



PMSC11001 Foundations of Paramedic Science

Term 1 - 2019

Profile information current as at 23/04/2024 10:14 pm

All details in this unit profile for PMSC11001 have been officially approved by CQU University and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

This unit will provide you with an introduction to Australian and International ambulance services and systems. Throughout this unit you will explore various aspects of professionalism, teamwork and the impacts of a career in the emergency service; this will allow you to develop strategies to enhance your personal safety, emotional well being and longevity in the paramedic field while ensuring patient management priorities are met. As part of this unit there will be an introduction to Indigenous health and culture as well as the legal and ethical frameworks of paramedicine to provide you with a solid foundation for future clinical practice. ***PLEASE NOTE* YOU MUST HAVE A CURRENT CERTIFIED FIRST AID CERTIFICATE (with current CPR) IN ORDER TO PROGRESS TO THE NEXT UNIT - PMSC11002 Foundations of Paramedic Clinical Practice.**

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 1*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 8

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

There are no requisites for this unit.

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 1 - 2019

- Online

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes - in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

[Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

[Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Online Quiz(zes)**

Weighting: 20%

2. **Online Quiz(zes)**

Weighting: 20%

3. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 60%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from Student Feedback

Feedback

Some links to learning materials did not work, and some information provided was out dated.

Recommendation

Make several different resources available to students and not just links to journals etc. Continue to update policies, procedures, Acts and regulations yearly.

Feedback from Student Feedback

Feedback

The resources provided in the unit far exceed what is required to complete an assessment piece.

Recommendation

The content will be broken down into separate categories eg. essential content and additional content on the Moodle page.

Feedback from Student Feedback

Feedback

Quizzes were not marked in an appropriate time frame.

Recommendation

Quiz due dates were extended due to poor completion by students and in consultation with the Head of Course.

Feedback from Student Feedback

Feedback

An important aspect was the teaching of self care. Everything was available to access on moodle and lecturer was easy to contact and informative. Even as a distance student, I felt involved and appreciated being regularly updated/checked on.

Recommendation

Invite the self care guest lecturer to return next year. Continue to make Moodle easy to access and navigate. Regular contact with students should continue.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Analyse the differences between Australian and international ambulance services
2. Discuss the potential health impacts of emergency work on paramedics
3. Explain the legal and ethical obligations of paramedic practice
4. Show consideration for Indigenous health and cultural impacts on paramedic practice.

The new learning outcomes align with the Council of Ambulance Authorities accreditation (CAA) standards of:

3.1.4 Collaboration with the ambulance sector.

3.1.5 Collaboration with the profession.

3.1.6 Interaction with other sectors.

The new learning outcomes also aligns with the CAA Paramedic Professional Competency Standards:

- professional expectations of a paramedic.
- makes informed and reasonable decisions.
- demonstrates professional autonomy and accountability.
- develops and maintains professional relationships.
- demonstrates the knowledge, understanding and skills required for practice.
- operates within a safe practice environment.
- identifies and assesses health and social needs in the context of the environment.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 20%	•			
2 - Online Quiz(zes) - 20%	•	•	•	•
3 - Written Assessment - 60%		•	•	•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Communication		•	•	
2 - Problem Solving	•	•	•	•
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•	•	•
4 - Information Literacy	•		•	•
5 - Team Work		•		
6 - Information Technology Competence	•			
7 - Cross Cultural Competence	•	•		•
8 - Ethical practice			•	•
9 - Social Innovation				
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures				

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 20%	•	•	•							
2 - Online Quiz(zes) - 20%	•	•	•		•		•	•		

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3 - Written Assessment - 60%	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

PMSC11001

Prescribed

Applied Paramedic Law and Ethics

(2012)

Authors: Townsend, R

Elsevier Australia

Sydney , NSW , Australia

ISBN: 9780729541343

Binding: Other

Additional Textbook Information

Copies can be purchased from the CQUni Bookshop here: <http://bookshop.cqu.edu.au> (search on the Unit code)

[View textbooks at the CQUniversity Bookshop](#)

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- Headset with working microphone

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Rosie McEachern Unit Coordinator

r.meachern@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 11 Mar 2019

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Welcome to Higher Education	Moodle resources	Pre-recorded lectures

Week 2 - 18 Mar 2019

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Australian Ambulance Services	Moodle resources	Pre-recorded lectures

