



COURSE OUTLINE

PAR101 Paramedic Professional Studies

Course Coordinator: Belinda Flanagan (bflanaga@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine

2021 | Semester 1

USC Sunshine Coast

ON CAMPUS

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to the USC website for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

This is a foundation course in paramedic professional studies, designed to introduce you to concepts crucial to the rapidly evolving field of paramedic practice. This course will empower you with the key concepts and skills in paramedic professional practice. This course will introduce you to the nature of paramedic practice, foundational clinical skills; evidence based patient care, systems of health care delivery, professional communication skills and workplace health and safety.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ON CAMPUS			
Lecture	2hrs	Week 1	12 times
Laboratory	3hrs	Week 1	13 times

1.3. Course Topics

- History of prehospital ambulance care & the profession
- History & orientation to the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS)
- Paramedic professional values, attitudes & attributes
- Paramedic as a profession & the expanding role of paramedics in health care
- Introduction to contemporary primary care practice
- Introduction to basic emergency care and resuscitation
- Introduction to WH&S & risk assessment
- Introduction to clinical governance & models of health service delivery
- Health politics & the economics of health service delivery
- Professional development & paramedic as life-long learners & reflective practitioners
- Professional communication and problem solving
- Foundation paramedic clinical skills
- Introduction to evidence based practice

2. What level is this course?

100 Level (Introductory)

Engaging with discipline knowledge and skills at foundational level, broad application of knowledge and skills in familiar contexts and with support. Limited or no prerequisites. Normally, associated with the first full-time study year of an undergraduate program.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...
1 Identify, compare and collate information to construct an understanding of the role of the professional paramedic within community-based health systems.	Knowledgeable
2 Perform foundational paramedic technical and non-technical skills within current clinical scope of practice to a safe and documented standard.	Empowered
3 Use a systematic approach to: perform a standard health assessment, select appropriate basic life support techniques and when necessary identify faults to modify technique and remedy equipment failure.	Empowered
4 Explain and use medical terminology in communication to express a patient's health care status, and apply structured communication techniques to effectively report clinical and operational information.	Empowered
5 Locate and understand industry standards on health and safety legislation, infection control procedures and manual tasking techniques, and perform professional duties while complying with these standards.	Knowledgeable

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [USC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of "pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites".

5.1. Pre-requisites

Enrolled in Program SC395

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

A summative quiz and formative assessment of practical skills will be provided in week 3.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Quiz/zes	Individual	20%	2 X Quizzes 20 questions each	Refer to Format	Online Test (Quiz)
All	2	Case Study	Individual	40%	Two separate case study submissions: Total 1,000 words	Refer to Format	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Practical / Laboratory Skills	Individual	40%	30 minutes	Exam Period	Exam Venue

All - Assessment Task 1: Quizzes

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to develop non-technical skills to develop your professional clinical scope of practice.									
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes									
FORMAT:	<p>SUBMIT: Week 3 and Week 8</p> <p>Both tasks require responses to Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs), Task A in class and Task B online via Blackboard. You will complete the quiz individually within a limited timeframe.</p> <p>1a: On medical terminology to enhance your ongoing learning of anatomy and physiology as well as professionally communicate clinical information regarding a patient's healthcare issues and needs.</p> <p>1b: On your knowledge of the elements of a systematic approach to a patient's health assessment and identification of normal vital sign parameters.</p>									
CRITERIA:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th>Learning Outcome assessed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Explanation and use of medical terminology</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Knowledge of a foundational systematic approach to health assessment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Assessment criteria are mapped to the course learning outcomes. 1 2 3 4 5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.	Learning Outcome assessed	1	Explanation and use of medical terminology	2	Knowledge of a foundational systematic approach to health assessment	3	Assessment criteria are mapped to the course learning outcomes. 1 2 3 4 5	
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All - Assessment Task 2: Case study based reports

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to develop information literacy skills and evidence-based practice to ensure safe and compliant practice. The task guides your understanding of the role of the professional paramedic.	
PRODUCT:	Case Study	
FORMAT:	<p>SUBMIT: Week 5 and Week 11</p> <p>You will individually submit, via SafeAssign, two separate written reports, each based on a case study.</p> <p>2a: You will locate and explain relevant literature, evidence based standards and guidelines applicable to paramedic practice. The information you locate will increase your awareness of your responsibilities to operate within a safe practice environment.</p> <p>2b: Using a case study you will report on the rapidly evolving professional paramedic role to the community and within the larger healthcare system</p>	

CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Construction of a contemporary understanding of paramedics and paramedicine using relevant literature
	2	Identification, retrieval and explanation of relevant information using cultural and ethical standards
	3	Communication of new knowledge using own language
	4	Accuracy of referencing in Vancouver style

All - Assessment Task 3: Focused Skills Assessment

GOAL:	The goal of this task is to develop and safely perform skills required at an introductory scope of clinical practice.	
PRODUCT:	Practical / Laboratory Skills	
FORMAT:	Focused Skill Assessment: You will perform the task as an individual responder to a simulated health emergency. You are expected to perform a foundational health assessment, and basic life support skills to a safe standard within your current scope of practice. These skills provide a structure to determine the health needs and management of your patient. Demonstration of safe application of these skills will allow you to support your paramedic mentor during placement while under direct supervision.	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Performance of basic life support technical, and non-technical, skills to a safe standard.
	2	Application of knowledge during standard and unfamiliar situations
	3	Performance of systematic approach to problem solving and fault remedy
	4	Compliance to regulatory bodies guidelines and legislation of safe working environment and infection control procedures

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Directed study hours may vary by location. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Blackboard site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below. Resources may be required or recommended.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	PUBLISHER
Required	Curtis, K., Ramsden, C., Shaban, R., Fry, M., & Considine, J.	2019	Emergency and trauma care for nurses and paramedics	Elsevier

8.2. Specific requirements

The paramedic program requires certain mandatory requirements which you should be familiar with and may affect your future progress through the program and/or on placement.

Mandatory and Professional Requirements: Students need to be aware of the mandatory requirements outlined on the Paramedic Science – Clinical Practicums page <https://www.usc.edu.au/learn/courses-and-programs/work-integrated-learning-wil/paramedic-science-clinical-practicums#clinical-placement-mandatory-requirements>. In addition, you must be aware of the conditions that may result in you being withdrawn from clinical placement.

Prior to enrolling in the Bachelor of Paramedic Science degree at the USC, you were asked to read the inherent academic requirements listed in this statement and think about whether you might experience challenges in meeting them. <https://www.usc.edu.au/learn/student-support/inherent-academic-requirements/bachelor-of-paramedic-science-inherent-academic-requirements>

If you think you might experience challenges related to your disability, health condition or for any other reason, you should discuss your concerns with a University Disability Adviser or Faculty staff.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all laboratory classes and a low level of health and safety risk exists. Some risk concerns may include equipment, instruments, and tools; as well as manual handling items within the laboratory. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Blackboard, are electronically checked through SafeAssign. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work that SafeAssign has access to.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%

The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks may be penalised at the following maximum rate:

- 5% (of the assessment task's identified value) per day for the first two days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- 10% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the third day - 20% (of the assessment task's identified value) for the fourth day and subsequent days up to and including seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task.

- A result of zero is awarded for an assessment task submitted after seven days from the date identified as the due date for the assessment task. Weekdays and weekends are included in the calculation of days late. To request an extension you must contact your course coordinator to negotiate an outcome.

10.4. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.6. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, , injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.7. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Administration of Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Academic Misconduct
- Students with a Disability

Visit the USC website: <http://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.8. General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **USC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **USC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **USC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **USC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au