



LAUNCH YOUR CAREER IN EMS

WISCONSIN EMS ASSOCIATION ®



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WHY GO INTO EMS?

Do you care about helping people? Have you ever thought about going into the medical field? EMS is a way to provide life-saving efforts to people in their time of need, without spending years in medical school, racking up hundreds of thousands of dollars in student loans. EMS is a challenging and rewarding career that many people devote their entire lives to. It is full of caring, genuine, and team-oriented professionals who find purpose in helping others, and is full of room to grow. **Start your career in EMS today!**

LOW COST EDUCATION:

An average program to become an EMT only costs around \$1500. Don't get stuck with huge student loans!



GIVE BACK:

Give back to your community by providing critical care during emergency situations.

JOB SECURITY:

Demand for EMS workers is incredibly high and needed everywhere. You will always be able to find a job.

HELP OTHERS:

You will have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others by providing essential medical care and assistance during emergencies.

EXCITING WORK:

You will have the chance to work in a dynamic and fast-paced environment. EMS offers the opportunity to do something new and different each shift.



WHAT IS EMS?

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JOB OVERVIEW

EMS professionals respond to emergency calls, assess patients, provide medical treatment, and transport patients to medical facilities. There are many types of EMS departments including Voluntary, Government, Private Ambulances, Hospital Based, and Tribal. A few job duties of an EMS professional include:

Assessing patients' medical conditions and vital signs



Administering medications & providing life saving medical treatment

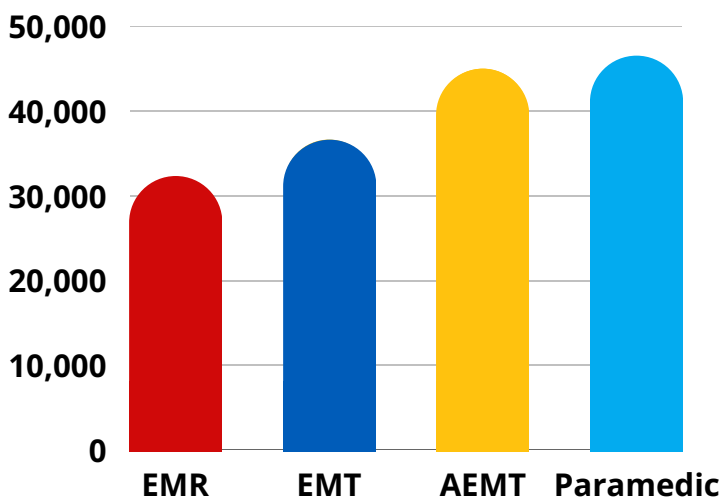
Transporting patients to medical facilities and reporting observations



Advocating for patients and improving community health outcomes



Median Income





EMS LEVELS

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INTRODUCTION

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is a vital component of healthcare that provides medical care to individuals in urgent situations. The EMS field is a fast-paced, high-pressure environment that requires **quick thinking, teamwork, and excellent communication skills**. Check out some of the differences between the different license levels below.



Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) also known as Certified First Responders, provide lifesaving interventions, including **CPR, AED, and bleeding control** while awaiting additional EMS response and to assist higher level personnel at the scene.

Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)

Average Time: 2-3 months*

Approximate Program Cost: \$500*

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Average Time: 3-4 months*

Approximate Program Cost: \$1,500*

Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) are trained in the use of AED, CPR, **Oxygen Administration, bandaging, splinting**, non-visualized airways, glucose level testing and administration of life saving medications.



AEMTs are responsible for providing basic emergency treatment for **respiratory, trauma and cardiac emergencies**, as well as obstructed airways. AEMTs are also trained to administer some medications, as well as intravenous fluids.

Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)

Average Time: 6-12 months*

Approximate Program Cost: \$2,500*

Paramedic

Critical Care & Community Paramedic Endorsements Available*

Average Time: 1-2 years*

Approximate Program Cost: \$7,500*

Paramedics are **highly trained medical professionals who are educated to carry out some of the duties of a physician**. Paramedics can examine, evaluate and treat patients with equipment and medications usually only found in the emergency department of a hospital.



*Average Time and Program Cost may vary.



WHAT IS EMS CONT.

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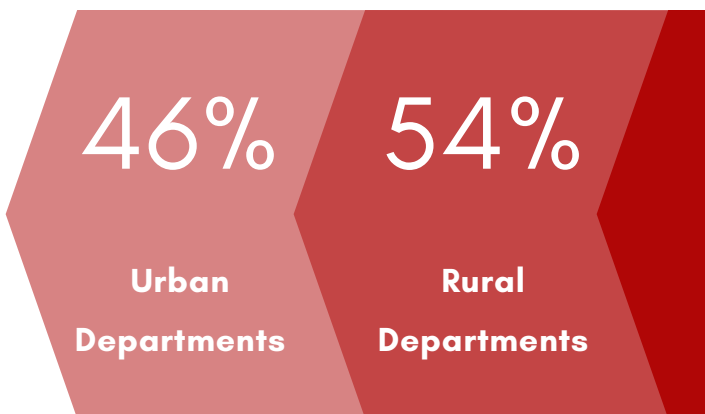
EMS OPTIONS

There are many routes you can take with a career in EMS. When it comes to the type of department they want to work with.

