Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic)- Graduate Entry (PU46)

Year offered: 2010
Admissions: Yes
Course duration (full-time): 2 years
Domestic fees (indicative): 2010: CSP $3,500 (indicative) per semester
Domestic Entry: February
QTAC code: 425582
Past rank cut-off: 96
Assumed knowledge: Current Senior First Aid Certificate
Preparatory studies: For information on acquiring assumed knowledge visit http://www.studentservices.qut.edu.au/apply/ug/info/knowledge.jsp
Total credit points: 192 of study + 96 credit of graduate credit
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.

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

There is increasing emphasis on clinical skills through the course including 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.

Entry requirements
Completion of a degree in a health field (eg nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, medicine, optometry, pharmacy, medical science, human movement studies, nutrition) in the last 10 years.

Applicants with degrees (or equivalent) completed more than 10 years ago must provide evidence of graduate work experience and/or further studies since course completion with their QTAC application to receive further consideration.

For more information QUT’s admission policies regrading graduate entry please read Real Options.

Students who admitted to the graduate entry program will automatically received one year of academic credit which will entitle the student to complete the degree in two years (full-time).

Orientation program
A one-week Orientation Program, Transition to Paramedic Studies, is conducted on campus in the week preceding the first week of semester (Orientation Week). No credit points are awarded for completing the program and there are no costs to students.

The aim of this program is to familiarise students with the significant clinical aspects of the units PUB180 and PUB280 (Foundations of Paramedic Practice 1 and 2) which students completing the full three year program complete but graduate entry students do not.

This transition program is important for students' understanding of PUB390 and PUB391 (Paramedic Management of Medical and Surgical Emergencies A and B) in the first semester of their programs and is integral to understanding of the clinical component of paramedic practice.

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, push, 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 (ACAP).

OP Guarantee
The OP Guarantee does not apply to this program.

International student entry

This course is not available for international student entry.

Deferment
QUT’s deferment policy does not apply to this course.

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- 2 Year Full-time Graduate Entry Program

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<tr>
<td>LSB111  Understanding Disease Concepts</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSB384  Pharmacology For Health Professionals</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUB390  Paramedic Management of Medical and Surgical Emergencies A</td>
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<td>PUB391  Paramedic Management of Medical and Surgical Emergencies B</td>
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<th>Year 1, Semester 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>PUB436  Evidence Based Practice</td>
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<td>PUB450  Paramedic Management of Trauma Emergencies</td>
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<td>PUB270  Paramedic Clinical Practice 1</td>
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<td>PUB486  Ethics and the Law in Health Service Delivery</td>
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<th>Year 1, Semester 3 (Summer)</th>
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<tr>
<td>PUB470  Paramedic Clinical Practice 2</td>
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<th>Year 2, Semester 1</th>
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<td>PUB550  Paramedic Management of Obstetric, Paediatric and Behavioural Emergencies</td>
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<td>PUB555  Paramedic Management of Infectious Diseases, Toxicological and Environmental Emergencies</td>
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<td>PUB570  Paramedic Clinical Practice 3</td>
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<th>Year 2, Semester 2</th>
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<td>PUB670  Internship (Paramedic Clinical Practice)</td>
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<td>PUB680  Professional Development in Paramedic Practice</td>
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Health Unit prerequisites/corequisites

For information on prereqs & coreqs visit: www.hlth.qut.edu.au/study/forcurrentstudents/

Potential Careers:
Paramedic.

UNIT SYNOPSES

LSB111 UNDERSTANDING DISEASE CONCEPTS
This unit introduces the structure and function of the body, reviews the body systems and links those to mechanisms of disease. Systems and topics covered are: integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, blood, heart and circulation, lymphatic, immune, respiratory, digestive (including nutrition and metabolism), urinary, reproductive, concepts of growth and development, genetics. Examples of diseases introduced are: heart disease and hypertension, cancers (lung, breast, skin, colon, prostate, testicular, cervical), diabetes, depression, Parkinson’s disease, asthma and chronic obstructive lung diseases.

Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 4 per week  Campus: Kelvin Grove  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

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

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