

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are trained first responders who give life-saving care before patients reach the hospital. They quickly assess what's wrong, provide basic treatments like CPR or wound care, and transport patients safely in an ambulance. EMTs must stay calm, think fast, and be ready for anything since every call is different. They also use medical equipment and record important information about the care they provide.

School to Career Pathway

- Be a minimum of 16 years old (varies by state).
- Complete an EMT program that is usually 1-2 years long.
- Be CPR certified.
- Pass your state's certification exam to obtain a license.
- Consider completing a college program to expand career opportunities.

Durable Skills

As an EMT, you need:

- Good communication skills to talk with patients and communicate treatment to doctors and nurses.
- Strong active listening skills to pay attention to what other people are saying, understand the points being made, ask questions as appropriate, and avoid interrupting.
- Problem-solving skills to identify a patient's needs and act quickly to provide care.
- Empathy and interpersonal skills to actively look for ways to help people.
- Flexibility and adaptability to react to any situation.



Core Duties

Respond to Emergency Calls: Quickly travel to accidents, injuries, and medical emergencies after receiving a 911 call.

Assess Patients: Check a patient's condition by looking for injuries, measuring vital signs, and determining what type of care is needed.

Provide Emergency Medical Care: Give basic treatments such as providing CPR, bandaging wounds, controlling bleeding, or providing oxygen.

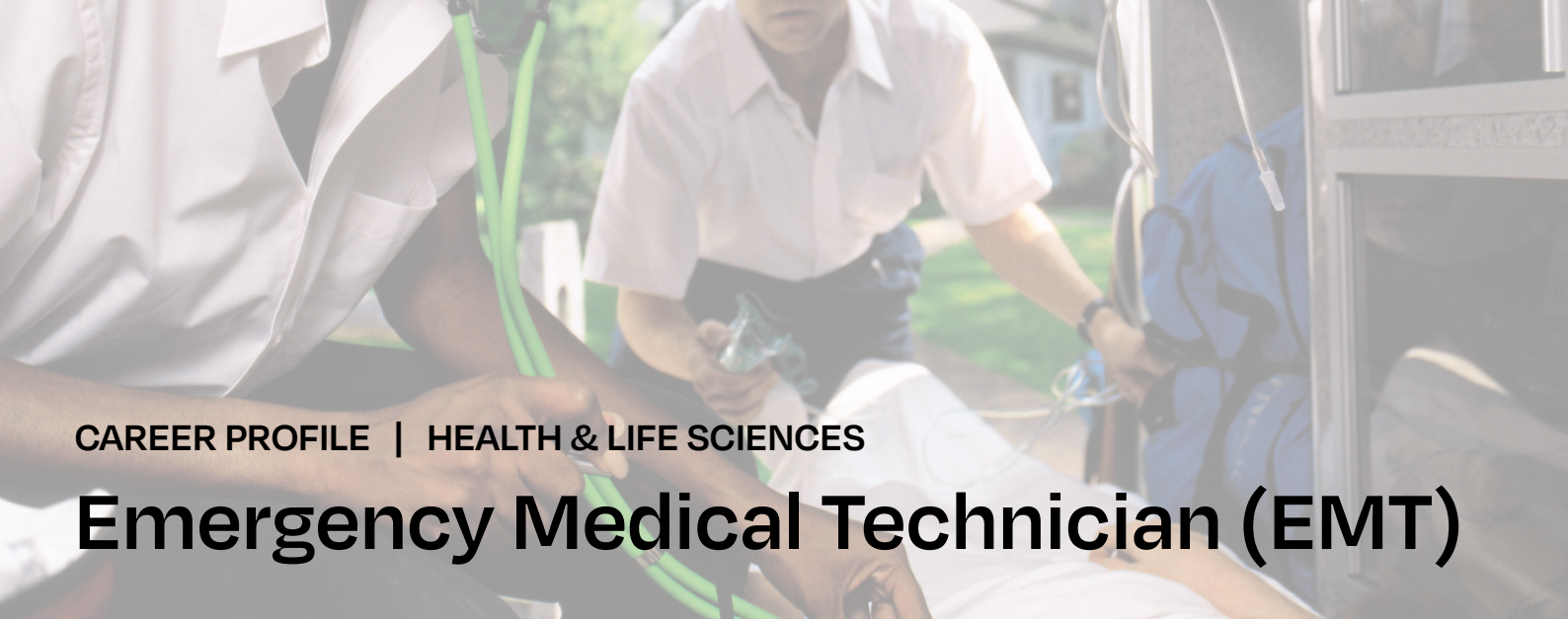
Transport Patients Safely: Move patients into the ambulance and monitor their condition while taking them to a hospital or medical facility.

Communicate and Document Information: Share important details about the patient's condition with doctors and nurses and complete reports about the care provided during the emergency.

Paycheck Peek

\$19.88 hourly, \$41,340 annual

*Note that annual wages vary by location (state, city, or work setting)



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Could This Be Your Thing?

- Do you like helping friends or classmates, even when the situation is tough or stressful?
- Are you interested in learning about health and helping people but also want to start working sooner rather than spending a long time in school?
- Can you think quickly and solve problems, like during a fast-paced game or when something unexpected happens?
- Do you enjoy being up and moving around, instead of sitting at a desk all day?

Explore Similar Career Pathways

- paramedic
- registered nurse
- licensed practical and licensed vocational nurse

Dig Deeper Here

Find out more about all careers at: [US Bureau of Labor Statistics Student's Desk](#)

Find out more about STEM careers at: [Careers with STEM: Health](#)

Find out more about the careers above:

- [O*NET Online: Paramedic](#)
- [O*NET Online: Registered Nurse](#)
- [O*NET Online: Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurse](#)