Paramedics are typically dispatched by a 911 operator to emergencies, where they often work with police and fire fighters. EMTs and paramedics assess the nature of the patient’s condition and try to determine whether the patient has any pre-existing medical conditions. They provide appropriate emergency care and, when necessary, transport the patient.

The specific responsibilities of EMTs and paramedics depend on their level of qualification and training. There are three types: EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, and Paramedic. The EMT-Basic is trained to care for patients at the scene of an accident while transporting patients by ambulance to the hospital under medical direction. The EMT- Basic has the emergency skills to assess a patient’s condition and manage respiratory, cardiac, and trauma emergencies. The EMT-Intermediate has more advanced training. However, the specific tasks vary from state to state. EMT-Paramedics provide the most extensive pre-hospital care. Paramedics may administer drugs orally and intravenously, interpret electrocardiograms (EKGs), perform endotracheal intubations, and use monitors and other complex equipment. However, like EMT-Intermediate, job responsibilities vary by state.

A high school diploma is usually required to enter a formal EMT training program.

## Salary Information

The median wage in 2021 in California was $46,897 annually ([labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/](https://labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/oes-employment-and-wages.html)). The median is the point at which half of the workers earn more and half earn less.

## Recommended Websites

| **Website** | **Website address** |
| --- | --- |
| Bureau of Labor Statistics | [bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm) |
| California Emergency Medical Services | [emsa.ca.gov/EMT/](https://emsa.ca.gov/EMT/) |
| Career Cornerstone | [careercornerstone.org/alliedhealth/emt/emt.htm](http://www.careercornerstone.org/alliedhealth/emt/emt.htm) |
| Explore Health Careers | [explorehealthcareers.org/career/allied-health-professions/emergency-medical-technician-paramedic/](https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/allied-health-professions/emergency-medical-technician-paramedic/) |
| National Associations of EMTs | [naemt.org/](http://www.naemt.org/) |
| National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians | [nremt.org/rwd/public](https://www.nremt.org/rwd/public) |

## Select EMT/Paramedic Program School Websites

| **Website** | **Website address** |
| --- | --- |
| College of the Canyons | <https://www.canyons.edu/academics/emt/index.php> |
| East Los Angeles College | <https://www.elac.edu/Academics/Departments/Administration-of-Justice/Emergency-Medical-Technician-(EMT>) |
| Los Angeles Valley College | [lavc.edu/emergency-services/Emergency-Medical-Technician-EMT/Emergency-Medical-Technician-EMT.aspx](http://www.lavc.edu/emergency-services/Emergency-Medical-Technician-EMT/Emergency-Medical-Technician-EMT.aspx) |
| UCLA Paramedic Education Program | <https://www.cpc.mednet.ucla.edu/paramedic> |
| West LA College | <http://www.wlac.edu/Paramedic-EMT/index.aspx> |
| Antelope Valley College | <https://www.avc.edu/academics/emt> |
| Mt. San Antonio College | <https://webcms.mtsac.edu/display_program.asp?program_id=17559> |

Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for the most up-to-date information. *Web site links are provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) and/or Los Angeles Pierce College (LAPC) of any of the products, services or opinions of the corporation or organization or individual. The Los Angeles Community College District and/or Los Angeles Pierce College bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content.*