If you have additional QUESTIONS, please attend a Program Information Session. See website for dates:

http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/ems/.

These FAQs are for INFORMATION ONLY.

Applicants must satisfy all conditions/requirements as found on the CURRENT application.

**General Questions**
- General Information about Emergency Medical Technician(s) (EMT), EMT Certification, and the EMT Program at Palm Beach State College

**Application and Admission Questions**
- General Information About the Limited Access Application and admissions requirements for the EMT Program at Palm Beach State College

**Testing Questions**
- General Information about the National Firefighter Selection Inventory (NFSI) Testing required for admission to the EMT Program at Palm Beach State College
General Questions

What is an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)?
- Emergency Medical Technician is the entry-level certification for the EMS profession. The program prepares competent, entry-level emergency medical technicians in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains. The program meets the requirements set forth in the National EMS Education Standards aligning with Florida statutes and administrative code through classroom, skills laboratory, clinical rotations, and field internship courses. The EMT performs basic life-supporting skills including: patient assessment, opening airways, restoring breathing, controlling blood loss, treating victims of shock, immobilizing fractures, bandaging wounds, childbirth assistance, treating heart attack victims, caring for poison and burn victims, and transportation of patients. They also learn the skills necessary to work with paramedics as part of a tiered prehospital system and with other professionals in multidisciplinary healthcare settings.

What jobs are available once I am certified as an EMT?
- There are numerous positions for students completing the EMT program and passing the state exam including private ambulance companies, life guards, security companies, emergency room technicians, and private doctors’ offices. Many students go on to get additional certificates including Firefighter I/II and Paramedic to work in a fire department.

My career goal is to work for a fire department, how do I start?
- PBSC offers all the required courses needed in order to become a successful candidate for a position as a Firefighter in Florida. Most agencies located in the Southeast (Dade, Broward & Palm Beach Counties) will require candidates to be Firefighter/Paramedic certified. However, other regions will hire Firefighter/EMT’s or solely Firefighters. This means that you will need to complete the EMT, Paramedic and Firefighter I&II programs, and also become State certified in all three disciplines. This process can take up to 2 years to complete. If you wish to work outside of the Southeast areas of Florida, we encourage you to research the requirements of that specific area.
- EMT is a prerequisite for both the Fire Academy and Paramedic Programs.
- The PBSC EMT Program will give you first hand emergency medical technician experience, and upon State certification, increase your points for the Fire Academy and Paramedic selection pool.
General Questions (con’t)

Do I get my state EMT certification just by completing the Palm Beach State College EMT Program?

- No, students that successfully complete the College’s EMT Program will need to apply for and pass the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT) exam in order to become a state certified EMT. Please use this link to review the requirements.

How long is the EMT program?

- Approximately 16 weeks, one semester; 12 credits earned after completion.

When is the EMT Program offered?

- The EMT Program is offered in the Fall, Spring and Summer Terms of each year.

On what campus are the EMT and Paramedic Programs offered?

- Both programs are only offered on the Lake Worth Campus.

How much does the program cost?

Please refer to the currently posted application for any questions regarding the current costs associated with the EMT Program.

What is the schedule for the EMT Program?

- **Day Classes:** The schedule is currently based on the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue (PBCFR) shift schedule. Therefore, students attend class (lecture and lab) on one day, and then have the next two days off. For example, if your class meets on a Monday, then you will have Tuesday and Wednesday off, and you will then return for class on Thursday. Please reference the “PBCFR Shift Calendar” tab to view the actual dates on which each shift falls.
  - Lecture/Lab classes meet from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm on assigned shift days (every day the colored shift lands with the exception of Sundays and holidays).
  - Clinical will meet on non-shift days, and are 10 hours in length. Clinical may begin as early as 7:30 am based on where you are assigned for the day.
  - Additionally, A Shift classes meet each Monday morning, B Shift meets each Tuesday morning, and C Shift meets each Wednesday morning throughout the term.

- **Evening Classes:** Meet Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6 pm to 10 pm and on Saturday for Lab or Clinical.
  - Saturday Lab classes run from 9 am-4 pm.
  - Saturday Clinical days are 10 hours in length and may begin as early as 7:30 am based on where you are assigned for the day.

