WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics administer first-aid treatment and life-support care to sick or injured persons in pre-hospital setting. Depending on training level, EMTs administer drugs, orally or by injection, and perform intravenous procedures under a physician's direction. In addition to operating equipment such as electrocardiograms (EKGs), external defibrillators and bag-valve mask resuscitators in advanced life-support environments. EMTs assess the nature and extent of illness or injury to establish and prioritize medical procedures. EMTs coordinate with other emergency medical team members and police and fire department personnel and are responsible for communicating with dispatchers and treatment center personnel to provide information about situation, to arrange reception of victims, and to receive instructions for further treatment. Working in pairs, EMTs perform emergency diagnostic and treatment procedures, such as stomach suction, airway management or heart monitoring, during ambulance transport. Because emergency services function 24 hours a day, EMTs and paramedics have irregular working hours.

EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:
A high school diploma, usually, is required to enter a formal EMT training program. All 50 States require certification for each of the EMT levels. In most States, and the District of Columbia, registration with National Registry for Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) is required at some or all levels of certification. Some States administer their own certification examination or provide the option of taking either the NREMT or State examination. To maintain certification, EMTs and paramedics must recertify, usually every two years. UNM offers a BS in Emergency Medicine with three areas of concentration: Clinical Care, EMS Administration, and EMS Education and Training, in addition to training programs for the three EMT levels.

EMPLOYERS/INDUSTRIES & SUGGESTED STRATEGY:
Please ask your Career Advisor (CDF) for identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Types of Employers: Hospitals, Fire Departments, Private ambulance services

Suggested Strategies: Develop excellent communication skills both verbally and written.

STATE AND NATIONAL WAGES (2006):

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PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & RESOURCES:

National Association for EMT
National Registry for EMT
National Association for EMT Educators
New Mexico EMS Bureau
UNM Emergency Medical Services Academy
New Mexico EMT Association

http://www.naemt.org/
http://www.nremt.org
http://www.naemse.org/
http://www.nmems.org/
http://hsc.unm.edu/som/emsacad/index.shtml
http://hsc.unm.edu/som/programs/nmemta/

OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

http://online.onetcenter.org
http://www.bls.gov/oco/