The S.A.V.E. EMT Program at LaGuardia Community College
Supporting Adults Through Vocational EMT Training

The S. A. V. E. EMT Program at LaGuardia Community College prepares adult students to become certified emergency medical technicians and to work in the EMT field providing basic emergency care to victims of traumatic and/or medical emergencies and transporting them to the appropriate medical facility. This intensive five month EMT course is competency based and includes a three-week pre-training, didactic lectures, practical skills labs, and two basic life support clinical rotations on a 9-1-1 ambulance in New York City.

Historically, lack of academic preparation, as well as family and work responsibilities, have prevented some students from successfully completing the intensive EMT training. The S. A. V. E. Program is designed especially for non-traditional, adult students facing economic and educational disadvantages that can impede completion of this rigorous professional course of study. It is modeled on Washington State’s Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) initiative, which helps underserved populations develop basic educational and vocational skills simultaneously in order to move into careers that lead to better paying jobs. The training is planned and taught by both an experienced EMT faculty member and a basic skills educator trained to teach developing adult learners. The expertise of the two instructors develops students’ basic educational and vocational skills simultaneously and ensures their success in the training.

Applicants must be 21 years and older with a high school or G.E.D. diploma, have a valid driver’s license, and have tested at an 8th grade reading level or above. Students must be work eligible and demonstrate an intention of working as an EMT upon program completion. A majority of students have no previous healthcare work experience, but use this training program as a gateway into the profession.

Pre-Training Class Students must attend and successfully complete a three week pre-training class to enter the S.A.V.E. EMT classes. A basic skills instructor delivers curriculum that introduces the EMT content including anatomy, physiology and medical ethics, as well building students’ reading comprehension and study habits. Students are also introduced to the rigorous schedule and expectations of the S. A. V. E. EMT Program and receive CPR certification training during the pre-training. To determine eligibility for entrance to the S. A. V. E. EMT class, students are assessed on their academic performance as well as their attendance and class participation.

EMT Classes Students who qualify for the training attend an EMT class that meets 4 days a week, from 9:30-4:30. EMT instructors teach students to assess patients, take vital signs, treat
injuries and fractures, provide oxygen, perform CPR, manage cardiac and respiratory emergencies, treat allergic reactions, and handle many other types of emergencies. Instruction is provided in six modules: basic introduction, airway breathing and management, patient assessment, medical emergencies, trauma, infants and children, and ambulance operations. Assessments include practical skills exams, written exams, and quizzes. The adult education instructor participates in vocational classes in order to monitor student progress, to assist with formative assessment, and to develop relevant curriculum for the academic support class. At the end of the four months, students take the NYS Department of Health Final Practical Exam and written Certification Exam.

**Academic Support Classes** Once a week, students work with the basic skills instructor to both review and deepen their mastery of training materials and concepts. The class is also an opportunity for students to develop solid study strategies and academic skills that will serve them in their future careers and academic endeavors. Course content is approached with non-traditional instructional strategies that address multiple learning styles and areas of difficulty with developmental writing assignments, group work and discussions.

**Clinical Rotations & Job Placement** Students complete two EMT level ambulance clinical rotations during the EMT Program. Rotation scheduling begins after the midterm exam.

This program is a collaboration between the Pre-Hospital Care Programs and the Pre-College Academic Programming Department in the Adult and Continuing Education Division of LaGuardia Community College/CUNY. For more information, call (718) 482-5768.