

PARAMEDIC



SALARY

Newly qualified paramedic ★★★★★

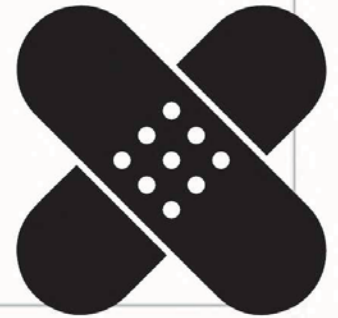
Senior paramedic ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Number of jobs set to grow • Most employment with ambulance and health service providers • Some opportunities in the armed forces

JOB DESCRIPTION

Paramedics are health care experts who usually work as part of an ambulance crew. When called to the scene of an accident or emergency, a paramedic assesses the patient's condition and provides essential, sometimes life-saving care. They are trained to deal with minor injuries, such as cuts and fractures, as well as critical health conditions, such as heart attacks or strokes.



CAREER PATHS

You must start out as an emergency medical technician (EMT) before training for the role of paramedic. Once licensed as a paramedic, there are opportunities for further training in clinical practice or in rapid-response units.

EMT After earning your high school degree, you can enroll in an EMT training program. This training is likely to include hands-on experience in the field.



GRADUATE Paramedic training programs can last up to two years and result in an associate's degree. After completing the training program and passing state exams, you can apply for work as a paramedic.



EMERGENCY CARE PARAMEDIC

Works alongside other medical staff in hospitals, prisons, or other institutions, providing emergency treatments on site. Further training is required to gain additional clinical skills.



PARAMEDIC With experience, you can specialize in heading up an emergency response team, which involves making quick decisions about surgical procedures and using advanced life support techniques.

SKILLS GUIDE



Team-working skills for cooperating with other health personnel in emergency situations.



Strong leadership and organizational skills to direct team members during medical crises.



Compassion and empathy when giving emotional support to patients and their families.



Quick-thinking and decision-making skills for responding effectively to emergency situations.



The confidence to carry out emergency procedures quickly in often tough conditions.



High levels of physical fitness to use patient lifting devices and other equipment safely.



CRITICAL CARE

PARAMEDIC Provides advanced care for patients being transported between medical facilities: this may include managing airways, administering drugs, and monitoring signs of life.



RAPID RESPONSE

PARAMEDIC Works as part of a specialized rapid-response team, providing emergency care via a motorcycle, car, or air ambulance (helicopter) unit.

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Health and Medicine • Biology • Chemistry • Physics • Mathematics • English • Helping and caring for others



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS You must have a CPR certification and complete a training program. All states require paramedics to be licensed.



LIFESTYLE Working hours are regular but usually involve shifts, covering nights, weekends, and public holidays.



LOCATION Based at a hospital or an ambulance station, paramedics travel to emergencies and spend a lot of time on the road.



THE REALITIES The work is physically tough and can be emotionally draining. Accident sites are often harrowing, so you need to keep calm and focused.

▼ RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **FIREFIGHTER** *see pp. 248–249*
- ▶ **MEDICAL DOCTOR** *see pp. 276–277*
- ▶ **NURSE** *see pp. 278–279*
- ▶ **MIDWIFE** *see pp. 280–281*
- ▶ **AMBULANCE CARE ASSISTANT** Moves disabled, elderly, or vulnerable people to and from health clinics, and for routine hospital admissions.

