



COURSE OUTLINE

PAR302 Substance Misuse and Toxicology

Course Coordinator: Lisa Clegg (lbowerma@usc.edu.au) **School:** School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine

2021 | Session 5

Online

ONLINE 1

You can do this course without coming onto campus.

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

Paramedic practice requires an understanding of the effect that substance abuse has on individuals and the community. You will investigate the social, ethical and legal aspects to drug use and abuse at an individual, family and community level. Harm minimisation strategies including detoxification will be studied, and students will develop an understanding of their role in caring for individuals with alteration in health due to drug toxicity or drug withdrawal. You will also investigate the assessment and care of poisoned patients, including cases of envenomation.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
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1.3. Course Topics

Drugs in society.

Political, cultural, social, legal and ethical dimensions of drug abuse and the effectiveness of harm minimisation strategies.

Addiction, dependence and tolerance.

Physiological and social effects of drug addiction.

The influence of health provider beliefs on the assessment and care of individuals with a history of drug abuse.

Drug and alcohol rehabilitation processes and the risks associated with rapid detoxification.

Drug use and abuse within the healthcare industry and the implications for harm.

Communication and understanding a whole person approach to assessment, diagnosis and management.

Assessment and safe management of a patient with drug toxicity, poisoning or envenomation.

2. What level is this course?

300 Level (Graduate)

Demonstrating coherence and breadth or depth of knowledge and skills. Independent application of knowledge and skills in unfamiliar contexts. Meeting professional requirements and AQF descriptors for the degree. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory or developing knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally undertaken in the third or fourth 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 Analyse the multiple dimensions of drug abuse in the community and the effectiveness of harm minimisation strategies.	Creative and critical thinker Sustainability-focused
2 Discuss drug use and abuse within the healthcare industry and the implications for harm.	Creative and critical thinker
3 Describe the physiological and social effects of drug addiction.	Knowledgeable
4 Describe drug and alcohol recovery processes and the risks associated with rapid detoxification.	Knowledgeable
5 Describe effective and appropriate communication with a patient experiencing illness associated with drug abuse.	Empowered
6 Describe the assessment and safe management of a patient with drug toxicity, poisoning or envenomation.	Empowered

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

BIM263 and HLT221 and 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

In week 4 students will be able to undertake an online formative quiz which will provide feedback with regards to their first 3 weeks in the course.

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	1a	Quiz/zes	Individual	0%	Varied	Week 2	Online Assignment Submission
All	1b	Examination	Individual	20%	Varied	Week 4	Online Assignment Submission
All	1c	Examination	Individual	30%	Varied	Week 8	Online Assignment Submission
All	2	Report	Individual	50%	Varied	Week 8	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1a: Quiz

GOAL:	This task assesses your understanding of the key knowledge areas of this course including social effects of drug addiction, drug addiction knowledge, drug and alcohol recovery, and risks associated with rapid detoxication. The format is multiple choice questions. This is an open-book test that is completed online via Blackboard	
PRODUCT:	Quiz/zes	
FORMAT:	Multiple choice test: Self-assessment quiz - find the gaps in your learning - 20 items	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Disciplinary theory and practice (Knowledgeable)
	2	Solve clinical problems (Creative and Critical Thinking)
	3	Analysis of drug abuse (Creative and Critical Thinking)
	4	Management of addiction (Knowledgeable)
	5	Self-assessment Quiz 1 3 4

All - Assessment Task 1b: Exam 1

GOAL:	This task assesses your understanding of the key knowledge areas of this course including social effects of drug addiction, drug addiction knowledge, drug and alcohol recovery, and risks associated with rapid detoxication. The format is multiple choice questions. This is an open-book test that is completed online via Blackboard	
PRODUCT:	Examination	
FORMAT:	Multiple choice tests: Mid-term exam – 20%	
CRITERIA:	No.	Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Disciplinary theory and practice
	2	Solve clinical problem
	3	Analysis of drug abuse
	4	Management of addiction
	5	Assessment criteria are mapped to the course learning outcomes. As per 1a.
	6	Mid-term Exam 1 3 4

All - Assessment Task 1c: Exam 2

GOAL:	This task assesses your understanding of the key knowledge areas of this course including social effects of drug addiction, drug addiction knowledge, drug and alcohol recovery, and risks associated with rapid detoxication. The format is multiple choice questions. This is an open-book test that is completed online via Blackboard		
PRODUCT:	Examination		
FORMAT:	Multiple choice tests: Final exam – 30%		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Disciplinary theory and practice	
	2	Solve clinical problems	
	3	Analysis of drug abuse	
	4	Management of addiction	
	5	Assessment criteria are mapped to the course learning outcomes. As per assessment 1a	
	6	Final Exam	1 3 4

All - Assessment Task 2: Assessment Task 2: Report

GOAL:	The aim of the report is to investigate a specific topic relating to drug abuse in the community or the management of overdose, poisoning or envenomation. The report is designed to be presented at a paramedic conference and should aim to inform the audience of contemporary evidence-based practice in the selected area of investigation.		
PRODUCT:	Report		
FORMAT:	Academic Product, 2500 words Academic referencing Electronic format in Word or PDF format submitted via Safe Assign.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Report	1 2 3 4 5 6

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
Recommended	Cameron, P et al.	2014	Textbook of Adult Emergency Medicine	Churchill Livingstone
Recommended	Curtis K, Ramsden C.	2011	Emergency and trauma care for nurses and paramedic	Elsevier
Recommended	Queensland Ambulance Service	2019	Clinical Guidelines Manual.	Department of Emergency Services

8.2. Specific requirements

Not applicable

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety 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

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