



**Department of Emergency Services  
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)  
Frequently asked questions**

**If, after reading this information, I still have questions, who should I contact?**

John Ring, EMS Coordinator 330-494-6170 ext. 5201 or email [jring@starkstate.edu](mailto:jring@starkstate.edu).

**Where can I find information about this program on the website?**

<https://www.starkstate.edu/academics/programs/emergency-medical-services/>

**I am not a student at Stark State. How do I begin?**

Log on to the website [www.starkstate.edu/admissions](http://www.starkstate.edu/admissions). To begin the admissions process.

**What are the levels of emergency medical service responders?**

- **Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)** – designed for first responders who will not transport such as law enforcement or within industries.
- **Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)** - basic level, required to move on to higher level training.
- **Advanced EMT (AEMT)** – additional skill training above EMT level.
- **Paramedic** - highest level of emergency medical response training.

**Does Stark State offer all levels of training?**

- Stark State EMS is accredited to offer all levels of training.
- EMT is offered every semester.
- Paramedic programs are offered.
- EMR and AEMT are only offered as needed.

**When do the classes begin?**

- EMT Classes are offered every semester and follow the college academic calendar.
- Paramedic Programs in spring and fall semesters.

**Are classes held at the Akron location?**

- No. All EMS classes are held on the main campus in North Canton.

**What are the physical requirements of being an EMT or paramedic?**

- EMTs and Paramedics work both indoors and outdoors and in all types of weather. This occupation, including the clinical and field training, is physically strenuous, requiring considerable kneeling, bending, stairclimbing, and lifting while caring for patients. There may also be exposure to contagious diseases, mentally unstable or combative patients, and potentially dangerous environments. Classroom and lab activities may include prolonged sitting or standing, squatting, lifting, and manipulating small objects, requiring manual dexterity. Students have close physical contact with other students and patients during their training. The ability to verbally communicate and hear is necessary for assessment skills and communication with patients and healthcare workers.

**What are the prerequisites for the EMT course?**

- Enrollment to the college **through admissions**.
- Demonstrate proficiency in reading on the NextGen Accuplacer or **ACT reading** tests during the admissions process.

**Is there a waiting list for the paramedic program?**

- No.

**Is there an accelerated paramedic program?**

- Yes. This program runs from mid-January through mid-December of the same year.

**What are the prerequisites for the paramedic program?**

- A state of Ohio EMT certification is required prior to enrolling in a paramedic program according to Ohio state rules.
- Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology must also be completed with a minimum grade of “B” prior to the beginning of the first paramedic course.

**How do I enroll in the paramedic program?**

- Refer to the Paramedic Checklist and Application at this link:  
<https://www.starkstate.edu/academics/programs/emergency-medical-services/>

**Do I have to declare a specific major to take EMS courses?**

- EMT students should declare either “Pre EMS” or “Pre EFS”
- Paramedic students will declare a change of major to “EMS” or “EFS” after application to the paramedic program has been accepted.

**Is there an EMS entrance exam to get into the paramedic program?**

- No.
- A state of Ohio EMT card is required.

**Do I have to take courses in the Associate Degree of EMS in a certain order?**

- Only the EMS-specific courses must be in order. EMS121 and BIO101 are required to be completed with a grade of “B” or higher, prior to the paramedic courses.

**What is the National Registry exam?**

- It is a national credentialing exam that the state of Ohio uses as a certification exam for EMS providers. In order to function as a certified EMT at any level, a candidate must pass a National Registry Exam.

**What is the cost of EMT and paramedic courses?**

- Tuition is based on the cost per credit hour posted on the college website. There are additional costs for EMS courses. Specific information may be obtained from Bonnie Stich at [BStich@starkstate.edu](mailto:BStich@starkstate.edu).

**Is financial aid available?**

- Financial aid questions can be answered by admissions counselors in the Gateway Center.
- Contact the department of financial aid for more information or go to [studentservices@starkstate.edu](mailto:studentservices@starkstate.edu)

**My department is going to pay for my schooling. Who do I contact and what will they need?**

- Contact the Business office of Stark State College. The **Business Office** will need the name of the department or agency, a contact person, business address and contact information as well as the name of the student and the classes for which they will pay.

**I need to be a full time student for financial aid, veterans' benefits, or insurance. What classes would be beneficial to take at the same time as paramedic I or paramedic II?**

- Meeting with an advisor or instructor is the best way to discuss this. Contact the Department Chair or Program Coordinator for advising.

**Is there a GPA requirement?**

- 2.0 is the minimum preferred GPA for admission to the paramedic program. A student with a GPA below 2.0 should contact the Department Chair or Program Coordinator for advising.

**I have a history of a misdemeanor. Will that keep me from taking the EMT course or getting my certification?**

- A background check (BCI and FBI) are required prior to completing the clinical component of the EMS courses. Certain types of criminal history prevent employment in the healthcare industry.

**I have a history of a felony. Will that keep me from being an EMT?**

- The department of Emergency Services cannot accept a student with a history of a felony, according to the Ohio Administrative Code 4765-8-01.

**I am an Advanced EMT. Will I get credit towards the paramedic courses?**

- Clinical credit will be awarded based on the clinical experience competed during the intermediate training. The EMS Coordinator will arrange this individually with the student.

**Where will I do clinical experience?**

- Our clinical coordinator will provide information about this during your class.  
Clinical sites are available in 5 counties surrounding the College.

**Can I do my clinical/field experience with my own department?**

- Yes, but only if the department has an existing clinical affiliation agreement with Stark State College. The clinical coordinator will provide more information.

**Do I need the associate degree to work as a paramedic?**

- No. State of OH certification is required for employment. However, having the college degree may assist with career advancement.

**Is there help with job placement?**

- The Stark State office of Career Services has information on job postings.  
<https://www.starkstate.edu/admissions/careerservices/>

**What types of jobs are available for EMT's?**

- EMTs may be employed by a private ambulance service and occasionally in an Emergency Department. Some industries employ EMTs as their clinic health care professional.

**Where can I find information about the "paramedic to RN program"?**

<https://www.starkstate.edu/academics/programs/paramedicrn/>

**Can I complete the degree if I am already a certified paramedic/FF?**

- Yes. We encourage it. Previously obtained certifications, such as EMT, paramedic, or Level II firefighter, will be evaluated by the Department Chair. <https://www.starkstate.edu/ems-fire-credit/>