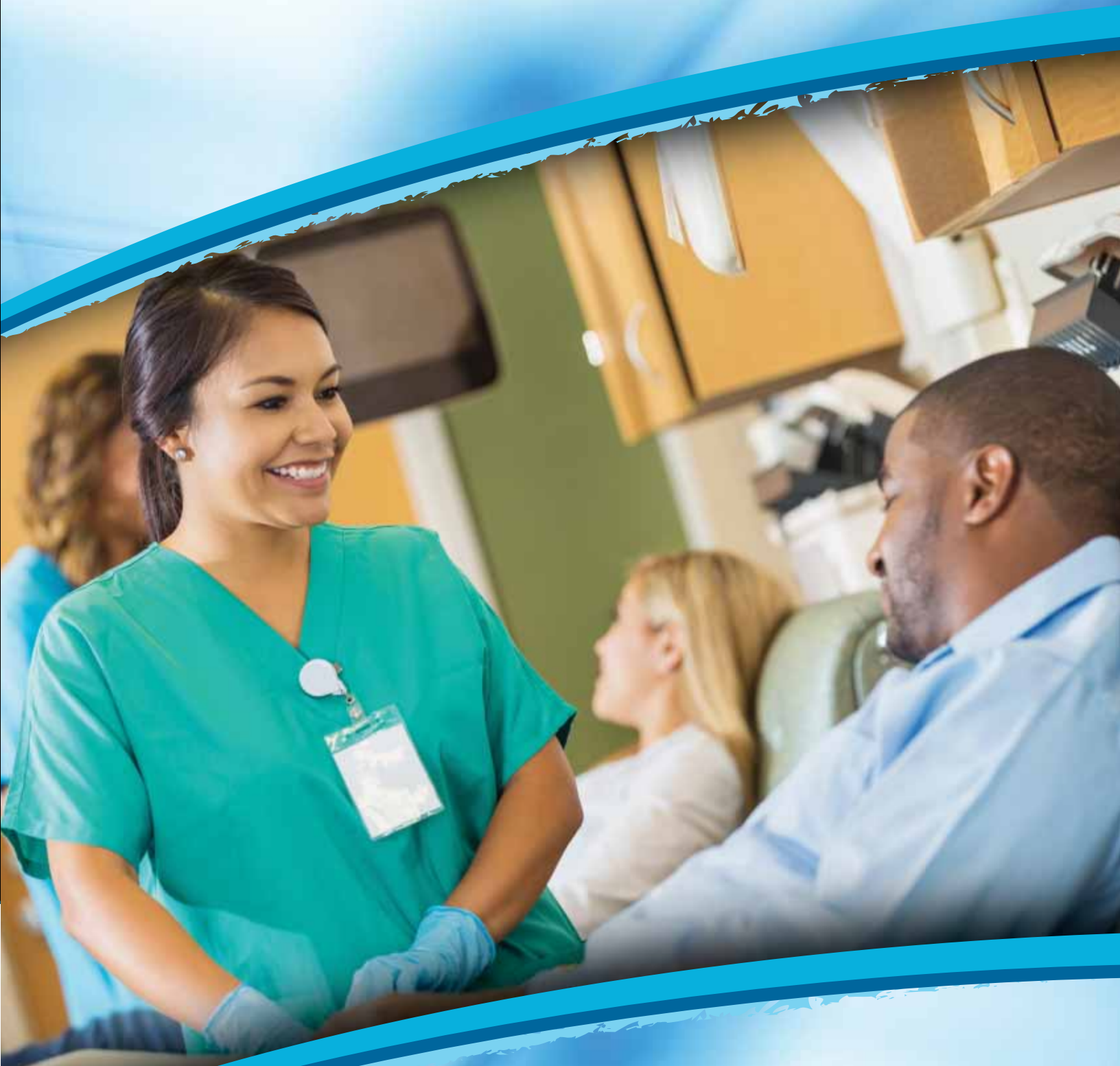


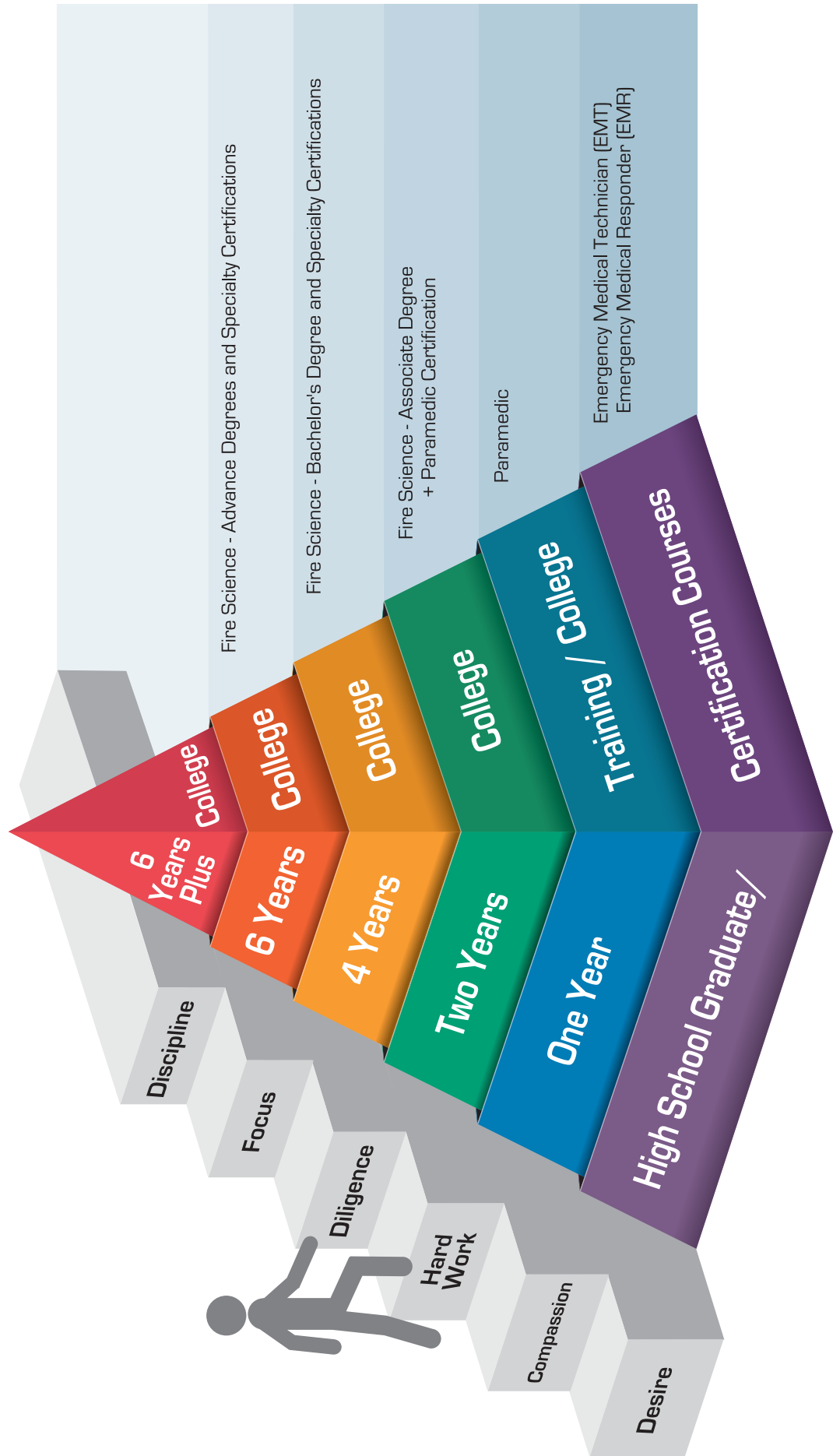
# Exploring Health Careers: What Do You Want To Be?