Here are some examples:

Types of EMS Departments

- Voluntary EMS
- Government EMS
- Private Ambulance Services
- Hospital Based EMS
- Tribal EMS



Potential EMS Specializations





WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?

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While many associate EMS with flashy helicopters and ambulances, it is far from just a trip to the emergency department. EMS is a system of carefully coordinated systems and trained response personnel through multiple agencies and systems. A comprehensive EMS system is ready for any kind of emergency.

EMS Does Not Exist in Isolation

EMS integrates with other services and systems intended to enhance the community's health and safety. **EMS is the crossroads of healthcare, public health, emergency management, and public safety.** Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics respond to emergency calls, perform life saving medical services, and transport patients to medical facilities.



What is the Star of Life?

The Star of Life is a blue, six-pointed star, internationally known as a symbol that represents Emergency Medical Services.

The six branches are symbols of the six main tasks executed by rescuers through the emergency chain. The serpent and staff in the symbol portray the staff of Aesculapius, an ancient Greek physician defined as the god of medicine. The staff represents medicine and healing, with the skin-shedding serpent being indicative of renewal.



THERE'S ROOM TO GROW

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BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE BASE

EMS professionals require specialized training and knowledge to perform their job duties. Some areas of knowledge that you will expand upon include:

Healthcare

- + Anatomy and physiology
- + Medical terminology
- + Pharmacology

Public Safety and Security

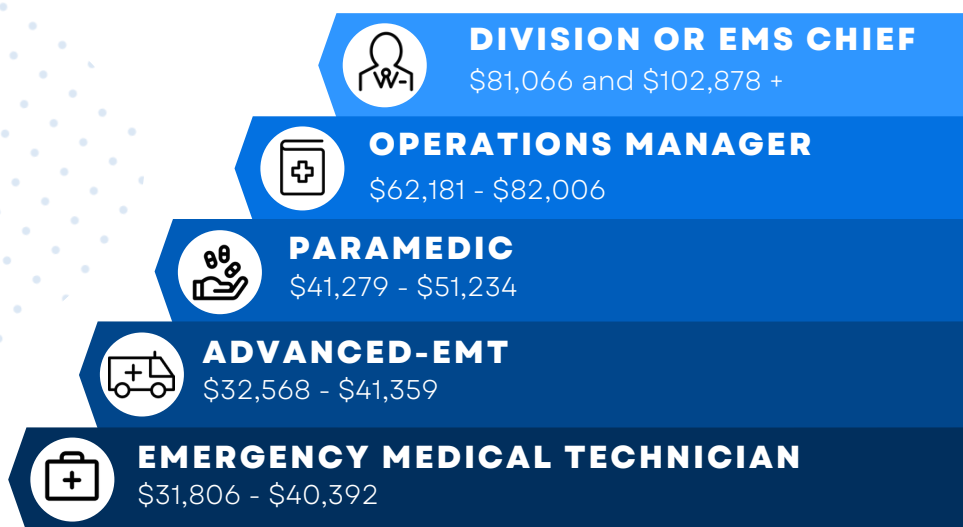
- + Law enforcement and criminal justice
- + Fire safety and prevention
- + Occupational safety and health

Emergency Management

- + Disaster preparedness and response
- + Crisis intervention
- + Risk assessment and management

Communication

- + Effective communication strategies
- + Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques
- + Cultural competency and awareness



Potential EMS Career Path



LAUNCHING YOUR EMS CAREER

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Let's get you started in your EMS journey.
Follow these steps:

STEP 1: FIND THE EMS TRAINING SITE CLOSEST TO YOU



Congratulations in taking this next step towards launching your career in health care! Begin by looking for the closest training center for you to start taking classes. Take note of all tuition/fees, specific class requirements, and the timeframe.

[WI TRAINING CENTERS](#) >

STEP 2: FIND & TAKE THE PROGRAM YOU ARE LOOKING FOR

Search their website for the program you want to take (EMR, EMT, A-EMT, Paramedic) and apply! Check out our scholarship portal if you are looking for financial assistance.



[SCHOLARSHIP PORTAL](#) >



STEP 3: TAKE THE NREMT AND GET NATIONALLY REGISTERED

The NREMT is the national emergency medical certification organization and tests your EMS knowledge and skills. This can be a difficult test to pass but you can access additional information and suggestions.

