

Emergency Medical Services

The field of Emergency Medical Services provides immediate care to people in need, both at the scene of an emergency and while transporting patients to a medical facility to receive more advanced care. The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) certifies emergency medical service providers at the following levels: First Responder, EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, and Paramedic.

EMTs and Paramedics deal with a wide range of injury and illness every day and must be able to react quickly and competently in a variety of emergencies. Emergency Medical Technicians have basic life support skills including knowledge in assessing injury and illness and caring for patients at the scene of the emergency. Paramedics have more advanced training and can give patients medication, use electrocardiograms, and perform intubations. The tasks EMTs and Paramedics can perform depend upon the state in which they practice.



The EMT and Paramedic programs at Colorado Mesa University are competitive and have separate application processes with selective admission requirements and set application deadlines. Students at CMU also have the opportunity to take **EMTS 115 Emergency Medical Responder** to explore the profession and become nationally certified as an NREMR - National Registered Emergency Medical Responder. This course covers the knowledge and skills to provide emergency care for most medical emergencies while awaiting additional EMS response and transportation.

The [Emergency Medical Technician Certificate](#) program at CMU emphasizes emergency skills, such as patient assessment and managing respiratory, trauma, and cardiac emergencies. Formal courses are combined with skills practice and time in an emergency room or ambulance for a total of 195 contact hours. The program also provides instruction and practice in dealing with bleeding, fractures, airway obstruction, cardiac arrest, and emergency childbirth. Students learn how to use and maintain common emergency equipment, such as backboards, suction devices, splints, oxygen delivery systems, and stretchers. Graduates who pass a written and practical examination administered by the State certifying agency or the NREMT earn the title "Registered Emergency Medical Technician."

Students admitted into the [Paramedic Certificate or Associate of Applied Science Degree](#) at CMU must have and maintain Emergency Medical Technician certification throughout the Paramedic program. This program prepares the graduate to take the NREMT examination and become certified as a Paramedic, which is the highest level of certification. Paramedics are trained in advanced life support skills. The Paramedic program at CMU is offered in both a traditional and hybrid format. In the hybrid format, most lectures, homework, and tests are done online while students regularly come to campus for Skills Camps. Clinical and Internship requirements are the same for both programs.

A person in this career field may:

- Assess the condition of a patient through visual observation, taking a pulse, measuring blood pressure, listening to breath sounds, etc.
- Perform first aid or other emergency life support treatment and administer intravenous drugs or fluid
- Utilize equipment such as a defibrillator or electrocardiograph to stabilize patients
- Respond to emergency calls from dispatchers
- Drive an ambulance to an emergency and transport patients to medical facilities
- Report observations about the patient and any treatment provided already both verbally and in writing to other medical professionals
- Reassure patients, bystanders, or family members
- Maintain and replenish emergency supplies and equipment as well as performing maintenance on emergency vehicles
- Maintain certifications by attending training classes and staying up-to-date with the field

Major Skills & Characteristics

- Ability to handle physically strenuous tasks
- Effective oral and written communication
- Work well in stressful environments
- Problem-solving and critical thinking skills
- Ability to make quick decisions
- Strong science background
- Detail-oriented and observant
- Interpersonal skills
- Ability to prioritize multiple tasks
- Collaborate with other professionals
- Adaptable/flexible
- Knowledgeable about operating and maintaining equipment
- Teamwork
- Willingness to work at a high risk for illness or injury on the job

Organizations That Commonly Employ Emergency Medical Services Majors

- Ambulatory Health Care Services
- Fire Departments
- Government Agencies
- Hospitals
- Police Departments
- Private Industry with high potential for accident or injury
- Public Safety Agencies

Related Careers

- Ambulance Driver
- Critical Care Paramedic
- Emergency Management Coordinator
- Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B)
- Emergency Medical Technician - Intermediate (EMT - I)
- Emergency Room Tech
- Emergency Vehicle Operator
- EMS Faculty
- EMS Operations Manager
- EMT/Dispatcher
- EMT/Paramedic
- First Responder
- Fire Fighter/Paramedic
- Flight Paramedic
- Ground/Flight Dispatcher
- Multi Care Technician
- Paramedic
- Paramedic Supervisor
- Rescue Worker
- Staff Paramedic
- Transport EMT

Note: Some of the occupations listed above may require additional education, experience, or training beyond an Associate's Degree. To research these occupations use the Career Research Resources links below.

Career Research Resources:

Use these sites to research information about specific occupations such as nature of the work, training or qualifications, employment or job outlook, projections, earnings and wages.

O*NET-Online: <http://www.onetonline.org>

The U.S. Department of Labor

- In the occupational search box type in key words, job titles, or occupational codes to research various careers.

Occupational Outlook Handbook: http://www.bls.gov/oco/oon_index.htm

The Bureau of Labor Statistics

- **View OOH information on EMTs and Paramedics at**
<http://www.bls.gov/oon/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm>
- Use the A-Z index to select the occupation you are researching.

My Future.com: <http://www.myfuture.com>

The Department of Defense

- This site compiles information from departments of [Commerce](#), [Education](#) and [Labor](#).

Organizations and Associations Links

- American Ambulance Association: www.the-aaa.org
- American Red Cross: www.redcross.org
- Colorado Rural Health Center: www.coruralhealth.org
- Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado: www.emsac.org
- Explore Health Careers: explorehealthcareers.org/en/Career/43/Emergency_Medical_TechnicianParamedic
- First Responder: www.firstresponder.gov
- Mesa County EMS: <http://ems.mesacounty.us>
- National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians: www.naemt.org
- National Association of EMS Educators: www.naemse.org
- National Emergency Management Association: www.nemsma.org
- National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians: www.nremt.org

Job Listings/Job Search Sites:

- Emergency Medical Association of Colorado–Career Center: <http://jobs.emsac.org>
- Emergency Management: www.emergencymgmt.com/jobs/ems-paramedic
- EMT City: www.emtcity.com
- EMS1: www.ems1.com/ems-jobs
- EMS World Job Center: www.emsjobcenter.com
- FEMA Careers: www.fema.gov/careers
- Health Jobs Start Here: www.healthjobsstarthere.com/my
- JEMS: www.jems.com
- Paramedic.com: www.paramedic.com/paramedic-jobs
- Simply Hired: www.simplyhired.com/a/jobs/list/q-paramedic