

FUNCTIONAL POSITION DESCRIPTION

The following general position description should guide you when considering what qualifications, competencies, and tasks are required of the EMT-Intermediate and Paramedic (collectively referred to as medics). The ultimate responsibility for defining specific job descriptions lies with each EMS entity. This means that even though a student meets the requirements of Temple College's EMS Professions Department, he or she is not guaranteed to meet those set by a specific employer.

QUALIFICATIONS

You must first successfully complete the course of study offered through the EMS Professions Department. The Texas Department of Health has approved all of our courses. You must then achieve a passing score on the state certification examination.

You must be at least 18 years of age. Generally, you will need at least a high school education or its equivalent (a GED) to master the knowledge and skills required for successful completion. You must possess ability to communicate verbally face-to-face, by telephone, and by radio equipment; ability to lift, carry, and balance up to 125 pounds (250 with assistance); ability to interpret written and oral instructions; ability to use good judgment and remain calm in high stress situations; ability to work effectively in an environment with loud noises, flashing lights, and other distractions; ability to function effectively throughout and entire work shift (up to 24 hours without sleep); ability to calculate weight and volume ratios and read small print under life-threatening time constraints; ability to read and understand English language manuals and road maps; ability to discern street signs and address numbers; ability to interview patients, family members, and bystanders; ability to document, in writing, relevant information with medical and legal ramifications in a prescribed format; ability to converse in English with coworkers and hospital staff as to patient status; good manual dexterity, with ability to perform all tasks related to highest quality patient care; ability to bend, stoop, and crawl on uneven terrain; ability to withstand varied environmental conditions such as extreme heat, cold, and moisture; ability to work in low light, confined spaces, and other dangerous environments.

COMPETENCY AREAS

EMT-Intermediate: You must demonstrate competence in handling emergencies using all basic and advanced life support equipment and skills in accordance with all behavioral objectives in the U.S. Department of Transportation EMT-Basic curriculum and the relevant portions of the U.S. Department of Transportation EMT-Paramedic curriculum as defined by the Texas Department of Health. Required skills include endotracheal intubation, intravenous catheterization, and administration of some medications, including glucose and naloxone.

EMT-Paramedic: You must demonstrate competence in handling emergencies using all basic and advanced life support equipment and skills in accordance with all behavioral objectives in the U.S. Department of Transportation EMT-Paramedic curriculum. This curriculum includes objectives relating to ECG interpretation, manual defibrillation, endotracheal intubation, intravenous catheterization, medication administration, needle

chest decompression, and surgical airways. The EMT-Paramedic has reached the highest level of pre-hospital certification.

DESCRIPTION OF TASKS

Receives call from dispatcher; responds to emergency calls; reads maps; may drive ambulance to emergency site, using most expeditious route; observes traffic ordinances and regulations.

Determines nature and extent of illness or injury; takes pulse, blood pressure, and respirations; observes changes in skin color and other diagnostic signs; auscultates breath sounds; makes determinations regarding patient status; establishes priority for emergency care; provides appropriate emergency care based on competency level; may administer intravenous drugs or fluid replacement as directed by physician or written protocols. May use equipment based on competency level, including but not limited to defibrillator, external pacer, electrocardiograph, intravenous catheterization equipment, laryngoscope and endotracheal tubes, and pneumatic anti-shock garment.

Assists in lifting, carrying, and transporting patients to ambulance. Reassures patients and bystanders; avoids undue haste and mishandling of patients; searches for medical information emblem to aid in care. Extricates patient from entrapment; assesses extent of injury; uses prescribed techniques and appliances; radios dispatcher for additional assistance or services; provides light rescue service if required; provides additional emergency care following established protocols.

Complies with regulations in handling deceased, notifies authorities, arranges for protection of property and evidence at scene. Determines appropriate facility to which patient will be transported, reports nature and extent of injuries to facility, and asks for direction from hospital physician or emergency department. Observes patient en route and administers care as directed by physician or emergency department, or according to written protocol. Identifies diagnostic signs that require communication with facility. Assists in removing patient from ambulance and into emergency facility. Reports observations about patient and patient care at scene and en route to facility both verbally and in writing, provides assistance to emergency staff as required.

Replaces supplies; sends appropriate used supplies for sterilization; checks all equipment for future readiness; maintains ambulance in operable condition; ensures cleanliness of ambulance and orderliness of equipment and supplies; decontaminates vehicle interior; determines vehicle readiness by checking oil, gas, water in battery and radiator, and tire pressure; maintains familiarity with all specialized equipment.