



# PMSC20007 Aeromedical, Retrieval and Tactical Medicine

## Term 1 - 2021

Profile information current as at 19/09/2025 10:58 am

All details in this unit profile for PMSC20007 have been officially approved by CQUUniversity 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 give you the specific knowledge and skills to function in aeromedical, retrieval and tactical medicine areas as a critical care paramedic. The unit looks at the core aspects of aeromedical and retrieval medicine covering physics, planning and preparing strategies for successful operations within aeromedical, retrieval and tactical areas, rotary vs fixed wing transport, functioning in confined or limited spaces, human factors and operational concerns, the clinical issues, risks and challenges involved in transporting critically ill patients in the aeromedical environments. You will demonstrate an understanding of the concepts regarding risk analysis, safety concerns, teamwork and identify the effective communication and collaboration skills utilised within aeromedical, retrieval and tactical environments.

### Details

Career Level: *Postgraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 8*

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 - 2021

- 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 Postgraduate 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. **Presentation**

Weighting: 30%

#### 2. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

#### 3. **Portfolio**

Weighting: 40%

### 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 Have your Say

**Feedback**

I enjoyed the use of guest lecturers who are currently employed within the specialty field of aeromedicine.

**Recommendation**

We will continue to include these specialty resources within the unit.

#### Feedback from Have your Say

**Feedback**

I appreciated how approachable the Unit coordinator was and how understanding they were of real-world issues that may be impacting on students within the prehospital profession.

**Recommendation**

Continue to offer students academic support, acknowledging the challenges that affect their studies.

## Unit Learning Outcomes

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

1. Plan, prepare and implement strategies for successful operation within aeromedical, retrieval or tactical areas
2. Integrate critical care clinical knowledge and functionality in aeromedical, retrieval and tactical operations
3. Identify communication and collaborative skills utilised within aeromedical, retrieval and tactical environments
4. Examine the clinical issues, risks and challenges involved in transporting critically ill patients in the aeromedical environment
5. Develop an understanding of the concepts of risk analysis, team safety and teamwork in the aeromedical, retrieval and tactical environment.

A Graduate Diploma is now the standard requirement for many state ambulance services for advanced positions in the paramedic field. These positions have speciality areas that include aeromedical, retrieval and tactical areas.



## Textbooks and Resources

### Textbooks

**There are no required textbooks.**

### IT Resources

**You will need access to the following IT resources:**

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

## Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)  
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

## Teaching Contacts

**Natalee Williams-Claassen** Unit Coordinator  
[n.williams-claassen@cqu.edu.au](mailto:n.williams-claassen@cqu.edu.au)

## Schedule

### Week 1 - 08 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Introduction and Crew Resource Management		

### Week 2 - 15 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Introduction and Crew Resource Management		

### Week 3 - 22 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Flight Physiology		

### Week 4 - 29 Mar 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Patient Preparation		

### Week 5 - 05 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Aeromedical Trauma Cases		

### Vacation Week - 12 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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### Week 6 - 19 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
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In-flight Emergencies

**Presentation** Due: Week 6  
Wednesday (21 Apr 2021) 11:45 pm  
AEST

#### Week 7 - 26 Apr 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Fixed wings retrievals		

#### Week 8 - 03 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Special Operations Rescue		

#### Week 9 - 10 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Tactical Medicine Introduction		

**Case Report - Risk Analysis** Due:  
Week 9 Wednesday (12 May 2021)  
11:45 pm AEST

#### Week 10 - 17 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Tactical Medicine Introduction		

#### Week 11 - 24 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Tactical Medicine		

#### Week 12 - 31 May 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Tactical Medicine		

**Portfolio** Due: Week 12 Wednesday  
(2 June 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

#### Review/Exam Week - 07 Jun 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

#### Exam Week - 14 Jun 2021

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

## Assessment Tasks

### 1 Presentation

#### Assessment Type

Presentation

#### Task Description

##### Preamble

In the critical care context, you will integrate clinical knowledge and functionality, identify effective communication and collaborative skills and examine the clinical issues, risks and challenges involved in the transporting critically ill patients, while demonstrating an understanding of the concepts of risk analysis, team safety and teamwork in aeromedical, retrieval and tactical environment.

##### Task Description

In this assessment, you will need to create a PowerPoint case presentation describing a particular aeromedical, retrieval, or tactical agency that employs paramedics. It is not limited to Australia (or your local service) and can be any entity across the globe that has a role in paramedic driven aeromedical, retrieval, or tactical medicine.

The PowerPoint presentation must include the following information:

- History of the service.

- Capabilities and limitations of the service.
- A description of the communications and collaboration skills utilized by this service and the clinical skills, training and knowledge of the paramedics involved.
- Clinical issues, risks and challenges involved including, but not limited to:
  - Types of patients transported or treated in the field
  - Specific safety issues faced by the paramedic, team or service
  - Potential law or administration concerns (such as accreditation, international or state boundaries, etc.)
  - Health and fitness requirements of the personnel.

#### **Assessment Due Date**

Week 6 Wednesday (21 Apr 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

#### **Return Date to Students**

Week 8 Thursday (6 May 2021)

#### **Weighting**

30%

#### **Minimum mark or grade**

50%

#### **Assessment Criteria**

##### **Assessment Criteria**

The presentation will be assessed in accordance with the rubric and information provided on the unit's Moodle page. The following criteria are key points to be included:

- The presentation should be in a PowerPoint format.
- Recorded narration is required and you can use the Notes section to detail your thinking.
- The presentation must address each of the main topic tasks as detailed in the task description.
- Avoid superficial points or comments.

As this is a presentation, you should include images where appropriate, but these must be referenced.

