



**Research Brief**

**Bachelor of Arts in Emergency Services and Allied Health Systems Student Interest Survey Results**

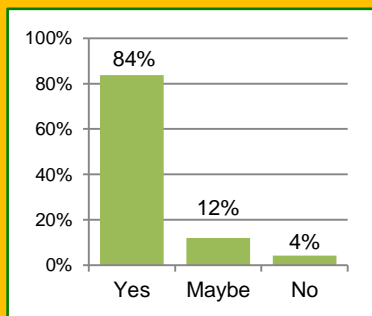
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**Purpose of Brief**

This brief summarizes results of the Bachelor of Arts in Emergency Services and Allied Health Systems student interest survey conducted in fall 2014.

**Summary of Findings**

- 84% of respondents stated that they were interested in the program, and 12% stated they might be interested in the program.



- Students provided the following statements in support of the program:
  - “Crafton has a great reputation in the EMS and Firefighting community because of the quality of the teachers and the students they produce. This is a great idea, and Crafton is the perfect place to test the program out.”
  - “I believe this is a ground breaking idea to have a BA program so close to home and affordable and in one of the fields I'm already in.”
  - “I think it's a great way to advance in my career path and to stand out from the majority.”

**Overview**

On September 28, 2014, California Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 850 authorizing up to 15 community colleges to offer a Baccalaureate degree on a pilot basis. Crafton Hills College is drafting a proposal to offer a Bachelor of Arts in Emergency Services and Allied Health Systems. The degree will prepare individuals to fill existing and emerging needs in the healthcare system that require handling complex systems and uncertain environments. Graduates will be qualified for leadership positions across fields including emergency services, public and community health, and safety. Special emphasis will be placed on using process and tools to deal with complex problems and situations.

**Methodology**

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Planning developed a student interest survey to collect input from potential students who might be interested in a Bachelor of Arts in Emergency Services and Allied Health Systems. Surveys were sent on November 18, 2014 to 638 students enrolled in emergency medical services, public safety, fire technology, allied health, respiratory care, and radiologic technology courses at Crafton Hills College in fall 2014. Respondents were asked to select their academic program, asked whether they were interested in a Bachelor of Arts in Emergency Services and Allied Health Systems at Crafton Hills College, and provided an opportunity to make comments regarding the proposed program. As of noon on November 20, 2014, 93 valid responses were received.

**Findings**

Table 1 illustrates respondents' interest in a Bachelor of Arts in Emergency Services and Allied Health Systems at Crafton Hills College. Seventy-seven (84%) respondents stated that they were interested in the program, and 11 (12%) stated they might be interested in the program.

**Table 1. Respondents interest in a Bachelor of Arts in Emergency Services and Allied Health Systems.**

Response	#	%
Yes, please!	77	83.7
Maybe, but not at this time.	11	12.0
No, thank you.	4	4.3
Total	92	100.0

Note: '#' denotes the number of responses received, and '%' denotes # divided by the total number of valid responses. One respondent did not select an answer to this question and was excluded.

The list below contains respondent's comments regarding why they are interested in a Bachelor of Arts in Emergency Services and Allied Health Systems at Crafton Hills College. Many respondents noted that regardless of their program (EMS, respiratory care, fire technology, etc.), they felt this program would improve their education and career. Some respondents noted that the proposed program is unique, innovative, and affordable.

List of selected respondent's comments:

- I absolutely believe this is a great idea! ***I have a BS in Emergency Medical Care from Loma Linda Medical University; however, I pursued my degree there because there weren't any other options in the area.*** I strongly believe that a BS would be not only good for those wanting to pursue a career in EMS and fire, but also for the fields themselves.
- I am extremely interested in this new BA program. I would like to further my education within this field to pursue my career goals.
- ***I am interested in a Bachelor of Arts in Emergency Services and Allied Health Systems because it would progress my knowledge in the EMS system and would allow professionals alike to keep up to date with the quickly progressing healthcare of the community.*** With technology in the EMS field changing so frequently, I believe that it is detrimental as a leader to not know how to deal with complex problems and situations in the most efficient way possible.
- ***I believe this is a ground breaking idea to have a BA program so close to home and affordable and in one of the fields I'm already in.***
- I really enjoy the campus and its location. Also, the teachers are very dedicated to helping their students succeed. ***Crafton has a great reputation in the EMS and Firefighting community because of the quality of the teachers and the students they produce. This is a great idea, and Crafton is the perfect place to test the program out.*** I'm sure there are many other students that are as excited as I am at this possibility.
- ***I think Crafton would be a perfect school for this pilot program given their track record with having an excellent emergency services education.*** I have taken my EMT here and will take my paramedic as well here because this school really does offer the best programs around.
- ***I think it's a great way to advance in my career path and to stand out from the majority.***
- I want to be a Paramedic, and everywhere I turn, I'm told a bachelor's degree would be an extreme advantage for me. However, if I am realistic, I cannot afford most bachelor's degree programs, in addition to finding one related to my desired interests. This would be perfect for me. ***I hope this happens.***
- ***I want to become a physician's assistant, and this degree program will be my way into PA school.***
- I would like to have more knowledge regarding processes and theories of emergency services. ***I would also like to be a part of this one of a kind degree.***
- In my experience I have found many institutions are not properly geared to handle the academic presentation of undergraduate course work for a Bachelor's degree. They are not prepared to present the course curriculum related to the medical field, especially the intricate field of emergency medicine. In order to pursue higher education a Bachelor degree is mandated. ***Other than private institutions there is no public format available to those of us desiring a higher level of education in our specific career field.*** A Bachelor's degree will allow me to pursue higher levels of education in my field, providing opportunity to compete for greater responsibility and higher paying wage.
- ***It is a great idea for a great school.*** I am graduating the very rigorous respiratory care program here soon and could use a bachelor's degree.
- ***Obtaining a BA in emergency services will not only better prepare me for my career, but also make me more marketable in the job field.***