COURSE OUTLINE

PAR103 Paramedic Foundation Practicum 1

School: School of Health - Paramedicine

2026 | Session 8

UniSC Sunshine Coast | BLENDED LEARNING | Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to unisc.edu.au 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 course will include mandatory on-campus workshops (clinical intensive), pre-placement learning activities, and supervised out-of-hospital work integrated learning. This course is designed to be an experiential learning opportunity. Students will be required to work through a range of learning activities and be assessed against a range of contemporary paramedic standards, both on campus and on placement.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – Students are to participate in face to face pre-placement clinical intensive, over 5 days x 6 hours per day. A combination of workshops, including tutorials and laboratories completed on-campus prior to placement commencement. Clinical intensive attendance is a mandatory course requirement. Failure to attend will result in cancellation of scheduled placement. Dates will be available on Sonia	30hrs	Refer to Format	Once Only
Placement – Students will complete up to 4 weeks of clinical placement with placement providers pending availability of the placement provider and the rostered shifts. Placement dates will be available on Sonia.	160hrs	Refer to Format	Once Only

1.3. Course Topics

Introduction to work integrated learning (WIL) as a member of an operational paramedic team.

Knowledge and skills acquired in prerequisite courses will be applied both on campus and during WIL placement.

Introduction to culturally safe person-centred care for diverse populations, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

1.4. Mature Content

Drug Use, Violence, Coarse Language, Adult themes

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 On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING * Paramedicine Board of Australia
1 Demonstrate practice in line with the Paramedicine Board of Australia's 'Professional capabilities for registered paramedics'.	Knowledgeable	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2 Apply paramedic knowledge, skills and culturally safe practice while adhering to Ahpra and University codes of conduct in learning and practice contexts.	Engaged	1.1.a, 1.1.b, 1.1.d, 1.1.e, 1.1.i, 1.2.b, 1.2.c, 1.2.d, 1.3.a, 1.3.b, 1.1, 1.3
3 Reflect on professional paramedic practice through the lens of National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards and the Paramedicine Board of Australia's 'Professional capabilities for registered paramedics'.	Creative and critical thinker Empowered Ethical	1.1.a, 1.1.b, 1.1.c, 1.1.d, 1.1.e, 1.1.j, 1.1.k, 1.2.d, 1.3.a, 1.3.b, 1.4.b, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1.a, 2.1.b, 2.1.c, 2.1.d, 2.1.e, 2.1.f, 2.1.g, 2.1.h, 2.2.a, 2.2.b, 2.2.c, 2.2.e, 2.2.f, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1.a, 3.1.b, 3.2.a, 3.2.b, 3.2.c, 3.2.d, 3.2.e, 3.2.f, 3.3.a, 3.3.b, 3.3.c, 3.3.d, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1.a, 4.2.a, 4.4.b, 4.4.c, 4.4.d, 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 5.1.d, 5.1.e, 5.2.a, 5.2.e, 5.3.a, 5.3.b, 5.3.d, 5.3.e, 5.3.f, 5.4.b, 5.4.d, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
PARAMEDICINE BOARD OF AUSTRALIA	
1	Domain 1: The professional and ethical practitioner
1.1.a	Demonstrate understanding of: reporting obligations, legal responsibilities, legal requirements, ethical and professional responsibilities, and the legal and ethical boundaries of paramedicine practice.
1.1.b	Manage personal, mental and physical health to ensure fitness to practice.
1.1.d	Apply the Paramedicine Board of Australia’s Code of conduct to their practice.
1.1.e	Provide relevant information to a patient and demonstrate appropriate methods to obtain informed consent.
1.1.i	Exercise appropriate levels of autonomy and professional judgement in a variety of practice settings.
1.2.b	Display appropriate professional behaviour in patient interactions.
1.2.c	Provide culturally safe care for all patients.
1.2.d	Identify and respect appropriate boundaries between patients and health professionals.
1.3.a	Recognise and respond appropriately to unsafe or unprofessional practice.
1.3.b	Integrate organisational directives, policies, procedures and guidelines with Professional standards.

