Thinking about becoming an EMT or P A R A M E D I C ?

There are different levels of certification for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals. We offer training in each of these areas. This guide may help you in choosing the correct class to meet your needs.

- ***Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) or First Responder***: These are certifications that are rarely used by people seeking a career in EMS. The hour requirements vary between 50-96. This is usually used as a basic introduction to emergency medical care and is most useful for firefighters, law enforcement officers, and the public. This class can lead to state certification or just county recognition as a responder. They are relatively simplistic.

- ***Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-Basic):*** This is the standard entry point for people wanting a solid education in emergency medical care and for anyone considering a career in EMS. This is a state basic life support certification that allows you to work on an ambulance. It focuses on basic procedures like oxygen administration, CPR, bleeding control, splinting of bones, delivering babies, and similar skills. The class hours will vary between 180 & 203. The job market is strong for EMT-Basics and includes working on 911 emergency ambulances and private transport companies handling routine patient appointments and transfers.

- ***Emergency Medical Technician- Intermediate (EMT-I):*** This is one step above the basic EMT. This is a state advanced life support certification that also allows you to work on an ambulance. It focuses on EMT-Basic skills and adds advanced procedures such as starting IV lines, giving shots, drawing blood, placing breathing tubes (like in the operating room), administering several medications, and performing advanced assessments. You must complete the EMT-Basic class prior to taking this level of training. The class hours will be about 300. That includes hands-on practice in a hospital emergency department and in the back of an ambulance on calls. The job market is strong for the EMT-I. This certification is especially in demand for agencies responding to 911 emergencies.

- ***Paramedic (EMT-P):*** This is the highest level of prehospital emergency care offered in the United States. This is a state advanced life support certification that also allows you to work on an ambulance, on medical helicopters, and in physician's offices and hospitals in some areas. It focuses on the EMT-Basic and Intermediate skills and adds advanced procedures such as several giving dozens of extra medications, practicing advanced cardiology, needle decompression of chest injuries, performing surgical airways, and other such aggressive therapies. You must complete the EMT-Basic class prior to taking this level of training. You can take the Intermediate and Paramedic classes as stand-alone options or they can be combined as one class that ends at the paramedic level. The class hours will be about 900. That includes extensive hands-on practice in a variety of hospital, clinic, and physician office sites as well as in the back of an ambulance on calls. The job market is very strong for the Paramedic. This certification is usually the most in demand for agencies responding to 911 emergencies.

  ECC's Public Safety Programs area is proud to offer top quality courses to reach each these levels of EMS education. Classes are offered in several formats to include:
  - Daytime classes on campus (full-time or part-time)
  - Evening classes on campus with an occasional weekend (part-time)
  - Hybrid education with most course work being done online to fit your schedule with one weekend per month on campus (part-time)
  - Each level of certification offered by themselves or a combination of the certifications into one class

Please contact us to register for classes or to get more information. Brittany Harrelson (252) 832-5166, ext 293 or harrelsonb@edgecombe.edu. Follow us at www.facebook.com/eccpublicsafety.