

Choosing the Wrong Paramedic Education Program Could Cost You Thousands of Dollars—and a Career

As an EMS provider, you may want to advance your career someday by becoming a Paramedic. We want to offer some important advice: make sure the Paramedic education program of the school you choose is accredited! Most students just focus on the credibility of the school itself. But the accreditation of the program is just as important.

Graduating from a program that's not accredited means you won't be eligible to take the NREMT national paramedic certification exam. Without national certification, your job opportunities will be greatly reduced. The only way to be eligible to take the NREMT exam would be to start your Paramedic education over again at an accredited program.

Over the past several years, the EMS profession has raised its standards to keep up with other health-related professions. At the NASEMSO (National Association of State EMS Officials) 2010 Annual Meeting, NASEMSO membership voted to support CAAHEP (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs) as the national EMS programmatic accreditor, and require that all Paramedic education programs be nationally accredited by January 1, 2013 in order for graduates of these programs to be eligible to take the NREMT Paramedic exam. Research actually shows that students graduating from an accredited program have an increased success rate on the national certification exam.

Plus the investment made in their education is secure because the program they graduated from meets a pre-defined national standard of quality.

How does accreditation work?

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) is the accrediting agency that carries out its accrediting activities in cooperation with the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). The CAAHEP Board is the accrediting body that awards or denies accreditation to a program after reviewing accreditation recommendations made by the CoAEMSP. Accreditation protects everyone: the student, the educational program, and the public. Finding an accredited Paramedic education program is easy.



If a program is accredited, it will be on the CAAHEP website: <http://www.caahep.org/Find-An-Accredited-Program/> Do yourself and your career a favor—be sure the Paramedic education program you attend—not just the school—is accredited!



Committee on Accreditation
of Educational Programs for the
Emergency Medical Services Professions



TOP 10 RECERTIFICATION FAQs

1

When I complete the online form, do I still need to mail the form to the NREMT?

If you are affiliated with an Agency, and completed your online submission DO NOT print and mail your form to the NREMT. Your Training Officer and Physician Medical Director (if applicable) will sign your form electronically and it will be automatically forwarded to the NREMT. We recommend you print and SAVE a copy for your personal records.

2

How can I tell if I am affiliated with an Agency?

Log into your NREMT account, click "My Certification." Look in the upper left corner, if the Agency you work for appears under your National Registry number, you are successfully affiliated. If it says "Unaffiliated" then you are not currently affiliated with an Agency.

3

How can I affiliate with my Agency?

Follow the steps in Question 2, then click on the 'Unaffiliated' link and follow the steps to finish selecting your Agency.

4

What if my Agency is not listed?

Please contact your Training Officer to set up the Agency with the NREMT. The entire process will take about 15 minutes.

7

Who can sign the skills portion of the recertification form?

Emergency Medical Responder (EMR): Your Training Officer/Supervisor can sign the skills portion of the form.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Intermediate/85: Your Training Officer/Supervisor can sign the skills portion of the form.

Intermediate/85, Intermediate/99, AEMT and Paramedic: Your Physician Medical Director must sign the skills portion of the form.

6

What if my Agency shows "Pending Approval"?

Please contact your Training Officer to approve your affiliation request.

5

How do I request Inactive Status?

Inactive Status can only be requested by Nationally Certified EMS Professionals who have completed at least six (6) months of patient care at their EMS certification level during their first recertification cycle. Registrants who wish to declare Inactive Status must meet the NREMT continuing education recertification requirements.

Inactive Status is not for those who are unable to obtain and meet the educational requirements or those who have had limitations or revocation of a healthcare license.

Registrants who request Inactive Status at the EMR, EMT and AEMT levels do not need to obtain verification of skills from their Training Officers. (Physician Medical Director verification - AEMT). These registrants must complete all refresher, continuing education and CPR requirements. These registrants are eligible to recertify by examination if they so choose. CPR certification remains a requirement even for those who pass the examination.

Registrants who request Inactive Status at the Paramedic level do not need to obtain verification of skills from their Physician Medical Director. These registrants must complete all refresher, continuing education and both CPR and ACLS requirements. These registrants are eligible to recertify by examination if they so choose. CPR and ACLS remain a requirement even for those who pass the examination.

9

What are the current recertification requirements? Please click on the level you wish to view.

Emergency Medical Responder
https://www.nremt.org/nremt/about/reg_1st_history.asp#Emergency_Medical_Responder_Recertification

Emergency Medical Technician
https://www.nremt.org/nremt/about/reg_basic_history.asp#EMT_Recertification

EMT-Intermediate/85
https://www.nremt.org/nremt/about/reg_int85_history.asp#EMT-Intermediate/85_Recertification

Advanced EMT
https://www.nremt.org/nremt/about/reg_AEMT_history.asp#Advanced_Emergency_Medical_Technician_Recertification

EMT-Intermediate/99
https://www.nremt.org/nremt/about/reg_int99_history.asp#EMT-Intermediate/99_Recertification

Paramedic
https://www.nremt.org/nremt/about/reg_para_history.asp#Paramedic_Recertification

8

What does the NREMT accept as valid continuing education?

The NREMT accepts continuing education that has received official approval through your State EMS office and/or the Continuing Education Coordinating Board of Emergency Medical Services (www.ccebems.org). Continuing education topics may include subject matter contained within the National Scope of Practice as well as other subject matter specifically related to the emergency medical care of patients. Continuing education may be obtained through a variety of delivery methods including didactic sessions, practical drills, workshops, EMS conferences, and Distributive Education.

10

What if my account shows the wrong Agency?

Click on the Agency name in the upper left corner, then select the correct Agency.