

# ALDERSON AMBULANCE

*Saving Lives*

## Do you want to become a paramedic?

Thank you for considering a career in pre-hospital emergency care. Our country is in need of dedicated, skilled people committed to the highest standards of emergency medical care.

South Africa has a great need for skilled, qualified emergency care providers. The profession has grown enormously over the last 25 years. It can no longer be considered a job but rather a professional calling.

A commitment to patient care, professional integrity and lifelong learning is vital to success in this career.

You can qualify as a paramedic in two ways:

### University education:

Certain universities offer a four-year Bachelor's degree in Emergency Care (BTech). Graduates of this programme are qualified as Advanced Life Support practitioners able to provide the highest level of pre-hospital emergency care available.

Contact the University of your choosing for further information on costs and entrance requirements.

A two year National Certificate is also available, the Emergency Care Technician (ECT) course. This qualification is also offered by certain institutions and graduates will work under the indirect control of a BTech paramedic.

### Short Courses:

- *Basic Ambulance Assistant (BAA)* – Basic Life Support: Seven-week course, entry-level requirement for a career in emergency services.

Requirements: Matric certificate

- *Ambulance Emergency Assistant (AEA)* – Intermediate Life Support: Four month course that builds on the foundation laid during the BAA course.

Requirements: Matric certificate

Current HPCSA registration as a BAA for at least six months

1000 documented, verifiable hours of patient care experience as a BAA

- *Critical Care Assistant (CCA)* – Advanced Life Support: Eleven month course that qualifies successful candidates as Advanced Life Support paramedics. Highest level of short course training.

Requirements: Matric certificate

Current HPCSA registration as an AEA for at least one year

1000 documented, verifiable hours of patient care experience as an AEA

## **Which Route Should I Choose?**

This is a personal choice which will depend on many factors including academic performance, finances, location and personal preference.

Many candidates who have recently matriculated, have the required academic record and can afford to attend university full-time for four years choose the degree route.

Many others who do not have the means to attend university choose the short course route. There has been a move to discontinue short-course training in favour of university education.

The latest directive from the ministry of health is that short course training will continue in its current form for the foreseeable future, until further clarity and agreement has been reached.

## **Employment in Emergency Medical Services**

There are two major employers in the emergency services industry, namely the government and private emergency services.

Minimum requirements are typically Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) registration as a BAA, a valid driver's license with a Professional Driving Permit (PDP) and some experience as a volunteer.

There is currently an oversupply of BLS providers in the country. BLS practitioners may need perseverance and commitment to secure full-time employment in the industry.

There is a significant demand for ILS and ALS providers. As such, the demand for training in these areas is high.

The [Health Professions Council of South Africa \(HPCSA\)](#) governs the standards of all medical training in South Africa. Their website contains a list of all institutions accredited to run Emergency Care training.

### **Some useful contact details:**

Ambutek (Cape Town) – (021) 551 4980

Netcare School of Emergency and Critical Care (010) 209 8383

Durban University of Technology – (031) 373 5203

Cape Peninsula University of Technology – (021) 959 6190

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University – (041) 504 2964

University of Johannesburg – (011) 559 6246

Should you be considering a career in the emergency services, we are more than willing to consult with you and assist you in your decision.

You can contact us on (043) 748 2233 or via email at [mtec@alderson.co.za](mailto:mtec@alderson.co.za)