

Emergency Medical Technical (EMT) Program

Frequently Asked Questions

General Information about EMTs and EMS:

Q: What is an EMT?

An EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) is a first responder trained to provide basic emergency medical care, such as administering CPR, controlling bleeding, and stabilizing patients for transport to a hospital. EMTs are a vital part of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system, working alongside AEMTs (Advanced EMTs) and paramedics, who have advanced training to perform more complex procedures like intubation or administering medications.

Q: Where do EMTs work?

EMTs work in a variety of settings where emergency medical care is needed. The most common place is in an ambulance, responding to emergency calls and transporting patients to hospitals. EMTs can also work in hospitals, urgent care centers, or even at large events like concerts and sports games, providing on-site medical care in case of injuries. Some EMTs are employed by fire departments, police departments, or search-and-rescue teams, and may also be involved in disaster response. These diverse environments offer EMTs the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives, no matter where they work.

Q: How much do EMTs earn?

The income for EMTs can vary based on factors like location, experience, and the type of employer. On average, EMTs in the United States earn between \$30,000 and \$45,000 per year, with those in urban areas or working for private ambulance companies often earning more. EMTs who work for fire departments or in specialized fields may receive additional benefits or higher pay. With experience, advanced certifications, or moving into supervisory or management roles, EMTs can increase their earning potential.

General Program Information

Q: What are the prerequisites to join the EMT program?

The great news is that our EMT program doesn't require any prior college courses or specific academic prerequisites to enroll! As long as you're passionate about helping others, you're eligible to begin the program. The only requirement is that you must be at least 18 years old by the start of your clinicals.

Q: How long is the EMT program?

The EMT program is designed to be completed in 15 weeks, which typically fits within one full semester. However, if you're taking the program during the summer, it may span two semesters due to the shorter 10-week summer term.

Q: What is the schedule for classes and clinicals?

The EMT program has classes scheduled two days a week, typically from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, giving you focused time to learn both the theory and hands-on skills needed for the job. In addition to class, you'll complete clinicals, which are an essential part of the program. Clinicals allow you to apply what you've learned in real-world settings, with time spent both on an ambulance and in the emergency room (ER). These clinical hours are scheduled outside of regular class time and can be completed any day of the week, offering flexibility to fit with your personal schedule.

Q: Where is the program located?

The EMT program is offered at two convenient locations: the North Metro campus in Acworth and the Appalachian campus in Jasper. Both campuses have excellent facilities and resources designed to support your learning and hands-on training. You can choose the location that best fits your schedule and preferences, and both campuses will provide the same high-quality training to help you succeed in the program.

Q: What are the required textbooks and materials for the program?

Students will need to purchase two required textbooks for the EMT program. These books are essential for understanding the course material and preparing for both exams and clinicals. Specific details about the books and where to purchase them will be provided before the start of the program.

Q: Is there a dress code or uniform requirement?

Uniforms are required for both class and clinicals, ensuring a professional appearance and readiness for hands-on training. The uniform includes boots, pants, a shirt, a vest, and a belt, with the total cost typically around \$200, though it may vary. Detailed information about uniform requirements and where to purchase them will be provided before the start of the program to help you prepare.

Q: What equipment will I need to purchase?

In addition to the uniform, students are required to have a few essential pieces of equipment for the program: a stethoscope, pen light, watch with a second hand, and trauma shears. These tools are crucial for performing assessments and providing care in clinical and field settings. Specific details about where to purchase these items and any additional recommendations will be provided before the start of the program.

Q: Can I take the EMT program if I have a criminal record?

A criminal record does not automatically disqualify you from entering the EMT program; however, certain convictions may affect your ability to complete clinical rotations or obtain certification. It's important to check with the program coordinator if you have any concerns about your record, as some clinical sites and certification boards may have specific requirements. We encourage open communication so that we can guide you through the process and ensure you understand the requirements.

Q: Is there financial aid available for this program?

Chattahoochee Technical College offers several financial aid options to help make the EMT program more accessible. Students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Information on financial aid options, as well as other scholarships, can be obtained through the financial aid office for the college.

Q: What health screenings or vaccinations are required for the program?

Students in the EMT program are required to meet certain health and physical fitness standards to ensure they can perform essential functions of the job, such as lifting patients and performing CPR. Additionally, you will need to comply with the vaccination requirements of the clinical sites where you'll complete your rotations. While these requirements can vary between clinical sites, there may be flexibility depending on the situation. Specific details regarding health screenings, vaccinations, and any required documentation will be provided before the start of the program to help you prepare.

Q: How do I get my EMT certification after completing the program?

After successfully completing the EMT program and passing the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) exam, you will be certified as an EMT. However, to legally work as an EMT, you must also obtain a state license. Each state has its own licensing process, which typically involves submitting proof of your NREMT certification, completing an application, and passing a background check.

Q: How do I sign up?

Signing up for the EMT program is easy, but it does require a few steps. First, you should apply to the college. Then, you will need to attend a virtual information session, where we'll go over important details about the program and answer any questions you may have. These are offered two times a month. You can find the link for this on our EMT webpage. After the session, you'll need to complete a short application to be given approval to register for the courses. Our class roster operates on a first-come, first-served basis, so the sooner you apply, the better your chances of securing a spot.

Q: How can I get more information?

For more information about the EMT program, students are encouraged to attend the virtual information session, where we'll provide an overview of the program, answer your questions, and guide you through the registration process. If you have additional questions or need more details, feel free to reach out directly to one of our EMT instructors, Steven Fearon, at steven.fearon@chattahoocheetech.edu. He's happy to help and provide any further assistance you may need to get started!