**Tyler Junior College EMS Programs**

# Frequently Asked Questions

Beginning an academic path or making a professional career change can be a complicated and confusing endeavor. Students who are considering Emergency Medical Services programs, such as EMT and Paramedic, have many questions. While staff is always available to facilitate student progress, the “Frequently Asked Questions” list below is a good first resource to use in deciding whether or not the EMT and Paramedic program is the right path.

**Q: How much does the EMT course cost?**

**A:** Based on current rates for in-state or out-of-state tuition, prepare to spend between $2800 and

$3500 on tuition, fees and books. Students can expect to spend an additional estimated $200 on

uniforms and approximately $200.00 on testing and licensure fees. Please reference the

department’s website for specific information about uniforms and supplies for both EMT classes and

Paramedic Program.

**Q: Do I have to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians exam to become and**

**EMT or Paramedic?**

**A:** Yes. For more information on the NREMT exam process, please reference the website at

[**www.nremt.org**](http://www.nremt.org).

**Q: How do I become a paramedic, flight medic or flight nurse?**

**A:** Becoming a paramedic is a multi-step process with EMT being the first. Once you have successfully completed the EMT course, you must take and pass computer based test for the National Registry of EMTs. Additionally, prospective paramedic students must ensure they meet eligibility requirements such as pre requisite courses, background check and drug screen. The selection process is competitive and based on scores from the entrance exam, agility test, and admissions application status as well as a panel interview process. Please visit the department’s website at [**www.tjc.edu/EMS**](http://www.tjc.edu/EMS)**.** Students who successfully complete the paramedic program will be eligible for the NREMT psychomotor (skills practical) exam and the computer based exam.

**Q: Can I get financial aid for the EMT course?**

**A:** Yes, all EMSP classes and programs qualify for federal student aid as well as veterans benefits.

**Q: Is the EMT class or paramedic program something I should take while I am waiting for acceptance into the nursing program?**

**A:** If you are someone who is genuinely interested in learning how to care for patients in an acute, pre hospital environment then the EMT and subsequently the paramedic program will be of benefit to you. If you are simply wanting a “medical” class while you wait for other Allied Heath courses to begin then the EMT and paramedic programs may not be the best fit for you or most effective use of your time. While the areas of paramedic and other Allied Health disciplines share some similarities in academic knowledge, the manner in which the knowledge is applied in each discipline’s environment can be drastically different. Prospective students are strongly encouraged to speak to current paramedics and EMSP faculty before making the decision to begin the application and interview process.

**Q: How long is the paramedic program?**

**A:** The paramedic is an intense, three consecutive semester long program. The EMT class is an intensive, one semester class.

**Q: Is there a drug screen and what if I think or know I cannot pass it?**

**A:** Yes, prospective students for both EMT and Paramedic must pass a 10-panel drug screen.Clinical affiliates require a negative drug screen of any intern admitted into the clinical environment. If a prospective student does not pass the drug scree, the student cannot be allowed in the clinical environments and will not be able to pass the clinical or practicum portion of class. Furthermore, due to the nature of EMS, Tyler Junior College EMS Programs has a zero tolerance policy for students who test positive during the drug screen process.

**Q: What if there *might* be something on my background check?**

**A:** Our clinical affiliates require background checks as part of their screening process for admission into the clinical environment, potential interns as well as employees. Once an applicant submits a background check on line, the company emails the results of that background check to a secured account at the college. There are three possible results (based on the criteria of the company doing the background check, not the TJC EMSP or the clinical affiliates) the college could receive: Green, Yellow or Red. If the results show Green, the check is clear and no further action is required. If the result shows Yellow or Red, the college must submit a detailed summary of the background check to each of our affiliates for them to use in determining if they will allow an applicant access to their facilities. If even one site declines access, the applicant will be unable to complete the clinical portion of the class. This would then make the applicant unable to pass the course and apply for NREMT certification or apply for a Texas license.

If you think or you know there are items that will show up on your official background check, and you want to know if any past event or record would keep you from accessing the clinical affiliates, prospective students are encouraged to pay for the same background check as students who are already registered for the class or course would be required to do. Yes, there is a cost involved that is the responsibility of the prospective student. When the results are complete, the college will redact the prospective student’s identity and submit the background check to the clinical affiliates in the same manner the college would for a currently enrolled student, and await the decisions of the clinical affiliates. The college will not offer “advise” based on the results of a background check.

Prospective students should also know the State of Texas requires a separate background check, in addition to the one used for EMT or Paramedic classes, as part of the application and licensure process. The State reviews each background check issue and makes a determination on a case-by-case basis.

It is important to note that neither the college nor the clinical affiliates have any input in, influence on or control over, the State’s decision to grant or deny a license based on the results of a background check. The only way you would know if you would pass the State’s required background check is to submit an application for a license. The only way to submit an application for licensure s to complete either an EMT class or Paramedic program. Please see additional information on the State’s website at **www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/certinfo**

**Q: Where can I find additional information about the EMT course or Paramedic Program?**

**A:** Additional information can be obtained at [**www.tjc.edu/EMS**](http://www.tjc.edu/EMS)