Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic) (PU46)

Year offered: 2010
Admissions: Yes
Course duration (full-time): 3 years
Domestic fees (indicative): 2010: CSP $3,500 (indicative) per semester
Domestic Entry: February
QTAC code: 425592
Past rank cut-off: 84
Past OP cut-off: 9
Assumed knowledge: English (4, SA)
Preparatory studies: For information on acquiring assumed knowledge visit http://www.studentservices.qut.edu.au/apply/ug/info/knowledge.jsp
Total credit points: 288
Standard credit points per full-time semester: 48
Course coordinator: Mrs Melinda Service
Campus: Kelvin Grove

Overview

Paramedics are employed within ambulance services to minimise pain, suffering and loss of life for patients needing pre-hospital care, emergency medical response and specialised transportation.

NOTE: The third year of this program is under review and is expected to change for students entering from 2010. Further information will be available later in 2010.

Why choose this course?

This course was Queensland's first degree in paramedic practice. If you are interested in a dynamic career helping to save lives, then this course may be for you.

The first year of the course provides foundation studies in the anatomy and physiology of the human body and an introduction to pathology, pathophysiology, pharmacology and clinical practice. Second and third years continue to develop the theoretical studies with increasing emphasis on clinical skills and practice with the final year involving supervised clinical practice with the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS).

Career Options

The course is designed to provide graduates with the skills, knowledge and qualifications to pursue a career as an ambulance paramedic with agencies such as the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS). The course includes supervised clinical practice with QAS and in other clinical settings.

Other course requirements

The Queensland Ambulance Service specifies the following requirements before students can undertake a clinical placement with this Service. Information outlining these requirements will be available to all prospective applicants. Students will be provided with detailed information during semester one of first year.

a) Health Assessment - One role performed by paramedics is patient transport involving the use of a commercial vehicle. This requires different medical standards than those required of a private vehicle driver. Student paramedics may be required to drive an ambulance while undertaking the clinical practice units and as such will be required to undergo an "Assessment of Fitness to Drive a commercial vehicle" by a medical practitioner. All costs associated with health assessment are the responsibility of the applicant.

b) Criminal History - Applicants will be required to have a Police Records Check undertaken with the associated costs being the responsibility of the applicant.

c) Blue card - as required by the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act (2000) students must be issued with a Suitability Care (Blue Card) before commencing field experience/practicum in an organisation where they may work with children or young people. This is a mandatory requirement that must be met prior to undertaking any field experience/practicum program throughout your course. For more information, visit www.bluecard.qut.com.

d) Manual Driver's Licence - Students will be required to hold a current manual driver's licence (provisional is acceptable) before commencing the emergency driver education course associated with the first clinical placement unit.

e) Health Related Fitness Assessment - A large component of a Paramedic's work involves manual handling, which is defined as any activity requiring a person to lift, lower, pull, carry, move, hold or restrain any animate or inanimate object. Paramedics frequently perform all of these functions with patients weighing up to and over 150kg, while implementing various pre-hospital emergency care procedures. As such, students will be required to undergo a fitness assessment to ensure they possess the cardiovascular and muscular abilities to perform the role of a Paramedic.

f) Immunisations - It is a requirement for any student to be immunised against Hepatitis B before undertaking a placement in a Queensland Health facility. In addition to the above, QAS strongly advises students to be immunised...
against the following before undertaking a clinical placement: Tetanus, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Poliomyelitis.

g) Psychometric assessment (prerequisite for PUB670)

You will be required to cover additional costs associated with this course including the requirements above (total cost approximately $500).

### Professional recognition

Graduates from this course will be eligible for membership of the Australian College of Ambulance Professionals (ACA).

### OP Guarantee

The OP Guarantee does not apply to this course.

### Deferment

QUT allows current Year 12 school leavers to defer their undergraduate admission offer for one year, or for six months if offered mid-year admission, except in courses using specific admission requirements such as questionnaires, folios, auditions, prior study or work experience.

