



Center for Learning and Innovation
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The Successful Candidate's Application **(Keys to Success)**

The North Shore-LIJ Health System Paramedic Program is a competitive program and candidates are selected based upon four (4) assessed areas. Underperforming in one area does not eliminate a candidate from consideration. However, underperforming in multiple areas raises concerns within the admissions committee as to whether the candidate can successfully complete the program. Candidate applications are "blinded" for the admissions committee, so committee members are not aware of the identity of a particular candidate or from which EMS agency the candidate is currently practicing. Below are the areas that will be assessed during the application process, along with some "Keys to Success" that the candidate can utilize to improve their chances of being accepted into the Paramedic Program.

1) Written Assessment Scores-General EMT and Math Knowledge

Candidates should prepare for the written assessments by reviewing any EMT Course textbook that meets the new National EMS Education Standards. Candidates should also prepare for the General Math Assessment by reviewing addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; fractions and percentages; use of decimals and the metric system; multi-step words problems based upon any of the previously mentioned areas. Calculators are not permitted to be used during the assessments.

Keys to Success-Last minute studying prior to the written assessments rarely results in success. Candidates should review EMT general knowledge on a continuous basis, focusing on information as how it relates to EMT practice (rather than memorization of facts). A college level general math course will also assist the candidate in preparation for both the written math assessment and the Paramedic Program Course material, should the candidate be accepted.

2) Experience-Volunteer and career experience in municipal, hospital, or commercial EMS agencies.

Candidates should detail any experience in volunteer or career EMS agencies. Specifically, candidates should have substantial experience handling assignments of an emergency nature, preferably municipal 911 EMS responses.

Keys to Success-Regardless of whether the candidate is a volunteer and/or career EMS provider, current practice as an EMT is both important and integral to success with any Paramedic Program. Candidates who are not currently practicing as an EMT with an EMS agency can expect to encounter substantially more difficulty than those who maintain their practice as an EMT. A candidate cannot expect to reach their full potential as a Paramedic with limited experience as an EMT, as clinical experiences shall focus on development of advanced level skills and knowledge.

3) Interview-Behavioral attributes based upon National EMS Education Standards and research abstract interview.

Candidates must participate in an interview that will assess professional attributes as detailed under the Clinical Behavior/Judgment area for the Paramedic in the National EMS Education Standards. Candidates can review these attributes by visiting <http://ems.gov/EducationStandards.htm>.

Candidates must complete a brief research abstract on a specified EMT knowledge topic and be prepared to discuss the topic and abstract during the interview. The candidate should be substantially knowledgeable on the specified topic and know where and how the topic relates to current EMT practice in the state of New York (i.e.- New York State EMT Protocols).

Keys to Success-Not all attributes can be developed within the 12-month time frame of this program. Therefore, candidates already exhibiting some of the attributes detailed within the National EMS Education Standards shall have an advantage. Candidates will note that some of the attributes are sometimes, but not always, related to experience as an EMT. In addition, candidates tend to underperform on the research abstract section of the interview by not properly knowing the NYS BLS protocol(s) as they relate to the specific topic. Candidates are only expected to know and discuss the specific topic, and should be well versed in this one area.

4) Letters of Reference-One (1) professional and one (1) personal character.

Letters of Reference are integrally important for consideration in this program. Candidates should select individuals for a professional reference that will speak directly to their skills and abilities as an EMT. The person selected to provide the professional reference should be a supervisor from the candidate's primary EMS response agency. The person selected for the personal character reference should know the candidate thoroughly and speak directly to the person's character.

Keys to Success-Candidates would serve themselves well by taking time and considering who they ask to provide references. Candidates adversely impact their consideration by selecting people who do not directly speak about the information requested in the Professional Recommendation Request Section of the application. The candidate is also adversely impacted by selecting someone that appears to be more of a social acquaintance, rather than a colleague or supervisor that can provide a critique or evaluation of the EMT practice. The Personal Character Reference should be from someone that can provide insight into the candidate as a person and how the candidate has some of the attributes detailed in the National EMS Education Standards. Some of these attributes include integrity, empathy, self-motivation, appearance/personal hygiene, self-confidence, communications, time management, teamwork/diplomacy, and respect.