PARAMEDICINE
Diploma & Associate Degree Programs

What is a Paramedic?
Paramedics provide more extensive pre-hospital care than an EMT. A paramedic may administer medications, interpret EKGs, perform intubations, and use monitors and other complex equipment. A paramedic may work for local government, ambulance services, or in the hospital emergency room. Starting salaries are approximately $35,000 per year. Learn more about the career at www.nremt.org. The Gwinnett Tech Paramedicine program is the only nationally accredited program in the state of Georgia.

Length of Programs
4 semesters (not including prerequisite courses); Program courses must be taken in sequence within the prescribed time frame.

Semester Program Begins
Spring Semester: Day classes only

Application Process
1. Apply to Gwinnett Technical College at www.gwinnetttech.edu; submit all transcripts from high school and previous college work, and take the COMPASS test if required
2. Applicants must be a Georgia licensed AEMT and must provide a copy of their license.
3. Spring 2016 Program application must be turned in by October 10, 2015. Please download an application packet at: http://www.gwinnetttech.edu; go to forms and documents, scroll down to program applications; select Paramedicine Degree or Diploma Application.
4. Paramedicine Entrance Exam FISDAP prior to interview by invitation only.
5. Program director approval is required to enroll.

Prerequisite Courses

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<th>Diploma Program</th>
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<td>ENGL 1010</td>
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<td>MATH 1012</td>
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<td>PSYC 1010</td>
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<td>ALHS 1011*</td>
<td>BIOL 2113/L* &amp; BIOL 2114/L*</td>
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<td>Or BIOL 2113/L* &amp; BIOL 2114/L*</td>
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*These courses cannot be more than 5 years old at time of program application.

Additional Courses Required for the Associate Degree
One of the following: HUMN 1101, ARTS 1101, MUSC 1101, ENGL 2130

One of the following: ECON 2105, ECON 2106, SOCI 1101, HIST 1111, HIST 1112, HIST 2111, HIST 2112, POLS 1101, PSYC 1101, PSYC 2250

One additional 3-hour course from General Education must be taken from Area I, Area II, Area III, or Area IV. Students can view the complete list of classes on pages 90-91.

Program Deadlines
For Spring 2016 admission Program application must be turned in by October 10, 2015. Prerequisites must be completed by the end of 2015 Fall semester.

Program Costs & Requirements
A student can expect to pay on top of tuition: approximately $850 for: Uniforms; malpractice insurance; textbooks; criminal background checks & drug screening; FISDAP clinical scheduler; immunizations for clinicals; National Registry Exam; National Registry practical exam site fee; Georgia state licensure & Background check; other incidental costs. All costs are approximated and are subject to change.

For more information, contact: Cecilia Fuentes, Program Support Specialist at cfuentes@gwinnetttech.edu or call (678) 226-6966, Building 200, Room 212. For admission and enrollment, contact: Enrollment Support Center in Building 100 or at healthteam@gwinnetttech.edu
Nature of the Work

Paramedics and EMTs represent the first response of the emergency medical system. Paramedics provide more extensive pre-hospital care than do EMTs. In addition to carrying out the procedures of the other levels, paramedics administer medications, interpret EKGs, perform endotracheal intubations, and use monitors and other complex equipment. Specific duties that paramedics are permitted to perform vary by state regulations.

Once they arrive on a scene, paramedics and EMTs assess the nature of the patient’s condition, while trying to determine whether the patient has any pre-existing medical conditions. Following protocols and guidelines, they provide emergency care and transport the patient to a medical facility. Paramedics and EMTs operate in emergency medical services systems where a physician provides medical direction and oversight.

Paramedics and EMTs use special equipment, such as backboards, to immobilize patients before placing them on stretchers and securing them in the ambulance for transport to a medical facility. These workers generally work in teams. During the transport of a patient, one drives, while the other monitors the patient’s vital signs and gives additional care, as needed. At the medical facility, paramedics and EMTs help transfer patients to the emergency department, report their observations and actions to emergency department staff, and may provide additional emergency treatment.

Work Environment

Paramedics work both indoors and out, in all types of weather. They are required to do considerable kneeling, bending, and heavy lifting. These workers are at a higher risk for contracting illnesses or experiencing injuries on the job than workers in other occupations. They risk noise-induced hearing loss from sirens and back injuries from lifting patients. In addition, paramedics may be exposed to communicable diseases, such as Hepatitis-B and AIDS, as well as to violence from mentally unstable or combative patients. The work is not only physically strenuous but can be stressful, sometimes involving life-or-death situations and suffering patients. Many paramedics are required to work more than 40 hours a week. Because emergency services function 24 hours a day, paramedics may have irregular working hours.

Employment

Paramedics and EMTs held about 226,500 jobs nationally in 2010. Employment of paramedics and EMTs is expected to grow 33 percent between 2010 and 2020.

Earnings

Median annual wages nationally of EMTs and paramedics were $30,360 in May 2010. The lowest 10 percent earned less than $19,710 and the highest 10 percent earned more than $51,370.

Research the Career