What is an EMT?

An EMT functions as a primary care provider in the pre-hospital setting. The EMT is responsible for all aspects of care provided to the sick and injured, including basic life support. The EMT is responsible for driving an ambulance and will work under the supervision of a paramedic. An EMT may work for local government, ambulance services, or in the hospital emergency room. Starting salaries are $24,000-$26,000 per year. Learn more about the career at www.nrems.org

Application Process

1. Apply to Gwinnett Technical College at www.GwinnettTech.edu
2. Submit all transcripts from high school and previous college work, or take the COMPASS test if required
3. Applicants are initially accepted into the Healthcare Assistant Certificate program while completing the required prerequisite courses

Priority Application deadlines

For Spring 2017 (Day program) Program application must be turned in by October 10, 2016. All prerequisites must be completed by the end of 2016 Fall semester.

For Summer 2017 (Night program) Program application must be turned in by March 22, 2017. All prerequisites must be completed by the end of 2017 Spring semester.

For Fall 2016 (Day program) Program application must be turned in by June 1, 2016. All prerequisites must be completed by the end of 2016 Summer semester.

Prerequisite Courses

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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 1010</td>
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<td>MATH 1012</td>
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<td>FYES 1000</td>
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<td>ALHS 1090*</td>
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<td>PSYC 1010 or PSYC 1101</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHS 1011* or BIOL 2113/L* and BIOL 2114/L*</td>
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*These courses cannot be more than 5 years old at time of program application.

Competitive Admissions

Candidates will be notified of a mandatory meeting after the deadline. Candidates are rated using mandatory meeting attendance, prerequisite course GPA, previous education, and any healthcare, military or public safety experience.

Program Costs & Requirements

A student can expect to pay on top of tuition: approximately $720 for: uniforms; malpractice insurance; textbooks; criminal background checks & drug screening; FISDAP clinical scheduler; National Registry Exam; National Registry practical exam site fee; Georgia state licensure; other incidental costs. All costs are approximated and are subject to change. Please note: some of these additional costs are added as fees at the beginning of the semester.
Nature of the Work

The EMT represents the first response of the emergency medical system. An EMT trained at this level is prepared to care for patients at the scene of an accident and while transporting patients by ambulance to the hospital under the direction of more highly trained medical personnel. The EMT has the emergency skills to assess a patient’s condition and manage respiratory, cardiac, and trauma emergencies. The AEMT has more advanced training. However, the specific tasks that those certified at this level are allowed to perform vary greatly from state to state. Once they arrive, 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. EMTs operate in emergency medical services systems where a physician provides medical direction and oversight.

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, EMTs help transfer patients to the emergency department, report their observations and actions to emergency department staff, and may provide additional emergency treatment. After each run, EMTs document the trip, replace used supplies, and check equipment.

Work Environment

EMTs 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, EMTs 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 EMTs are required to work more than 40 hours a week. Because emergency services function 24 hours a day, EMTs and paramedics may have irregular working hours.

Employment

EMTs and paramedics held about 226,500 jobs nationally in 2010. Most career EMTs work in metropolitan areas. Volunteer EMTs are more common in small cities, towns, and rural areas. These individuals volunteer for fire departments, emergency medical services, or hospitals and may respond to only a few calls per month. Employment of emergency medical technicians and paramedics 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
