

## Trends in Paramedic Program Graduate Outcomes at Grady Health System

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/>.

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 Grady Paramedic Program Outcomes (2013 to 2018)	AVERAGE	Since CAAHEP			Before CAAHEP		
		2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Programmatic Retention rate	66.93%	60.00%	50.00%	73.30%	87.50%	30.80%	100.00%
<a href="#">NRP CBT<sup>1</sup> 1st time success rate</a>	76.68%	80.00%	66.70%	75.00%	85.70%	75.00%	77.70%
NRP CBT total success rate	99.25%	100.00%	100.00%	95.50%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
<a href="#">NRP PAT<sup>2</sup> 1st time success rate</a>	91.18%	100.00%	100.00%	86.40%	85.70%	75.00%	100.00%
NRP PST total success rate	99.25%	100.00%	100.00%	95.50%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Positive Job Placement Rate	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

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 Grady Health System has ever had to enroll in a remediation course or repeat the paramedic curriculum from the beginning in order to be eligible to re-challenge the National Registry certification examinations.**

## 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. Trends in Testing Outcome	5 YEAR AVERAGE	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
National Registry first time success rate (GA)	69.2%	64.0%	71.0%	66.0%	72.0%	68.0%
National Registry total success rate (GA)	82.6%	79.0%	83.0%	80.0%	86.0%	81.0%
National Registry total success rate (USA)	75.4%	80.0%	73.0%	85.0%	72.0%	74.0%

### 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-Program-Directors/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>

<sup>1</sup>National Registry Paramedic Computer Based Test

<sup>2</sup>National Registry Psychomotor Assessment Test