

December 2023

Employment Outcomes for Mississippi Community College EMT/Paramedic Graduates



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING
& ANALYSIS RESEARCH CENTER

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ABOUT MISSISSIPPI'S SLDS

Mississippi's State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) is one of the most comprehensive systems in the country and includes administrative records from more than 25 education, workforce, and human service agencies in the state. The SLDS allows for the alignment of multiple sources of de-identified administrative data over time to evaluate educational or workforce strategies in terms of real outcomes, such as entrance into employment, wages, and skill gains.

ABOUT NSPARC

NSPARC is a university research center at Mississippi State University and is a trusted and reliable source for high-quality research and analysis. We specialize in use-inspired research, data analytics, and software architecture and development. Our research emphasizes workforce and economic development, but the diversity of expertise on our team means we cover a broad range of topics in education, economics, health, human services, and corrections.

Unique experience with administrative records and longitudinal data systems, matched with our ability to apply the latest methodological and machine learning approaches allows us to draw meaningful insights from data to address challenges faced by policymakers, employers, economic developers, and state agencies.

For more information, contact NSPARC at nsparc@nsparc.msstate.edu or 662-325-9242.

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OVERVIEW

An analysis was requested by Accelerate MS to provide information pertaining to the graduation and employment outcomes of EMT/Paramedic students from Mississippi community colleges. Utilizing a cohort-based design, this report provides descriptive statistics for the following items:

1. The number of graduates from Mississippi community college EMT/Paramedic programs for the most recent five-year period.
2. Employment outcomes for Mississippi community college EMT/Paramedic graduates within one year of graduation, including the number and percent employment in Mississippi and median annual earnings.

DATA AND INDICATORS

DATA

The data for this study were made available by the continued funding of Mississippi's State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) through the state legislature. The SLDS includes administrative records from over 25 state agencies. Data from the following SLDS data contributors were used:

Mississippi Community Colleges – Data on community college graduates are contributed to the SLDS by Mississippi's 15 community colleges and the Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB). These data include information on the enrollment, academic major, and graduation of approximately 73,000 students each year.

Mississippi Department of Employment Security – Employer wage records are contributed to the SLDS by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES). Employer wage records are collected from Mississippi employers that participate in the state's covered employment system. Data fields include information on quarterly earnings and company of employment.

GRADUATION TRENDS

The following indicators were constructed for students who graduated with EMT/Paramedic degrees from Mississippi community colleges between AY 2019 and AY 2023.

Total Graduates – The number of EMT/Paramedic graduates from Mississippi community colleges.

EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

The following indicators were constructed for students who graduated with EMT/Paramedic degrees from a Mississippi community college between AY 2019 and AY 2021. These cohorts were selected to allow for a one-year post-graduation period to observe education and workforce pathways.

Graduates not Re-Enrolled in Postsecondary – Because students who continue pursuing postsecondary education are less likely to be engaged in the workforce, this analysis restricts the measurements of employment outcomes to the graduates who are not re-enrolled in other public postsecondary degree programs. This indicator measures the number of EMT/Paramedic graduates were not re-enrolled at a Mississippi public university or community college within one year of graduation.

Employed Graduates – The number of EMT/Paramedic graduates who did not re-enroll in a Mississippi public postsecondary institution, and who were employed with a Mississippi covered employer within one year of graduation.

Employment Rate – The percent of employed graduates, using the *Employed Graduates* as the numerator and the *Graduates not Re-Enrolled in Postsecondary* as the denominator.

Median Annual Earnings – The median annual earnings of EMT/Paramedic graduates employed with a Mississippi covered employer within one year of graduation.

RESULTS

Results show that an average of 108 students graduate from a Mississippi community college EMT/Paramedic program each year. This number has fluctuated between a low of 86 (in 2019), and a high of 139 (in 2023).

Of these students, the majority are not found to be re-enrolled in other Mississippi postsecondary programs, but are instead found to be employed with a covered Mississippi employer. Nearly 92 percent of graduates are employed within one year, with a median earning of \$49,000 annually.

**TABLE 1: MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATES,
EMT/PARAMEDIC PROGRAM***

Academic Year	Number of Graduates
2019	86
2020	109
2021	92
2022	113
2023	139
Annual Average	108

Source: Mississippi State Longitudinal Data System, 2023

* Number of graduates does not equal the total number of degrees awarded, as graduates may earn multiple degrees per academic year

TABLE 2: EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES OF GRADUATES WITHIN ONE YEAR OF GRADUATION

Academic Year	Graduates not Re-Enrolled	Employed Graduates	Employment Rate (%)	Median Annual Earnings
2019	74	70	94.6	\$49,476
2020	94	84	89.4	\$47,148
2021	77	72	93.5	\$52,227
Annual Average	82	75	91.5	\$49,216

Source: Mississippi State Longitudinal Data System, 2023