Non-year 12 students may also request to defer their QTAC offer on the basis of demonstrated special circumstances.

Find out more on deferment.

### International student entry

This course is not available for international student entry.

### Further information

For more information about this course, please call the School of Public Health Student Centre on +617 3138 3368 or sph.studentcentre@qut.edu.au

### Course structure - 3 Year Full-time Program

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<td>PUB104</td>
<td>Australian Health Care Systems</td>
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<td>PUB180</td>
<td>Foundations of Paramedic Practice 1</td>
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<td>PUB251</td>
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<td>PUB280</td>
<td>Foundations of Paramedic Practice 2</td>
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### Health Unit prerequisites/corequisites

For information on prereqs & coreqs visit: [www.hlth.qut.edu.au/study/forcurrentstudents/](http://www.hlth.qut.edu.au/study/forcurrentstudents/)

### Potential Careers:

Paramedic.

### UNIT SYNOPSES

**LSB182 BIOSCIENCE 1**
This unit develops an understanding of normal human structures in relation to their functions at the cellular, tissue and organ levels. This is a foundation course in anatomy and physiology for nursing students. Topics covered are: the cell, tissues; systems of the body and their functions; surface anatomy and body topography; musculoskeletal adaptations; posture control and balance.

Antirequisites: LSB131, LSB142  Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 5 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove and Caboolture  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1 and 2010 SEM-2

**LSB282 BIOSCIENCE 2**

This unit includes the introduction to diseases, infections and treatments and the body defence systems and control of infection and considers in depth the respiratory and cardiovascular systems and diseases which affect these systems.

Prerequisites: LSB182 or (LSB131 and LSB231)  Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 4 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove and Caboolture  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

**LSB382 BIOSCIENCE 3**

This Bioscience unit is based on previous studies in anatomy, physiology and microbiology. It includes: the physiology, pathophysiology and pharmacology of diseases (including infectious diseases) of the nervous, reproductive, gastrointestinal and renal system. Also covered are diabetes; diseases of joints; obesity and its effects on the body; physiological demands of exercise.

Prerequisites: LSB182 or LSB131  Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 5 per week  Campus: Gardens Point and Caboolture  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

**LSB384 PHARMACOLOGY FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS**

Health professionals such as Nurses, Paramedics, Podiatrists and Optometrists require a detailed understanding of the pharmacological properties of the medicines that are used daily in the treatment of patients under their care. This unit introduces students to the discipline of pharmacology by examining the interaction of drugs with biological systems. An understanding of pharmacology is fundamental to a student’s understanding of pharmaceutical products in terms of efficacy and safety and provides a rationale for their therapeutic use.

Prerequisites: (LSB111 or LSB282 or LSB382 (NS40)) or (LSB475 (OP45)) or (LSB235 and LSB250 (PU43 Podiatry))  Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 4 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove and Caboolture  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1 and 2010 SEM-2

**PUB104 AUSTRALIAN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS**

This is an important unit for students entering or planning to enter the health industry as it is designed to give a broad overview of systems of health care in Australia and their methods of operation. This unit introduces the role of health service managers as members of the health care team, the basic principles of health service management in health care facilities and beyond, and the functions of health service managers.

Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

**PUB180 FOUNDATIONS OF PARAMEDIC PRACTICE 1**

This unit is an introduction to ambulance practice and the role of paramedics within the health care spectrum. It prepares students for the first clinical practice unit. Topics include the following: the history, evolution, culture and development of ambulance services on a national and international level; the structure, function, policies and procedures of the Queensland Ambulance Service; the role of the ambulance service in a multidisciplinary and integrated approach to health care; the relationship between field care and in-hospital definitive care; and basic ambulance care including initial assessment, planning and implementing basic procedures, and equipment. The unit includes a structured observer program.

Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

**PUB209 HEALTH, CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

This unit is concerned with the social and cultural dimensions of health and illness and how they relate to health status and patterns of behaviour. The unit introduces students to thinking about health from sociological and anthropological perspectives, drawing on relevant concepts and theory to examine selected public health issues. Identifying and addressing social and cultural factors that shape people's health experiences of health, illness and health systems are integral parts of public health practice in terms of reducing health inequalities, delivering appropriate services, and ultimately improving population health outcomes.

Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

**PUB251 CONTEMPORARY PUBLIC HEALTH**

This unit provides an introduction to the following: the philosophy and approach of public health; the traditional public health process; the multidisciplinary nature of public health; and health policy and its impact on public health. Recent reformulations of traditional public health approaches including health promotion, intersectoral action for health and healthy public policy are examined. The role of public health in Australia and overseas, its main discipline components and some of the constraints faced by public health is also addressed. This unit considers groups with special needs and contemporary issues.

Antirequisites: PUN106  Credit points: 12  Contact:
PUB270 PARAMEDIC CLINICAL PRACTICE 1
This unit is the first in a series of supervised clinical practice units. Topics include the following: assessing, diagnosing, planning, implementing and evaluating patient care in the out of hospital phase; effective scene management including logistics, safe access and egress, and patient extrication techniques; written and oral communication including patient interviews, radio procedures, writing ambulance report forms and patient handover at hospital.

The placement is six weeks and provides a transition from observer to operational ambulance crew member under the supervision of a qualified paramedic mentor.

Prerequisites: LSB282 and PUB280  Credit points: 12  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2 and 2010 SUM

PUB280 FOUNDATIONS OF PARAMEDIC PRACTICE 2
This unit follows on from PUB180 and further develops core clinical skills and expertise in the use of ambulance equipment. Topics covered include the following: monitoring basic patient care and modifying as required; handing over a patient requiring basic ambulance care; the use of ambulance equipment including ambulance vehicles and patient care equipment; health and safety legislation, policies and procedures; and the attributes of a paramedic e.g. compassion, accountability, respect, ethical practice, responsibility and sensitivity. The unit includes a structured observer program for students.

Prerequisites: PUB180  Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

PUB390 PARAMEDIC MANAGEMENT OF MEDICAL AND SURGICAL EMERGENCIES A
This unit covers some of the most common medical and surgical emergencies seen in ambulance practice. Topics include the epidemiology, prevention, integrated and definitive care, pathophysiology, assessment, clinical management and rehabilitation of patients suffering cardiovascular, respiratory and neurological disease. Theory is presented on campus and experience is gained in a hospital environment under the supervision of clinical educators.

Prerequisites: PUB280 and (LSB282 or LSB382)  Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

PUB391 PARAMEDIC MANAGEMENT OF MEDICAL AND SURGICAL EMERGENCIES B
This unit covers some of the most common medical and surgical emergencies seen in ambulance practice. Topics include the epidemiology, prevention, integrated and definitive care, pathophysiology, assessment and clinical management of patients suffering genitourinary, metabolic, endocrine and gastrointestinal disease. Theory is supplemented by simulation and scenario based activities under the supervision of clinical educators.

Prerequisites: PUB280 and PUB390 and LSB282  Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-1

PUB436 EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE
Credit points: 12  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

PUB450 PARAMEDIC MANAGEMENT OF TRAUMA EMERGENCIES
This unit covers some of the most common traumatic emergencies that a paramedic attends in ambulance practice. Topics covered include the epidemiology of trauma, the controversies of trauma management, neurotrauma, spinal cord injury, chest and abdominal trauma, pelvic and limb trauma, trauma in the elderly, wound ballistics, and shock and fluid resuscitation. Theory is supplemented by simulation and scenario based activities under the supervision of clinical educators.

