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# WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

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## OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

[The Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\) \(2013\)](#) explains that emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics, “care for the sick or injured in emergency medical settings. People’s lives often depend on their quick reaction and competent care. EMTs and paramedics respond to emergency calls, performing medical services and transporting patients to medical facilities”. Furthermore, “the specific responsibilities of EMTs and paramedics depend on their level of training and the state they work in. The [National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians \(NREMT\)](#) provides national certification of EMTs and paramedics at four levels: EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate (which has two levels, respectively called 1985 and 1999), and Paramedic. Some states, however, have their own certifications programs and use different titles” [The Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\) \(2013\)](#).

## EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

[The Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\) \(2013\)](#) states, “At the EMT-Basic level, training includes instruction in assessing patients’ conditions, dealing with trauma and cardiac emergencies, clearing obstructed airways, using field equipment, and handling emergencies. Formal courses include about 100 hours of specialized training. Some training may be required in a hospital or ambulance setting”. Additionally, “at the EMT-Intermediate 1985 or EMT-Intermediate 1999 level, people must complete the training required at the EMT level, as well as more advanced training, such as training in the use of complex airway devices, intravenous fluids, and some medications” [\(BLS, 2013\)](#). Additionally, “Paramedics have the most advanced level of training. They must complete EMT-level and Advanced EMT training, as well as training in advanced medical skills. Paramedic programs require about 1,300 hours of training and may take up to 2 years” [\(BLS, 2013\)](#).

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:

The UNM Department offers a Bachelor of Science program in EMS with three areas of concentration: Clinical Care, EMS Administration, and EMS Education and Training, in addition to training programs for the three EMT levels (EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate and Paramedic)” [\(UNM Emergency Medical Services Academy website, 2013\)](#). Also, the UNM EMS curriculum is intended to teach and train paramedics to handle the realities of a present day pre-hospital medicine. By the time they leave EMSA, “our graduates are excellent clinicians, teachers, researchers and leaders” [\(UNM Emergency Medical Services Academy website, 2013\)](#). Furthermore, the UNM EMSA program, “prepares students for advanced study; many of our graduates go on to obtain advanced degrees in education and science, medicine, physician assistant studies and business” [\(UNM Emergency Medical Services Academy website, 2013\)](#).

## INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:

A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s [Lobo Career Connection](#) for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the [UNM Office of Career Services](#) for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

### Healthcare:

Ambulance services, fire departments, hospitals, private offices and clinics/treatment centers, assisted living facilities

### Public Health:

Change agent, consumer advocate, health education/counseling, research laboratories and institutes, occupational health and safety, community health workers, paramedic, nurse, physician assistant, physician

### Education/Student Affairs:

University/college teaching/administration, researcher, K-12 teaching/administration, college preparation, counseling/advising, write and edit educational materials

### Management:

Administrator/Manager, program director, marketing

### Government:

Community development, Departments of Veteran Affairs, National Institutes of Health, Armed Services

**SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:**

- Gain volunteer hours of hands on experience/observation through a hospital /ambulance service/fire department during your undergraduate degree.
- Build a strong foundation in basic science courses.
- Develop excellent verbal, nonverbal and written communication skills.
- Shadow professionals to gain a better understanding of their occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
- Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find organizations and events at the [Student Activities Center website](#).
- Attend career related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
- Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
- Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
- Job leads can be found on your department’s website, list-servs, newsletters, and social media sites.

**STATE AND NATIONAL WAGES:**

[Adapted from CareerOneStop \(2013\)](#)

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS AND PARAMEDICS

Location	2013				
	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	\$20,200	\$24,600	\$31,000	\$40,700	\$53,500
New Mexico	\$20,000	\$26,200	\$34,000	\$42,100	\$51,600

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & RESOURCES:**

Pre-professional Medical Society

<http://www.ppmedsociety.org>

National Association for EMT

<http://www.naemt.org/>

National Registry for EMT

<http://www.nremt.org>

National Association for EMT Educators

<http://www.naemse.org/>

New Mexico EMS Bureau

<http://www.nmems.org/>

UNM Emergency Medical Services Academy

<http://hsc.unm.edu/som/emsacad/index.shtml>

New Mexico EMT Association

<http://hsc.unm.edu/som/programs/nmemta/>



<http://onetonline.org>



[http:// www.bls.gov/oco/](http://www.bls.gov/oco/)

**REFERENCES**

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, (2012, April 10). *Occupational Outlook Handbook, EMTs and Paramedics*. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm>

State of Minnesota, U. S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (2013). CareerOneStop, Occupation Profile, Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics. Retrieved from <http://www.careerinfonet.org/>

University of New Mexico, Emergency Medical Services Academy (2013). *Bachelor of Science Degree in Emergency Medical Services*. Retrieved from <http://hsc.unm.edu/SOM/emsacad/>