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# Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Career Pathways





## Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)

**Job Description:** Emergency medical responders (or sometimes referred to as “First Responders”) are often the first medically trained personnel to arrive at an accident or scene of a medical emergency. An EMR quickly assesses emergency situations, calls an ambulance, and administers first aid. Most public safety personnel are trained as EMR providers.

**Educational Requirements:** Becoming a certified first responder/emergency medical responder requires a high school diploma or GED. Candidates must first obtain certification in CPR for healthcare providers. The prospective EMR must complete a state-approved Emergency Medical Responder training course as well as pass cognitive and psychomotor examinations. (The cognitive portion of the exam covers a full range of emergency medical care topics, while the psychomotor test consists of a hands-on demonstration of learned emergency skills.) After completing your training, you should be prepared to take the certification exam to acquire state licensure.

For more information about EMS careers and certification details, visit National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) at: <https://www.nremt.org/> and/or your local county Emergency Medical Services Authority at: [http://www.emsa.ca.gov/Local\\_EMS\\_Agencies](http://www.emsa.ca.gov/Local_EMS_Agencies)

**Salary Range: \$30,000 to \$33,000 per year (or more depending on primary occupation)**



**For Additional Information:**

QR Code:

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm>

Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOuY7SwXfJU>

## Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

**Job Description:** Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) care for the sick or injured in pre-hospital emergency settings. People’s lives often depend on the quick reaction and competent care provided by these workers. EMTs respond to emergency calls, performing medical services and transporting patients to medical facilities. EMTs provide basic-level life support to persons who are hurt or injured. EMTs can perform CPR, vital signs, basic airway management, artificial ventilations, automated defibrillation, bandaging/splinting, oxygen administration, and spinal immobilization.

**Educational Requirements:** EMT training consists of 80 to 106 hours of classroom education plus 10 hours of internship and field training. EMT training is considered the entry level for Emergency Medical Services. Training is available at most CA community colleges.

**Salary Range: \$30,000 to \$35,000 per year**



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Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9FY0Gfr93c>

## Paramedic

**Job Description:** The highest skilled pre-hospital care provider is the Paramedic. Paramedics are licensed healthcare professionals who provide the most extensive pre-hospital advanced life support. Paramedics deliver care that is on par with that of the emergency room but in the field. During a medical emergency Paramedics can provide advanced life support care including: advanced airway management, endotracheal intubation (breathing tube), manual defibrillation, external transcutaneous pacing, EKG monitoring, 12-lead EKG acquisition, IV fluid therapy, cardiac monitoring, needle chest decompressions, surgical airways, and the administration of a wide array of life saving medications.

**Educational Requirements:** To become a paramedic you must be 18 years or older, have graduated from high school or received your GED. You must also hold a California driver's license, and have an active EMT certification with current CPR for Healthcare Providers certificate.

Paramedics are required to complete 1100 hours of classroom training plus an additional 500 hours of internship and field training. Paramedic programs are college based, thus requiring pre-requisite college education in addition to basic EMT training. Additionally, Paramedics maintain specialty classifications once licensed, such as Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Neonatal Resuscitation Program, Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support, Critical Care Paramedic and Certified Flight Paramedic to name a few.

**Salary Range:** \$38,000 to \$46,000 per year



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Video Link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0pWE\\_xCKWY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0pWE_xCKWY)

## Firefighter/Paramedic

**Job Description:** Firefighters control and extinguish fires or respond to emergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk. Duties may include fire prevention, emergency medical service, hazardous material response, search and rescue, and disaster assistance. Many cities and counties in California with fire services hire firefighter/paramedics to provide emergency medical services.

**Educational Requirements:** Most firefighters today have an associate degree in fire science from an accredited community college. New hires must complete intensive training programs, usually at a state or local fire training academy. In addition to passing pre-employment written, physical and medical exams, fire fighters are usually required to earn certification as emergency medical technicians (EMT) or hold a Paramedic certification.

**Salary Range:** \$66,260 - \$106,000 per year depending on location and type of employer.



**For Additional Information:**

QR Code:

<https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes332011.htm>

Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGKJj3FaMV0>



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