

- **Medic shortage remains a crucial problem**
- **NEMSA currently recruiting students to take part in regularly scheduled Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) classes**
- **Classes begin in June in Lafayette, Baton Rouge, Alexandria, Lake Charles, Houma, Covington and Gretna**
- **Begin new career after 3 months of training**
- **Use as stepping stone to other medical career**
  - **CALL IF INTERESTED IN INTERVIEWING A CURRENT STUDENT IN YOUR AREA!**

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National EMS Academy Director Gifford Saravia said today the academy continues its recruiting program for emergency medical technicians. As part of the continuing effort to cope with a long-standing shortage of medics in Louisiana and nationwide, NEMSA is recruiting area high school graduates and those who want a career change and who are interested in beginning a medical career quickly.

Saravia said Acadian Ambulance has a recurring need for as many as 350 new medics annually due to general turnover, expansion and internal promotions. Acadian conducts vigorous recruiting year-round, seeking to hire employees in its Louisiana-Mississippi-Texas coverage area.

The National EMS Academy provides college credit for students pursuing a career as emergency medical technicians through a unique partnership with South Louisiana Community College. Saravia says the program is designed to offer practical training early so that students can acquire their EMT certification and begin working within three or four months. The students can then continue to take classes to earn an Associate Degree while they work.

“With an investment of only a few months of training, a person can make a huge difference in someone’s life and their own,” Saravia said. “This is also a great opportunity for someone looking to make a career change. After successful completion of the EMT-Basic class, there are good job opportunities not only at Acadian Ambulance, but in virtually every state in the nation.”

NEMSA also offers paramedic training for EMT-Basics that want to further their career in EMS. This intensive year-long training will allow the medic to perform advanced life support skills.

Registration is ongoing and new students can be onboard by June when new EMT-Basic classes begin at the National EMS Academy in Lafayette, Baton Rouge, Alexandria, Lake Charles, Houma, Gretna, and Covington. New recruits enrolling in the EMT- Basic program will complete course requirements in approximately three months which include classroom time, clinicals and testing for national registry.

Medical Director Ross Judice, MD, said completing the education requirements to become an EMT is hard work, and the job itself is very demanding. "It takes a special person with a sharp mind and caring soul to be successful," he said. "But the rewards it brings and the opportunities to make a difference will last a lifetime."

For information on the classes offered, one can call 1-866-459-3500 or visit the website [nationalemssacademy.com](http://nationalemssacademy.com). -end-

[Cutline: National EMS Academy students participate in hands-on learning of CPR.](#)