Week 3 - 25 Mar 2019		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Rural & Remote Paramedic Practice	Moodle resources	Pre-recorded lectures
Week 4 - 01 Apr 2019		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Paramedic Registration & International EMS	Moodle resources	Pre-recorded lectures
Week 5 - 08 Apr 2019		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Looking After Yourself	Moodle resources	Pre-recorded lectures Quiz 1 Due: Week 5 Friday (12 Apr 2019) 5:00 pm AEST
Vacation Week - 15 Apr 2019		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Vacation Week.	Vacation Week.	Free study time
Week 6 - 22 Apr 2019		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Indigenous Healthcare & Cultural Sensitivity Part 1	Moodle resources	Pre-recorded lectures
Week 7 - 29 Apr 2019		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Indigenous Healthcare & Cultural Sensitivity Part 2	Chapter 11 - Employment and industrial law in paramedic practice Chapter 12 - Record keeping and the patient health care record Moodle resources	Pre-recorded lectures
Week 8 - 06 May 2019		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Law & Ethics Part 1	Chapter 2 - An introduction to ethics for paramedics Chapter 7 - The tort of negligence, standards of care and vicarious liability Chapter 10 - The mental health patient in the prehospital emergency care setting	Pre-recorded lectures
Week 9 - 13 May 2019		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Law & Ethics Part 2	Chapter 6 - Consent and refusal of care Chapter 8 - End of life care Chapter 12 - Record keeping and the patient health care record	Pre-recorded lectures Quiz 2 Due: Week 9 Friday (17 May 2019) 5:00 pm AEST
Week 10 - 20 May 2019		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Health Impacts Part 1	Moodle resources	Pre-recorded lectures
Week 11 - 27 May 2019		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Health Impacts Part 2

Moodle resources

Pre-recorded lectures

Written Assessment Due: Week 11
Friday (31 May 2019) 5:00 pm AEST

Week 12 - 03 Jun 2019

Module/Topic

Chapter

Events and Submissions/Topic

Study Week

Study time

Review/Exam Week - 10 Jun 2019

Module/Topic

Chapter

Events and Submissions/Topic

Exam Week - 17 Jun 2019

Module/Topic

Chapter

Events and Submissions/Topic

Assessment Tasks

1 Quiz 1

Assessment Type

Online Quiz(zes)

Task Description

You will be required to complete two (2) online quizzes; the first will close at the end of Week 5; the second at the end of Week 9. The quizzes will open on the Friday of the preceding week to when the quiz is due, and each will have a specific time limit imposed.

The quizzes will be made up of multiple choice and short answer questions exploring content based upon the previous weeks (including lecture materials, online modules, links & required readings). Quizzes are cumulative and content will aggregate across the term.

Number of Quizzes

1

Frequency of Quizzes

Assessment Due Date

Week 5 Friday (12 Apr 2019) 5:00 pm AEST

Without an approved extension from the Unit Coordinator no late submissions will be accepted.

Return Date to Students

Two weeks post due date

Weighting

20%

Minimum mark or grade

50% - Students are reminded to attain a passing grade in this unit you are required to attain a minimum mark of 50% for each assessment task.

Assessment Criteria

You will be required to answer each question to receive the marks allocated to that question. Non-attempts will score a zero mark. Quizzes may not be reattempted. This is an individual assessment with no collaboration allowed.

Each quiz is worth 20% of your overall mark for this unit. The first quiz must be completed by 5.00pm AEST on the Friday of Week 5; the second quiz must be completed by 5.00pm AEST on the Friday of Week 9. In the absence of an approved extension, there will be no opportunity to complete the task after this date, and there will be no opportunity to apply a late penalty of five percent per day.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Analyse the differences between Australian and international ambulance services

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking

2 Quiz 2

Assessment Type

Online Quiz(zes)

Task Description

You will be required to complete two (2) online quizzes; the first will close at the end of Week 5; the second at the end of Week 9. The quizzes will open on the Friday of the preceding week to when the quiz is due, and each will have a specific time limit imposed.

The quizzes will be made up of multiple choice and short answer questions exploring content based upon the previous weeks of content (including lecture materials, online modules, links & required readings). Quizzes are cumulative and content will aggregate across the term.

Number of Quizzes

1

Frequency of Quizzes

Assessment Due Date

Week 9 Friday (17 May 2019) 5:00 pm AEST

Without an approved extension from the Unit Coordinator no late submissions will be accepted.

Return Date to Students

Two weeks post due date

Weighting

20%

Minimum mark or grade

50% - Students are reminded to attain a passing grade in this unit you are required to attain a minimum mark of 50% for each assessment task.

Assessment Criteria

You will be required to answer each question to receive the marks allocated to that question. Non-attempts will score a zero mark. Quizzes may not be reattempted. This is an individual assessment with no collaboration allowed.