The presentation has no specified length in regards to the number of slides used but the recorded presentation must be approximately twenty (20) minutes.

This presentation is worth 30% of your overall unit mark.

#### **Referencing Style**

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

#### **Submission**

Online

#### **Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Integrate critical care clinical knowledge and functionality in aeromedical, retrieval and tactical operations
- Identify communication and collaborative skills utilised within aeromedical, retrieval and tactical environments
- Examine the clinical issues, risks and challenges involved in transporting critically ill patients in the aeromedical environment

#### **Graduate Attributes**

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- Self-management
- Ethical and Professional Responsibility
- Leadership

## **2 Case Report - Risk Analysis**

#### **Assessment Type**

Written Assessment

#### **Task Description**

In this assessment, you will be given a case briefing for an aeromedical scenario. From there, you will create a risk analysis for the successful retrieval and transport of the patient in the scenario. You are required to explain the risks associated with this patient management and retrieval and if/how these risks can be mitigated by addressing the following main points:

- Potential issues or hazards regarding the mission (i.e. distance, weather, personnel needed, equipment checks, etc.).

· Potential clinical issues, risks and challenges associated with transporting this patient (i.e. stability, deterioration, physics, health concerns, stressors, etc.).  
You are also required to take into account: preparation, communication and planning, crew resource management, flight physiology, and in-flight emergencies.

#### **Assessment Due Date**

Week 9 Wednesday (12 May 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

#### **Return Date to Students**

Week 11 Thursday (27 May 2021)

#### **Weighting**

30%

#### **Minimum mark or grade**

50%

#### **Assessment Criteria**

The case report will be assessed in accordance with the rubric and information provided on the unit's Moodle page. The following criteria are key points to be included:

- The case report should be presented in an essay format.
- The case report must address each of the main topic tasks as detailed in the task description.
- Avoid superficial points or comments and be clear and concise.
- As this is a written assessment, you must include in-text referencing and a reference list.

There is minimum word limit of 2000 words and a maximum word limit of 3000 words for your risk analysis case report. The case report document is worth 30% of your overall unit mark.

#### **Referencing Style**

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

#### **Submission**

Online

#### **Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Plan, prepare and implement strategies for successful operation within aeromedical, retrieval or tactical areas
- Integrate critical care clinical knowledge and functionality in aeromedical, retrieval and tactical operations
- Examine the clinical issues, risks and challenges involved in transporting critically ill patients in the aeromedical environment
- Develop an understanding of the concepts of risk analysis, team safety and teamwork in the aeromedical, retrieval and tactical environment.

#### **Graduate Attributes**

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- Self-management
- Ethical and Professional Responsibility
- Leadership

## **3 Portfolio**

#### **Assessment Type**

Portfolio

#### **Task Description**

This assessment requires two tasks.

Firstly, you are required to arrange an observation site visit or tour to any of the following areas:

- Any paramedic based aeromedical unit including EMQ, NSW HEMS, RACQ, MedStar, etc.
- Any fixed-wing service such as an RFDS unit
- Any police service that supports paramedics, has an aeromedical or medical unit or has a tactical unit

Others may be accepted, but will need to be approved by Unit Coordinator prior to the site visit.

**Please take note that the site visit is not designed to be formal placements or ride-along with QAS, NSW Ambulance or any other ambulance service, aeromedical or tactical entity.** The goal of this site visit is for you to directly observe and reflect upon critical care paramedics in one of our specialty areas.

**Please provide evidence of attendance.**

Secondly, you will need to critically discuss the following items in relation to the service that you visited:

- Role and responsibilities of the CCPs (or other advanced practice clinicians) involved.
- The CCP's unique role in the aeromedical, retrieval or tactical environment (i.e. rescue trained, additional skills, experience or other qualifications required, combat-trained, etc.).
- The other personnel involved and how they collaborate, communicate and function with the CCP (or other advanced practice clinicians).
- The transport units involved (i.e. described the rotatory or fixed-wing craft or tactical vehicle used) and their considerations such as capabilities, range (distance able to travel), operating space, maximum occupancy, landing requirements, noise, pressurization, etc.
- Specialty equipment used (i.e. medical devices, retrieval equipment, point of care devices, etc.).
- Dispatch and TeleHealth (consultation) capabilities.

**Assessment Due Date**

Week 12 Wednesday (2 June 2021) 11:45 pm AEST

**Return Date to Students**

Exam Week Thursday (17 June 2021)

**Weighting**

40%

**Minimum mark or grade**

50%

**Assessment Criteria**

**Assessment Criteria**

The portfolio will be assessed in accordance with the rubric and information provided on the unit's Moodle page. The following criteria are key points to be included:

- The portfolio should be presented in an essay format.
- The portfolio must address each of the main topic tasks as detailed in the task description.
- Avoid superficial points or comments and be clear and concise.
- As this is a written assessment, you must include in-text referencing and a reference list.
- Images can be included where appropriate, but these must be referenced.

There is a minimum word count of 2000 words and a maximum word limit of 3000 words.

This portfolio is worth 40% of your overall unit mark.

**Referencing Style**

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

**Submission**

Online

**Learning Outcomes Assessed**

- Plan, prepare and implement strategies for successful operation within aeromedical, retrieval or tactical areas
- Identify communication and collaborative skills utilised within aeromedical, retrieval and tactical environments
- Develop an understanding of the concepts of risk analysis, team safety and teamwork in the aeromedical, retrieval and tactical environment.

**Graduate Attributes**

- Knowledge
- Communication
- Cognitive, technical and creative skills
- Research
- Self-management
- Ethical and Professional Responsibility
- Leadership

## 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