

PARAMEDIC ĀPIHA WHAKAORA

Paramedics care for the sick or injured in emergency medical settings. People's lives often depend on their quick reaction and competent care. Paramedics respond to emergency calls, perform medical services and transport patients to medical facilities.



Kia Ora **Hauora**
Supporting Māori into Health

WHAT IS A PARAMEDIC?

Paramedics care for the sick or injured in emergency medical settings. People's lives often depend on their quick reaction and competent care. Paramedics respond to emergency calls, perform medical services and transport patients to medical facilities.

Paramedics assess a patient's condition and determine a course of treatment. They transfer patients to the emergency department of a health care facility and report their observations and treatment to the staff. Some paramedics work as part of a helicopter's flight crew to transport critically ill or injured patients to a hospital.

WHERE DO PARAMEDICS WORK?

- St John's is New Zealand's largest employer of paramedics Wellington Free Ambulance Service
- The New Zealand Defence Force.
- Oil rigs, ski fields and zones of conflict
- International relief work
- Safety and emergency management roles
- Air ambulance and transport roles such as air search and rescue
- Training roles, such as clinical education and mentoring

WHAT TRAINING IS INVOLVED?

To become a paramedic, you need a relevant degree or experience as an ambulance crew volunteer with St John.

The study pathway requires you to:

- Complete a Bachelor of Health Science majoring in paramedicine through Whitireia New Zealand or Auckland University of Technology (AUT)
- Hold a full Class 1 driver's licence for one year, and have a good driving record

The volunteer pathway requires you to:

- Apply for an operational volunteer position with St. John
- Hold a full Class 1 driver's licence for one year,
- Hold a full Class 1 driver's license and complete a defensive driving course Paramedics working in air rescue may require postgraduate qualifications.

WHAT CLASSES SHOULD I TAKE NOW?

NCEA Level 3 is required for tertiary training; useful subjects include:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Health
- English
- Te Reo Māori (optional)