Each quiz is worth 20% of your overall mark for this unit. The first quiz must be completed by 5.00pm AEST on the Friday of Week 5; the second quiz must be completed by 5.00pm AEST on the Friday of Week 9. In the absence of an approved extension, there will be no opportunity to complete the task after this date, and there will be no opportunity to apply a late penalty of five percent per day.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Analyse the differences between Australian and international ambulance services
- Discuss the potential health impacts of emergency work on paramedics
- Explain the legal and ethical obligations of paramedic practice
- Show consideration for Indigenous health and cultural impacts on paramedic practice.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Team Work
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

3 Written Assessment

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

Assessment Scenario Outline

You have just commenced a 2-week posting on Thursday Island, the main populated island of the Torres Strait, situated between the tip of Cape York and Papua New Guinea. You and your partner are both on call after a 12-hour day shift and respond together at 2300 to a Code 1, road traffic crash (RTC) on the esplanade, only a kilometre away from Thursday Island hospital.

As your partner picks you up from your residence to attend the case, he reminds you he has been flying in the helicopter most of last night and all day long, insisting you 'do everything, I'm too stuffed to do anything on this job'. There is no backup available as you are the only two paramedics currently on the island which has a population of approximately 2600 residents, mainly of Torres Strait Islander descent. You also notice he is not wearing his seat belt. When you remind him to put it on, he replies: 'we're on TI now, mainland road rules don't apply up here, relax - It's just down the road!'.

As you arrive on scene, there appears to be a single vehicle verses light pole, with significant damage to the front passenger side of the vehicle. Your partner parks a safe distance away and leaves the headlights on towards the poorly lit accident scene. There is a young adolescent male (driver of the vehicle) walking around the side of the car and leaning into the front passenger side, where you see a young female patient entrapped but conscious. The rear of the car has spun and displaced a guide rail on the side of the road and precariously close to the elevated rock retaining wall separating the road from the beach front.

You notice your partner is not wearing a high visibility vest or gloves, and his work boots have been replaced with thongs. You are then directed to a 14-year old Indigenous female entrapped in the passenger side and commence your assessment to discover a compound fracture to her left arm with embedded glass fragments in both arms, face and chest, but no profuse external bleeding at this stage. You notice the heavy odour of alcohol and see many empty bottles of beer scattered throughout the vehicle. As you are assessing the entrapped patient, the Aunty arrives on scene and quickly becomes very anxious and yelling obscenities at the male driver of the car. The Aunty then heads towards you and her niece, appearing distressed and upset that you are speaking to the patient on her own. The patient is alert but not making eye contact with you or attempting to answer any of your questions.

Assessment Requirements

This task has four components.

1. What legislations and policies has the second officer (your partner in the scenario) breached and what are the possible consequences of these breaches?
 2. With reference to the case, identify any workplace health and safety issues you might face and what impact that may have on your patient treatment.
 3. The male person on-scene is complaining of abdominal pain, but refuses any treatment or transport going *against your advice*. As you're speaking to him he has a strong odour of alcohol on his breath. He has obvious bruising to his abdomen consistent with a seat belt injury. Using Queensland Ambulance Service protocols as a guide - discuss what steps you would need to take to ensure you have met your duty of care and that the patient is giving a valid refusal. Include in this task the information you would need to document in your patient care records.
1. What cultural considerations would you need to be aware of in this case when assessing the Indigenous patient and interacting with her family?

Assessment Due Date

Week 11 Friday (31 May 2019) 5:00 pm AEST

Without an approved extension from the Unit Coordinator no late submissions will be accepted.

Return Date to Students

Review/Exam Week Friday (14 June 2019)

Two weeks post due date

Weighting

60%

Minimum mark or grade

50% - Students are reminded to attain a passing grade in this unit you are required to attain a minimum mark of 50% for each assessment task.

Assessment Criteria

This assessment is worth 60% of your overall mark for this unit. The written assessment will be assessed using the rubric provided on the unit Moodle page, covering the following areas:

- Presentation & layout – presentation of material and word count

- Content - based upon the set questions & use of supportive material
- Grammar & Spelling
- Referencing - use of APA in text referencing and reference list

You must achieve a minimum mark of 50% to pass this assessment piece.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 6th Edition \(APA 6th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Discuss the potential health impacts of emergency work on paramedics
- Explain the legal and ethical obligations of paramedic practice
- Show consideration for Indigenous health and cultural impacts on paramedic practice.

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Team Work
- Information Technology Competence
- Cross Cultural Competence
- Ethical practice

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?



Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem