FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) What is the difference between an EMT and a Paramedic?

2) What are the prerequisites for the EMT class?

3) What are the prerequisites for the Paramedic class?

4) Where do I get EMT experience?

5) How long are the classes for EMT and Paramedic?

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12) Why should I choose LaGuardia as my EMT and/or Paramedic Training Center?

1) Q. What is the difference between an EMT and a Paramedic?

A. Both EMTs and Paramedics render emergency care to the ill and injured in the prehospital environment, however, EMTs are trained to offer a basic level of care and Paramedics offer an advanced level of care. Paramedics must be certified as EMTs before beginning Paramedic training.

EMTs perform skills such as CPR, defibrillation, bandaging and splinting, spinal immobilization, oxygen therapy, lifting and moving techniques, vital signs, patient assessment and histories, emergency childbirth, treatment of medical and environmental emergencies, etc.

Paramedics do all of the above PLUS they can start IVs, administer many potent emergency drugs, perform endotracheal intubation, give injections, perform transcutaneous pacing and cardioversion, read EKGs, and perform many invasive techniques such as needle decompression of a lung and cricothyroidotomy.

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2) Q. What are the prerequisites for the EMT class?

A. In order to enter the LaGuardia EMT class, you must be at least 18 years of age during the month the class ends, take an English reading test (or bring in a College transcript showing you passed English in College), and pass an interview.

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3) Q. What are the prerequisites for the Paramedic class?

A. You will need evidence of High School Graduation or a GED equivalent along with a current New York State EMT-B certification.

You will need a minimum of 6 months or 200 hours of patient care experience as an EMT. This can include experience as an EMT paid for services or as a member of a volunteer EMS organization. In-hospital experience is not accepted.

There are three preadmission tests including a basic math test, a reading comprehension test, and an EMT test. The math, reading, and EMT tests evaluate your preparedness for the paramedic program. You must score a 75% on each of these three areas to qualify for a faculty interview. Should you need it, there are two re-tests available for any failed categories.

Practice tests are available to help prepare you for the entrance exams.

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4) Q. Where do I get EMT experience?

A. The LaGuardia EMT/Paramedic office has listings of both paid and volunteer opportunities for EMTs available for students upon request.

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5) Q. How long are the classes for EMT and Paramedic?

A. EMT classes are 172 hours over two to four months depending on the schedule. The Paramedic class is 800 hours of classes plus 600 hours of clinical rotations over 12 months.

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6) Q. When do they meet?

A. EMT night classes meet Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 6:00 PM --9:30 PM. EMT day classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM. The exception is the summer day class which meets Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9:30 AM– 4:30 PM.

The Paramedic class meets Mondays – Thursdays 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM and alternate Saturdays from 9:00AM – 4:00 PM. Saturdays may be switched for Sundays for Saturday Sabbath observers if arranged in advanced and with permission of the Director.

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7) Q. How much do they cost?

A. The EMT class costs $780 + a $15 registration fee. The Paramedic class cost $6,800 for certificate students. Degree students pay CUNY tuition rates. Books and uniforms are not included.

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8) Q. Where are the clinical rotation sites?

A. EMT rotation sites include: Lenox Hill, Manhattan; Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn; and Maimonides Hospital, Brooklyn. Students may attend a hospital closer to their home if approved in advance by both the hospital and the College.

Paramedic rotation sites include: Lenox Hill Hospital, Manhattan; Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn; Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn; New York Medical Examiner, Manhattan and Queens; North Central Bronx Hospital; North Shore Forest Hills Hospital, Queens; Queens General Hospital Center; Transcare at Einstein Medical Center, Bronx; Transcare at New Rochelle/White Plains, Westchester.

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9) Q. Can my Paramedic coursework apply toward my A.A.S degree?

A. Absolutely. The A.A.S. Paramedic Degree option is encouraged as a way of increasing your professional options during your career. Paramedic coursework can be applied toward the A.A.S. at LaGuardia by simply completing the standard college application process and taking one additional course at the College. 30 exemption credits are awarded for paramedic certification and 6 credits for EMT certification.

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10) Q. How can I pay for my Paramedic training?

A. LaGuardia Community College recognizes the commitment involved in undertaking the Paramedic program. We therefore offer three methods of tuition payment. First, all students have the option of a convenient payment plan through Academic Management Services (AMS) www.tuitionpay.com that enables students to make monthly or more frequent payments.

Students may take out a Continuing Education loan from Sallie Mae, TERI, or other provider. Students may pay the entire amount prior to class start using their own resources. Scholarships may be available. You must inquire with the Paramedic Coordinator.

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11). Q. Will I be able to find a job?

A. Currently there is a shortage of EMTs and Paramedics in New York City, making employment prospects excellent. The New York City Fire Department, hospitals, and private companies have been actively recruiting on campus. LaGuardia graduates are sought after by many employers.

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12). Q. Why should I choose LaGuardia as my EMT and/or Paramedic Training Center?

A. We have the best preparation for the best price. This is a quality program with a 100% pass rate on the NYS DOH exam for 11 years for the paramedic program and a 97% pass rate for the EMT program for the past 20 years. With dedicated EMS labs, top notch faculty, a minicomputer lab, and a multitude of resources including open skills labs, and state of the art equipment are all here for the students. We will work with you to help you succeed.