

May 2019

HEALTHCARE HIGHLIGHTS

The Rural AHEC Student Newsletter



May's Healthcare Career Focus:

Emergency Medical Technician

Emergency Medical Technicians, or EMTs, are members of the healthcare workforce who are trained to respond quickly to medical emergencies. They often perform initial medical care and collaborate with clinical site personnel to make decisions about further care and whether transportation to a medical facility is necessary. Their work can involve life-threatening situations and multiple patients.

What might I do as an Emergency Medical Technician?

Learn how to operate and maintain vehicles and equipment used for emergency care

Travel to areas experiencing medical emergencies by ambulance, helicopter, or other means of transport

Interact with patients, providing emergency and possibly life-saving care while implementing strategies for diffusing stress and anxiety

Collaborate with team members and clinical site personnel to deliver quality emergency care and transportation to medical facility

Administer intravenous or other medications if trained as a paramedic

Work full-time on a flexible schedule which would likely include weekends, holidays, and long shifts



How do I become an Emergency Medical Technician?

- Apply for and attend an accredited EMT certification program—2 year program
- Pass cognitive and psychomotor skills exams appropriate for your state
- Take and pass the National Registry of EMT exams
- Maintain and renew certification through continuing education

Average Salary:
\$31,000—\$32,000

Related careers in Emergency Medicine:
Emergency Medical Responders, Paramedic, Emergency Room Physician, Emergency Room Nurse,

What is it really like to be an Emergency Medical Technician?

Much of the day-to-day work of an EMT involves paperwork, restocking of supplies, equipment maintenance, and other ordinary tasks. Some hours, however, are filled with excitement and tension as life-and-death decisions and actions are made to administer medical help in emergency situations. EMTs can work as part of an ambulance team, hospital, or other medical team. Shadowing a professional EMT is recommended.



Meet EMTs Adam and Julio in this NewsWest Special Report video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUh4BEB3Hal>

Check out this article about being an EMT newbie: <https://www.emsworld.com/article/11309154/ten-rules-ems-newbies>



“Treat your behavior like part of the uniform. Part of the job is keeping it professional.”

“You don’t want to learn from the guy who nails everything the first time; you want to hear from the poor sod who had to slog through it the hard way.”

“The best defense is to turn routine choices into rote behavior. If it’s a habit, you don’t have to decide every time; you’ll simply become a provider and employee who’s effortlessly bullet-proof.”

Paramedic and EMT Brandon Oto

**Western New York
Rural Area Health Education Center**
20 Duncan Street, Warsaw, New York 14569
585-786-6275
lgreen@r-ahec.org
www.r-ahec.org

Please contact us if you have questions about healthcare career opportunities or educational pathways to healthcare careers!

Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center (R-AHEC) is one of nine centers in the New York State Area Health Education Center (NYS AHEC) organization. Our mission is to improve health and healthcare through education.

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