[NREMT WEBSITE](#) >



LAUNCHING YOUR EMS CAREER CONT.

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STEP 4: GET LICENSED WITH WISCONSIN DHS

The Wisconsin EMS Office manages all licensure and credentialing through their license management system and should notify you within 60 days.

[DHS LICENSING PORTAL](#) >

STEP 5: FIND A DEPARTMENT & APPLY

Check with your local department or use WEMSA's Career Center to search open jobs across the state. You can also access our career services to improve your resume, prepare for interviews, and more!

[CAREER CENTER](#) >



Step 6: LAND THE JOB! SAVE A LIFE!

Congratulations on getting the job and starting your EMS career! Don't forget to sign up for your FREE 1-Year WEMSA Student Membership.

[FREE MEMBERSHIP](#) >





ADVANCE YOUR HEALTH CAREER

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EMS CAN BE A GREAT STEPPING STONE

This field can lead to a fulfilling and exciting career but it can also pave the way for other health careers. EMS professionals gain the skills they need to be able to succeed in a wide range of additional health-related fields, including:

Emergency Room Technician

Medical Equipment Repairer

Physician Assistant (PA)

Surgical Technologist

Health Information Technician

Contract Medic

Emergency Dispatcher

Industrial Medic

Forensic Science Technician

Veterinary Technician

Biological Technician

Radiologic Technologist

Flight Paramedic

Registered Nurse (RN)

Certified Nursing Aide (CNA)

Public Health Practitioner

First Aid Instructor

Anesthesia Technician

Healthcare Administration

Dialysis Technician

Echocardiograph Technician

Epidemiologists

Fire Medic

Health Educator

Healthcare Risk Manager

Health Writer

Phlebotomy

Mortuary Assistant

Physician

Health Promotion Coordinator





WHY OTHERS LOVE EMS

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“ Every single call is an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life. EMS is a never-ending source of those opportunities. I love that. I like to think that those interactions of good continue to ripple outward and multiply. ”

J. Sisler, EMT-Basic

“ I have always felt the need to be of service to my community. Few things are better than knowing you had a positive impact on someone's life. I also enjoy being on the move and not trapped in an office. I chose a career in EMS because I know I make a difference in my community every single shift. ”

J. Lagunas, Paramedic

“ I love EMS because it feels good being able to help people in need. There is such a shortage of EMT's and EMR's that more and more small towns are suffering with getting emergency medical help to people in need. ”

K. Lederer, EMT-Basic

“ I found that I craved the challenge and the puzzle involved in EMS, making a career out of it was a no-brainer. The understanding that medicine is constantly changing keeps me motivated and interested. If I become complacent, medicine is going to leave me behind. ”

S. Wallace, Critical Care Paramedic



STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

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EMTs and paramedics have a duty to care for themselves and their health in order to protect the health and safety of the people they serve. **There are a few health requirements you should keep in mind as you start your EMS career journey:**



Vaccinations

EMS personnel are often required to receive vaccinations such as **Hepatitis B, MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), Tetanus, and Influenza**. DHS does not require EMS providers to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to practice, but it is highly recommended.



TB Screening

EMS personnel are also **required to be screened for TB (tuberculosis)** upon hire to prevent the spread of this serious disease. Wisconsin DHS does not require regular TB screening after the initial test.



Physical Health

EMS personnel must be able to perform physically demanding tasks, including carrying patients and equipment, for extended periods. While not required by DHS, a physical fitness exam may be required for an employer.



Mental Health

EMS personnel may be exposed to traumatic events and high-stress situations that can take a toll on their mental health. **It is important for EMS personnel to prioritize their mental health and seek help if needed.**





RESOURCES

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Community Services Resource	211
Domestic Violence Hotline	800-799-7233
Fire/EMS Help Line	888-731-3473
Heroin Hopeline	877-695-6333
LGBTQ Crisis Line	866-488-7386
Suicide Prevention Lifeline	988
Sexual Assault Hotline	800-656-4673
Veterans Crisis Line	800-273-8255
Wisconsin Poison Control	800-222-1222
Wisconsin DHS	608-266-1568

Click on any of the options below to explore some helpful resources!

[CDC Opioid Awareness](#)

[Dose of Reality](#)

[Healthy WI Opioid Education](#)

[Partnership to End Addiction](#)

[WI Addiction Recovery](#)

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER IN EMS TODAY

START SAVING LIVES TOMORROW



Our Mission:

WEMSA represents and supports the views and interests of our membership in Wisconsin communities by promoting education, sharing information, and facilitating legislative action.

We exist in order to serve those who serve others.

@WEMSA



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WisconsinEMS



Wisconsin EMS Association

