

# Emergency Medical Technology

## ***Nature of the Profession***

*Heart attacks, near drowning, unscheduled childbirth, poisonings, gunshot wounds and injuries from automobile accidents all demand urgent medical attention. Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) give immediate care and then transport the sick or injured to medical facilities.*

*Following instructions from a dispatcher, EMTs determine the nature and extent of the patient's injury or illness while also trying to determine whether the patient has epilepsy, diabetes, or other pre-existing medical conditions. EMTs then give appropriate emergency care following strict guidelines for each procedure they may perform.*

*Levels of knowledge and responsibility increase from EMT-B to EMT-intermediate and then to paramedic.*

## **APTITUDES**

- Ability to learn the practices and techniques of emergency medical treatment
- Good numerical and verbal abilities
- Good space and form perception, manual dexterity, general coordination, and physical strength
- Ability to relate to people, react calmly, and help others feel at ease
- Ability to make decisions based on observation and data
- Ability to make quick judgments and to take responsibility

## **EDUCATION**

A person must complete a 110-hour training course in emergency medical care approved by the United States Department of Transportation. The training programs are offered by the community colleges and by state-approved training agencies throughout Nebraska.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Central Community College – Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings (C)
- Creighton Health Sciences – Omaha (A, B)
- Metropolitan Community College – Omaha (A, C)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (A, C)  
(Basic, Paramedic)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (C)  
(Basic, Intermediate, Paramedic)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff (A, C)  
(Basic, Intermediate, Paramedic)

## **LICENSURE / CERTIFICATION**

Applicants for certification as an emergency medical technician (EMT) must be at least 18 years of age, have a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification, complete the EMT course, and pass the EMT certifying exam or have a current EMT certification from the National Registry of Emergency Technicians.

Applicants for certification as an emergency medical technician-paramedic must be at least 18 years of age, have a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification, complete the EMT-paramedic course, pass the EMT-paramedic exam, and have a current EMT-paramedic certificate from the National Registry of Emergency Technicians.

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

***National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians***

Web Address: [www.naemt.org](http://www.naemt.org)