Prerequisites: LSB382 and PUB280  Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

PUB470 PARAMEDIC CLINICAL PRACTICE 2
This unit continues on from PUB270 and includes a six week placement providing work integrated learning experience in a supervised out of hospital environment. Students learn to apply standard ambulance management at non-complex scenes with straightforward clinical presentations and gain confidence in managing patients.

Prerequisites: PUB270, PUB390, and PUB391  Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2 and 2010 SUM

PUB486 ETHICS AND THE LAW IN HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY
This unit enables students to develop an awareness of the ethical and legal issues associated with the public sector and health care in the pre-hospital care setting. This unit covers topics relating to the code of ethics, the code of conduct and the legislation unique to the emergency health services. Students are required to apply content knowledge using the problem based learning strategy. Topics include introduction to ethics, morality and ethical theory, bioethics, public sector ethics, overview of the Australian legal system, consent to and refusal of health care, duty of care, confidentiality, and record keeping.

Prerequisites: PUB280  Credit points: 12  Campus: Kelvin Grove and External  Teaching period: 2010 SEM-2

PUB550 PARAMEDIC MANAGEMENT OF OBSTETRIC, PAEDIATRIC AND BEHAVIOURAL EMERGENCIES
This unit covers the management of obstetric, paediatric and behavioural emergencies. Theory is presented on campus and experience is gained in a three week hospital placement under the supervision of clinical educators.

**Prerequisites:** PUB390 and LSB382  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1

**PUB555 PARAMEDIC MANAGEMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, TOXICOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES**  
(Not offered till 2007)  
This unit covers the management of patients with a range of challenging aetiologies including extremes in environmental conditions, toxicological emergencies including overdose, poisoning and acute infectious disease. Topics include the epidemiology, integrated and definitive care, pathophysiology, assessment and clinical management of patients with toxicological, infectious and environmental illness. Theory is supplemented by simulation and scenario based activities.

**Prerequisites:** PUB390  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1

**PUB570 PARAMEDIC CLINICAL PRACTICE 3**  
This unit is a six week placement which develops patient care to a level where students can confidently manage more complex clinical presentations under the supervision of a qualified paramedic mentor.

**Prerequisites:** PUB470  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-1

**PUB670 INTERNSHIP (PARAMEDIC CLINICAL PRACTICE)**  
This unit follows on from previous clinical practice units and develops students from preservice paramedic to the role of beginner practitioner at the advanced care paramedic level under the supervision of a qualified paramedic mentor. Students are expected to function as an operational crew member under minimal direction taking the lead in more complex scenarios.

**Prerequisites:** PUB570 and PUB680  
**Assumed knowledge:** Completion of all prior coursework is assumed knowledge.  
**Credit points:** 36  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2

**PUB680 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PARAMEDIC PRACTICE**  
This unit prepares students for practice as qualified ambulance paramedics and further develops professional skills. Clinical practice is conducted in a prehospital environment under the supervision of an ambulance crew with a qualified clinical mentor. In addition, reading and learning activities give opportunities for the development of reflective practice skills and strategies.

**Prerequisites:** PUB570 and PUB670  
**Assumed knowledge:** Completion of all prior coursework is assumed knowledge.  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2

**PYB111 PARAMEDIC COMMUNICATION SKILLS**  
Paramedics require advanced skills in communication to face challenging situations. This unit provides the core knowledge and skills necessary for developing effective communication skills which enable a paramedic to establish an accurate and efficient clinical history, to provide support to patients at times of accurate stress and to understand his or her own responses to situations. Topics covered include basic communication skills; models and processes in communication; communication with special needs patients (eg with acute mental illness; developmental disabilities or sensory deficits; non-English speaking background; angry, distressed or intoxicated patients; children and the elderly); building cooperative relationships with patients and colleagues.

**Prerequisites:** PUB270  
**Antirequisites:** PYB007, PYB074  
**Credit points:** 12  
**Campus:** Kelvin Grove  
**Teaching period:** 2010 SEM-2