

When considering advancement to the Paramedic Scope of Practice, it is important to review the market of paramedic education programs so that the one best is chosen. One should start with verifying the school's accreditation with Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Effective *January 1, 2013, Paramedic applicants* (for testing and certification with NREMT) *must have successfully completed state approved and CAAHEP-accredited Paramedic (NRP) program* (NREMT, 2016). Programmatic accreditation can be verified online at the following website: <http://www.caahep.org/Find-An-Accredited-Program/>.

While waiting for its recommendation for CAAHEP accreditation, the MetroAtlanta EMS Academy Consortium (MAEAC) operated under a Letter of Review (LOR) from the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). In March of 2017, CoAEMSP recommended that the Program be award CAAHEP accreditation. From inception to the present, three cohorts of Paramedic graduates have been produced by the Program. The next cohort is scheduled to be the first to complete since accreditation was awarded.

As a condition for remaining accredited, *current and consistent summary information about student/graduate achievement must be available to the public*, (CAAHEP, p. 10, 2015). Programs are also required to publish a *3-year review window of average results of the outcomes for National Registry written (computer-based tests) and practical (psychomotor skills tests) exams, retention, and positive placement* (CoAEMSP, p. 13, 2016). In accordance with CAAHEP and CoAEMSP requirements for maintaining accreditation, a summary of programmatic outcomes is shown below in Table 1; these outcomes are reported by graduation year.

Table 1

Summary of MAEAC Program Outcomes (2015-2017)	Average	CAAHEP	CoA LOR	
		2017	2016	2015
Programmatic Retention rate	82%	86%	76%	83%
NRP CBT ¹ 1st time success rate	89%	83%	85%	100%
NRP CBT total success rate	98%	94%	100%	100%
NRP PST ² 1st time success rate	91%	89%	90%	93%
NRP PST total success rate	100%	100%	100%	100%
Positive Job Placement Rate	100%	100%	100%	100%

Upon completion of a curriculum at an accredited program, graduates are accorded three initial attempts to successfully attain National Registry certification. If none of these attempts are successful, the National Registry requires the graduate to attend a remediation course to be eligible for three additional attempts. Should a graduate fail all six attempts, the graduate must re-enroll and repeat an entire paramedic curriculum to be eligible for subsequent attempts. *No graduate of the Paramedic Program at the MetroAtlanta EMS Academy Consortium System has had to enroll in a remediation course or re-enroll in the paramedic curriculum.*

Trends in Georgia and National Testing Outcomes

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Services (NREMT) publishes annual reports of national outcomes and outcomes by state. Outcomes reported are updated daily by the National Registry on the *NREMT*

Data Dashboard (NREMT, 2016). Outcomes listed below illustrate the overall rate of achieving Paramedic certification.

Table 2

Table 2. Trends in Testing Outcome	4 YEAR	2016	2015	2014	2013
	AVERAGE				
National Registry first time success rate (GA)	69.50%	69.00%	72.00%	68.00%	69.00%
National Registry total success rate (GA)	82.80%	80.00%	87.00%	81.00%	83.00%
National Registry total success rate (USA)	73.00%	73.00%	72.00%	74.00%	73.00%

2017 Georgia Statistics not available at time of publishing.

References

CAAHEP. (2015). *Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in the Emergency Medical Services Professions*. Retrieved from Commission on the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs: <http://www.caahep.org/documents/file/For-ProgramDirectors/CAAHEPStandardsforEMSP05152015final.pdf>

CoAEMSP. (2016, April 28). *Policies and Procedures*. Retrieved from Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions: <http://coaemsp.org/Documents/PoliciesProcedures2016-4-28-16.pdf>

NREMT. (2016). *National Registered Paramedics - Certification Process*. Retrieved from National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians: <https://www.nremt.org/rwd/public/document/paramedic>

NREMT. (2016, September 20). *NREMT Data Dashboard*. Retrieved from National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians: <https://www.nremt.org/rwd/public/data/maps>

¹ NRP CBT = National Registry Paramedic Computer-Based Test

² NRP PST = National Registry Paramedic Psychomotor Skills Test