The philosophy of the Department of Emergency Medicine centers on a commitment to quality in its service, teaching, and research missions. This department functions as a crossroads interface between the community and the medical center services—providing a point of access to medical care for many people who are seriously and unexpectedly ill; and whose condition may be compromised by geographic isolation and socioeconomic disadvantage.

The objectives of the department are to:

1. Provide and coordinate cost-effective, empathic, and compassionate prehospital, emergency, and excellent trauma services.
2. Support and contribute to the achievement of medical education competency for all categories of emergency-care professionals.
3. Develop initiatives that promote increased understanding of and improved techniques and skills in emergency-care practice, heighten positive perception of this specialty, and contribute to quality research in this area.
4. Promote teamwork skills among the various services and professionals comprising the emergency medical system.

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