- **For all Classes:** NO classes or clinical days are held on Sundays and College holidays.
General Questions (con’t)

Does financial aid pay for the EMT Program?
- Please refer to the currently posted application for any questions regarding financial aid.

How many students are accepted?
- Fall and Spring Terms - approximately 96 students total (24 students per class).
- Summer Term - approximately 72 students total (24 students per class).

Are there any special requirements for EMT training?
Yes, after you have been accepted into the program you must submit to a Drug/Alcohol Test, Criminal Background Check and a Medical Physical in order to attend Clinical rotations.
EMT students must verify that they have all immunity including, but not limited to:
- Mumps
- Measles (rubeola)
- DPT / DT /TD / Tetanus - immunization within the last five years
- PPD (tuberculosis) - skin test good for six months - chest x-ray good for one year
- Chicken Pox

Are there any physical requirements for EMT training?
- EMT is a very rewarding profession that entails many strenuous activities. Patient moving and lifting is a very important part of the job. Students are required to move and lift a weighted manikin (approx. 160 lbs.) in various lab settings to simulate real-life situations.
- The college reasonably accommodates qualified individuals with disabilities and complies with and fully supports the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Application and Admission Questions

What is the process to get into the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Program?

- The Emergency Medical Technical Program is a Limited Access program. Admission to the college, or declaring the AS Degree in EMS as your program of study, does not guarantee admission into the program. Students are required to complete a supplemental application and meet specific criteria. There are a limited number of students admitted to the program each year.
- Please refer to the currently posted application for any and all questions regarding the MANDATORY requirements for applying to the EMT Program.
- Please make every effort to attend an EMS Program Information Session where an EMS Program Instructor will be available to answer questions about applying to the EMT Program.

How is admission determined for the Emergency Medical Technician Program?

- Admission to the program is based on a point system.
- Please refer to the currently posted application for any and all questions regarding the current Points System for determining acceptance into the EMT Program.
- Please make every effort to attend an EMS Program Information Session where an EMS Program Instructor will be available to answer questions about the current Points System for determining acceptance into the EMT Program.

How many points are required to get into the program?

- Points vary from one admission cycle to the next. There is not an average or required minimum for acceptance. The more points you have the greater your chance of acceptance.

What classes (prerequisites) do I need to take prior to being accepted to the EMT Program?

- There are no “for credit” classes that need to be taken prior to being accepted to the EMT Program.

Is applying to the College the same as applying for the program?

- NO, all applicants must complete and submit a limited access application to be considered for acceptance into the EMT Program.

Do I need to submit transcripts from all schools/colleges I have attended?

- Please refer to the currently posted application for any and all questions regarding the MANDATORY requirements for applying to the EMT Program.

How will the College communicate with me?

- Palm Beach State College e-mail is the official means of communication with all students. Acceptance and denial information for the program will be sent to your Palm Beach State student e-mail (…@my.palmbeachstate.edu). You will need a valid student ID and e-mail account to access this information.
Application and Admission Questions (con’t)

Do I have to attend the Information Session?
- Students are strongly encouraged to attend an Information Session to receive program specific material, and have an opportunity to ask an EMS Instructor questions regarding the EMT and Paramedic Programs. Information session dates, times and location can be found in the program application as well as on the College’s website at http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/ems/emt.

Is the Information Session the same as the mandatory orientation?
- No, the Information Session is optional for any interested student who wishes to apply to an EMS program. The Orientation is mandatory for any student who is accepted to an EMS program.

Where can I find the limited access application for the EMT Program?
- In the EMT Program website: http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/ems/emt/

When will the limited access application for the EMT Program be available?
- Applications are typically available a month or two prior to the deadline date. The application can be found on the College’s website http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/programs/ems/emt/
- The application and all application materials must be submitted by the deadline date published on the application. The following dates are when applications typically are available:
  - February to March (Due in April) for the Summer term, with classes starting in May
  - April to May (Due in June) for the Fall term with classes starting in August
  - August to September (Due in October) for the Spring term with classes starting in January

Where do I submit the limited access application?
- Applications MUST be submitted to an Admissions Office on any Palm Beach State College Campus.

