
Everything you need to know about paramedics

by Phil Lockwood

We got an email a while back asking us a bunch of questions about being a paramedic. We spent some time researching the question and we thought the information was too good not to share.

Required coursework

Paramedics must complete a state-approved course (must meet national standard), pass the National Registry of EMTs exam and submit an application and fee to receive state certification/licensure.

- DOT National Standard Curricula: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/> (Enter National Standard Curricula in the search field and click on the Emergency Medical Services/ National Highway Traffic Safety link)
- Also see EMT-basic. It is a prerequisite for paramedic certification.
- Initial certification info: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/CertInfo.shtm>

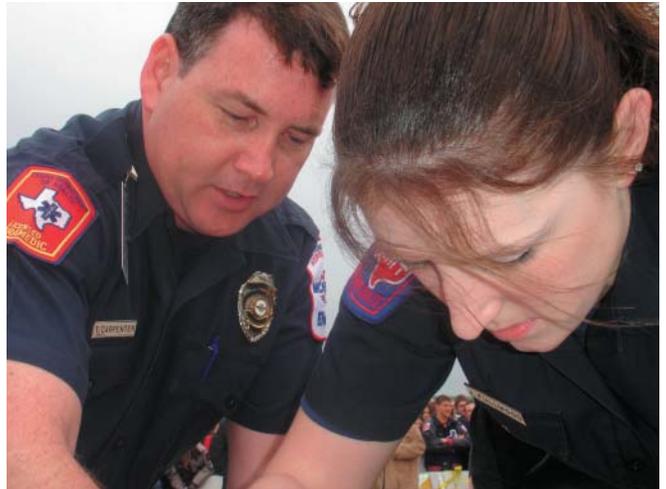


photo by Bobby McMinn

CEU requirements to maintain certification/licensure

- Minimum CE content hours for EMS personnel: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/scehours.shtm>
- General CE information for EMS personnel: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/continuing.shtm>
- Renewal requirements for EMS personnel: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/recertinfo.shtm>

Whose license they operate under

- Paramedics perform advanced life support at the direction of a physician medical director. See Texas Medical Board EMS rules, Title 22 of the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 197, Section 197.1: [http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.viewtac](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.viewtac). (Click on Title 22 scroll down to Part 9 and Chapter 197 is located towards the end of the page).
- Also see Health and Safety Code, Chapter 773, Section 773.049 – EMT-Paramedic Qualifications: <http://tlo2.tlc.state.tx.us/statutes/hs.toc.htm> (Click on the Search tab and enter Section 773.049)

Research facility positions

Our statute and rules primarily address EMS personnel who staff ambulances and/or as initial responders to 911 calls. The following was written as a general guideline for addressing a situation outside of emergency response.

- White paper re: employment of EMS personnel in healthcare facilities: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/EMSinFacilities.shtm>

Examples of job descriptions

- Functional job description: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/JOBDESC.SHTM>
- Functional job description (UT Southwestern Medical Center website): <http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/utsw/cda/dept29240/files/53272.html>