

Career Focus on...

# *Emergency Medical Services*

## Introduction

- Do you want to work helping to save lives and solving medical problems?
- Do you have the ability to handle stress, react quickly, and keep calm in tense situations?
- Would you like a career in one of the fastest growing occupations in Massachusetts?

If you answered “yes” to these questions, you may want to consider a career in Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

## Did You Know...?

- Knowledge of Emergency Medical Services can help your career both within and outside the medical field.
- QCC offers several different options to fit your interest in Emergency Medical Services. There are Basic and Intermediate EMT certificates, an EMT Paramedic certificate, and a Paramedic Technology A.S. degree.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported that the employment outlook for EMTs is extremely positive, with new jobs appearing “much faster than average.”

## Emergency Medical Services @ QCC

The Emergency Medical Services program at QCC prepares students for a variety of careers in emergency medical settings. Students may choose to take a Basic EMT course or continue on through Intermediate EMT, Paramedic, and Paramedic Technology curriculums.

QCC's Emergency Medical Services options range in length from one semester for an EMT-Basic Certificate to five semesters for a Paramedic Technology A.S. Students will learn about human anatomy and physiology, as well as how to respond to a variety of situations that EMTs and Paramedics may face. Students in the EMT-Basic course will spend time observing in the field, while students in the Intermediate and Paramedic courses will perform hands-on work both in clinical hospital settings and while in a field internship with local advanced providers.

All students who wish to take the EMT-Intermediate course must have a current EMT-Basic certification and one year of experience working as an EMT. Students wishing to enter the Paramedic Technology Associate Degree Program must have a current EMT-Basic or EMT-Intermediate Certification and one year of experience as an EMT-Basic.

## Career Options

### EMTs AND PARAMEDICS

Median Annual Salary: \$30,360

Recommended Education: Postsecondary non-degree award

[www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm)

### POLICE, FIRE, AND AMBULANCE/EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPATCHERS

Median Annual Salary: \$35,370

Recommended Education: H.S. Diploma

[www.bls.gov/ooh/office-and-administrative-support/police-fire-and-ambulance-dispatchers.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/office-and-administrative-support/police-fire-and-ambulance-dispatchers.htm)

### REGISTERED NURSES

Median Annual Salary: \$64,690

Recommended Education: Associate's degree

[www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm)

### PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Median Annual Salary: \$86,410

Recommended Education: Master's degree

[www.bls.gov/ooh/Healthcare/Physician-assistants.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Healthcare/Physician-assistants.htm)

## Worcester Area Employers

- MetroWest Medical Center
- MedFlight
- MedSTAR
- Municipal Ambulance Services
- Saint Vincent Hospital
- Tufts Medical Center
- Various Private Ambulance Services
- UMass Memorial Medical Center
- Worcester EMS

## Next Steps

Wondering if Emergency Medical Services is right for you?

- Take a Career Assessment to match your interests with potential careers:  
[www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerassess](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerassess)
- Research the web links on this *Career Focus* page, as well as links suggested online under Career Information: [www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerinfo](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#careerinfo)
- Conduct an Informational Interview with someone employed in the field. For more information on how to do this, review the Informational Interview links online:  
[www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#infointerview](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/t3/ort/sites.html#infointerview)
- Attend a Career Planning Session. For more information, and the current schedule, visit Career Academic Personal Success (CAPS) online:  
[www.QCC.edu/services/academic-advising/career-academic-personal-success](http://www.QCC.edu/services/academic-advising/career-academic-personal-success)
- Speak with an Advisor:  
[www2.qcc.mass.edu/advising/](http://www2.qcc.mass.edu/advising/)
- Speak with QCC Faculty who teach Emergency Medical Services courses.

## Sources Used

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*:

- EMTs and Paramedics:  
<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm>
- Registered Nurses:  
[www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm)
- Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers:  
[www.bls.gov/ooh/office-and-administrative-support/police-fire-and-ambulance-dispatchers.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/office-and-administrative-support/police-fire-and-ambulance-dispatchers.htm)
- Physician Assistants:  
[www.bls.gov/ooh/Healthcare/Physician-assistants.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Healthcare/Physician-assistants.htm)

Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, "Fastest Growing Occupations Through 2014."

Quinsigamond Community College Website

- Emergency Medical Technician Basic Course:  
[www.qcc.edu/academics/health-care/emt-basic-course](http://www.qcc.edu/academics/health-care/emt-basic-course)
- EMT Intermediate Course:  
[www.qcc.edu/academics/health-care/emt-intermediate](http://www.qcc.edu/academics/health-care/emt-intermediate)
- Paramedic Technician:  
[www.qcc.edu/academics/health-care/paramedic-technician](http://www.qcc.edu/academics/health-care/paramedic-technician)
- Paramedic Technology:  
[www.qcc.edu/academics/health-care/paramedic-technology](http://www.qcc.edu/academics/health-care/paramedic-technology)

## Professional Associations

- American Ambulance Association:  
[www.the-aaa.org](http://www.the-aaa.org)
- International Association of EMTs and Paramedics:  
[www.iaep.org](http://www.iaep.org)
- National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians:  
[www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org)
- National EMS Association:  
[www.nemsausa.org](http://www.nemsausa.org)
- National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians:  
[www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)
- Northeast Association of Advisors for the Health Professions:  
[www.neaahp.org](http://www.neaahp.org)

## Positions Entered by QCC Graduates

- EMT-Basic
- EMT-Intermediate
- EMT-Paramedic
- Critical Care Technician
- Fire Paramedic
- Firefighter EMT
- Emergency Department Technician

## Employment, Co-op, Internship, or Service Learning Opportunities

Contact the Career Placement Office:  
[www.qcc.edu/pages/Career\\_Placement.html](http://www.qcc.edu/pages/Career_Placement.html)

## Possible Transfer Schools

- Anna Maria College
- Assumption College
- Clark University
- Fitchburg State University
- Northeastern University
- Tufts University
- UMass Lowell
- UMass Medical School
- Worcester State University

## Specific Transfer Information

- Start at the QCC Transfer web site:  
[www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer)
- Make an appointment online with the Transfer Advisor: [www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer/calendar](http://www.qcc.mass.edu/transfer/calendar)
- Email questions to:  
[transfer@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:transfer@qcc.mass.edu)