How long does it take for my limited access application to be processed once received by the college?
- Applications are processed in the order that they are received. Notifications are then sent out regarding your application being complete or incomplete. The earlier your application is submitted the better. Notification of acceptance into the program will be 1-2 weeks following the application deadline.

How can I monitor my limited access application?
- Students can monitor their application by logging on to Panther web https://www.palmbeachstate.edu/pantherweb/ and selecting the ‘limited access application status’ quick link
Application and Admission Questions (con’t)

What should I do if my application is processed and I am informed that it is incomplete?
- If your application is processed, and you are notified that it is incomplete, you have until the application deadline to submit the necessary documents to complete your application packet. If you turn your application in on the deadline date, and it is processed and declared incomplete, you will not be able to turn in supporting documents to complete the application packet. **Students are encouraged to complete the application process as early as possible.**

What CPR card is required and where can I take the course?
- The American Heart Association BLS Provider. **No other CPR card will be accepted.** Must be valid at time of application submission.
- You may take your CPR class at any American Heart Association training center. PBSC offers the course at the Lake Worth Campus.
- Contact the Public Safety Corporate Continuing Education office at 561-868-3775 or online at [www.palmbeachstate.edu/CCE/public-safety/aha-training.aspx](http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/CCE/public-safety/aha-training.aspx) for CPR classes held at Palm Beach State College. Students can register via Panther Web for the course Basic Life Support Provider **AHO 0123**

Does the EMT Program maintain a waiting list?
- The EMT Program does **not** maintain a waiting list, and applications are not carried over from one cycle to another. If an applicant is not accepted, they must re-apply in the next application cycle to be considered for the program.

How am I notified if I have been accepted into the program?
- Applicants who are selected for admission to the program will be notified approximately two weeks after the deadline date by Palm Beach State e-mail.
- If an applicant is selected, and does not complete the registration process, the applicant must reapply and is not guaranteed acceptance in any subsequent selection process.
- If a student is denied admission to the program, they can reapply during the next application cycle.

Do I need to attend the Mandatory Orientation?
- **YES,** all applicants who are admitted to the program are required to attend the Mandatory Orientation as published in the Application. Failing to attend could mean forfeiting your seat in the program.

Where do I complete the criminal background check, medical examination and drug screenings required for the program?
- Only students who are admitted (accepted) to the program need to complete the criminal background check, drug/alcohol screening and medical examination. Admitted students need to have a clear criminal history background, drug/alcohol screening and medical exam completed at their own expense prior to starting the EMT Program. Detailed information and forms will be provided at the Mandatory Orientation session.
Application and Admission Questions (con’t)

Regarding my background check, what could disqualify me from the program?

- All background checks will be evaluated at the discretion of our Fire Rescue and Hospital Clinical Partners. Any arrests on your record could potentially restrict you from attending the clinical portion of the program, without which you cannot complete the program. Any students with felony arrests will not be permitted to enter the program.
Testing Questions

What is the National Firefighter Selection Inventory (NFSI) Exam?
- The National Firefighter Selection Inventory™ (NFSI™) is a national entry-level examination tool that was engineered specifically to select qualified individuals for service as firefighters throughout the country. The test is composed of 105 multiple choice question.
- It is a prerequisite test needed for entry into the EMT Program, and requires a candidate to pass with a score of 75% or higher. The test is administered at any Palm Beach State College Testing Center. Check with the Testing Center on the campus near you for availability. www.palmbeachstate.edu/testing/.

Are there exemptions for the NFSI exam?
- No

What is the cost of the NFSI exam?
- $45.00

Where can I take the NFSI exam?
- The test can be taken at a College Testing Center on any PBSC Campus. Applicants can contact the testing center of their choice for availability and to make arrangements to take the Exam. Applicants will need to pre-pay for the exam at the cashier and have a valid government issued photo id. Please use this link for additional information www.palmbeachstate.edu/testing/

How often can I take the NFSI exam?
- The NFSI exam may be retaken every 30 days. Test results are valid for 2 years.

Is there a study guide for the NFSI exam?
- Yes, there is a study guide in the college bookstore and many resources are available online.

What are the college ready scores for the SAT, ACT, or PERT?
- You can find the college ready scores for these exams at http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/testing/testscores.aspx or by contacting an academic advisor.