drive vehicle, accurately discern street signs and address numbers;
- read medication/prescription labels and directions for usage in quick, accurate, and expedient manner;
- communicate verbally with patients and significant others in diverse cultural and age groups to interview patient, family members, and bystanders;
- discern deviations/changes in eye/skin coloration due to patient's condition and to the treatment given;
- document, in writing, all relevant information in prescribed format in light of legal ramifications of such;

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- perform with good manual dexterity all tasks related to advanced emergency patient care and documentation;
- bend, stoop, balance, and crawl on uneven terrain;
- withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold, and moisture;
- perform quickly, precise, practical mathematical calculations pertinent to ratio and proportion of medication and supplies used in emergency patient care.

## Description of Tasks

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The Advanced Life Support Provider must:

- be independent, confident, able to work independently without defined structure, have good stable reasoning ability with ability to draw valid conclusions expediently relevant to patient's condition, often, using limited information;
- have knowledge and skills relevant to position and be able to implement them in stressful situations;
- be cognizant of all legal, ethical, and moral obligations inherent within scope of practice;
- be able to perform mathematical calculations/ratios and apply them in expedient, practical manner;
- have successfully completed an approved curriculum with achievement of passing scores on written and practical certification examinations as defined by programmatic guidelines;
- and at any given time, performs any or all tasks performed by a lower level EMT;
- may supervise activities of students or interns, and/or may engage in writing of journal articles or teach. Meets qualifications within the functional job analysis;
- meet minimum vision requirements to operate a motor vehicle within the state.