

Exploring Careers Through Technical Routes

Paramedic



The Industry

Paramedics are the first point of contact for people experiencing medical emergencies. As a paramedic you may be able to be the difference between life and death.

A paramedic is an emergency response medical professional who is trained in making quick diagnoses and administering immediate medical care to victims of accidents, violence or sudden illnesses such as cardiac arrests or strokes. You would be expected to know how to take blood, give CPR, use a defibrillator and administer a variety of medications.

Every case or call is different and you could be asked to: resuscitate a patient; give medicines and injections; dress wounds or apply supports for broken bones; deliver babies; keep accurate records; check equipment; support a patient who is experiencing a mental health crisis; provide roadside treatment at a traffic accident.

Health and Care Professions Council <http://www.hcpc-uk.org.uk>
Health Careers <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk>
College of Paramedics <https://www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk>

Skills and Requirements

You will need to develop specific skills and personal attributes to be a paramedic. These include:

- An ability to react quickly to unforeseen circumstances
- A caring attitude with a calm and reassuring manner
- Ability to follow instructions, working quickly and with accuracy
- An ability to focus, to learn and to carefully follow medical emergency procedures
- Listening skills to understand a patient's symptoms
- Being able to relate to a wide variety of people from different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds
- Oral communication to deal with ill people as well as professionals
- Good written communication to complete reports
- Problem solving ability
- Strong team working skills.

Employers look for good physical fitness, full driving licence and successful clearance of security and criminal background checks. You also have to pass a medical health check.

'There are currently over 20,000 paramedics in the UK and many reports suggest there are a large number of vacancies across the country.'

Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/318931/number-of-paramedics-in-the-uk/>

Exploring Careers Through Technical Routes

Working and Learning as a Paramedic



Job Roles & Progression

Employers look for some relevant experience, either voluntary or paid. You could work as an emergency care assistant or volunteer with St John Ambulance or the British Red Cross.

Study Programme Levels 2 & 3

Health & Social Care.

A Levels in appropriate subjects e.g. Biology, Chemistry, Psychology



Further Study BSc (Hons)

Paramedic Science.

FdA

Paramedic Practice.



Apprenticeships Intermediate

Emergency Care Assistance.



Career roles

Paramedic in a private ambulance company.

Working at events such as the FA Cup, Grand National, on film and TV sets, in a hospital or local government.

Progress to section supervisor managing staff rotas, vehicle maintenance, budgets and ensuring standards.

Specialise in one area e.g. air ambulance.

A career in other uniformed services such as armed forces, police or the fire service.

Calculation including problem solving

Tasks

1. Calculate distance and travel time to an accident scene to keep other services informed of your impending arrival time.
2. In an emergency estimate which route will be the quickest to collect a woman in labour.
3. Administer drugs to a patient at the scene of a road traffic accident.
4. Record the vital signs of a patient regularly on a long journey when transferring them between hospitals.
5. Use different measurements to establish which bandages are most appropriate to use when dressing a patient's arm injury.

Links to GCSE Maths

1. **Geometry and measure** (units of measure – speed, time).
2. **Number** (approximation - estimating calculations).
3. **Ratio, proportion and rates of change** (ratio in context - sharing in a given ratio).
4. **Statistics** (collecting data - types of data).
5. **Number** (whole numbers - addition, subtraction; decimals - adding and subtracting decimals; fractions - using fractions).

Communication, all forms

Tasks

1. Write up your medical notes and compile a comprehensive report following an accident scene.
2. Speak with a patient's family to support and reassure them that everything possible is being done.
3. Speak with a variety of services in relation to a scene and provide key details to help the police.
4. Follow instructions to get to an incident destination.
5. Read a patient's notes to determine underlying conditions when taking them from a surgery to hospital.

Links to GCSE English Language

1. **Writing** (writing non-fiction - a report; context audience and purpose; planning - bullet points; organising information - paragraphs; literary techniques - informative language; vocabulary - use precise verbs).
2. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening – audience and purpose; personal presence - body language, eye contact; voice - controlling your tone).
3. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening - audience and purpose; personal presence - gestures).
4. **Spoken language** (listening - audience and purpose; standard English/informal language).
5. **Analysing non-fiction** (non-fiction text type - information).