CODE	COMPETENCY
1.1.c	Follow mandatory and voluntary reporting obligations.
1.1.j	Operate within the current legislation applicable to paramedicine practice.
1.1.k	Practise in accordance with the applicable legislation governing the safe use of scheduled medicines by paramedics in the jurisdiction of practice.
1.4.b	Recognise when it may be appropriate to intervene on the patient's behalf.
1.1	Practise ethically and professionally, consistent with relevant legislation and regulatory requirements
1.2	Provide each patient with an appropriate level of dignity and care
1.3	Assume responsibility, and accept accountability, for professional decisions
1.4	Advocate on behalf of the patient, when appropriate in the context of the practitioner's practice as a paramedic
2	Domain 2: The communicator and the collaborator
2.1.a	Establish a rapport with the patient to gain understanding of their issues and perspectives, and to encourage their active participation and partnership in care and/or treatment.
2.1.b	Communicate with the patient and/or other relevant people to collect and convey information and reach an agreement about the purpose of any care and treatment.
2.1.c	Convey knowledge and procedural information in ways that engender trust and confidence, and respects patient confidentiality, privacy and dignity.
2.1.d	Respond appropriately to patient queries or issues.
2.1.e	Use appropriate communication skills to effectively manage avoidance, confusion and confrontation particularly with those who cannot communicate verbally or physically.
2.1.f	Identify and effectively manage communication barriers, including anxiety and stress, specific to individual patients and/or carers.
2.1.g	Make appropriate adjustments to communication style to suit the needs of the patient including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
2.1.h	Make provisions to engage third parties, including interpreters, to facilitate effective communication with patients whose first language is not English, whenever possible.
2.2.a	Establish and maintain effective and respectful collaborative working relationships as a member of a healthcare team.
2.2.b	Demonstrate an understanding of professional roles and responsibilities of healthcare team members and other service providers and how they interact with the role of a paramedic.
2.2.c	Follow appropriate protocols, procedures and guidelines to give and receive relevant and timely verbal and written communication.
2.2.e	Consult effectively with healthcare team members and other relevant people to facilitate continuity of care.
2.2.f	Make appropriate referrals, delegations and handovers to other healthcare team members and other service providers.
2.1	Communicate clearly, sensitively and effectively with the patient and other relevant people
2.2	Collaborate with other health practitioners
3	Domain 3: The evidence-based practitioner
3.1.a	Operate within a framework of making informed, evidence-based, reasonable and professional judgements about their practice, with acting in the best interests of their patients as their primary concern.
3.1.b	Make sensible, practical, and culturally safe decisions about their practice, taking account of all relevant information and the best interests of the people who use, or are affected by, the service being provided.
3.2.a	Apply evidence-based practice principles along with critical and reflective thinking to resolve clinical challenges.
3.2.b	Demonstrate a logical and systematic approach to problem-solving and situation analysis.

CODE	COMPETENCY
3.2.c	Analyse and critically evaluate the information collected to make clinical judgments.
3.2.d	Recognise that clinical judgements involve consideration of conflicting information and evidence.
3.2.e	Formulate a diagnosis informed by the patient assessment and analysis of context and situation.
3.2.f	Identify the time criticality of treatment, referral, handover and where appropriate, transport.
3.3.a	Select or modify approaches to meet the needs of patients, their relatives and carers, reflecting culturally safe practice when practicing.
3.3.b	Practise situational awareness to changes in risks or hazards and change their practice as needed to take account of new developments.
3.3.c	Using appropriate resources to support professional decision-making.
3.3.d	Demonstrate a level of skill in the use of information technology appropriate to their practice.
3.1	Make informed and reasonable decisions
3.2	Use clinical reasoning and problem-solving skills to determine clinical judgements and appropriate actions
3.3	Draw on appropriate knowledge, resources and skills in order to make professional judgements
4	Domain 4: The safety and risk management practitioner
4.1.a	Follow patient identification procedures to confirm the correct match of a patient with the intended procedure, care and/or treatment.
4.2.a	Demonstrate knowledge of legal responsibilities for health and safety of self and others.
4.4.b	Keep accurate, comprehensive, logical, legible and concise records.
4.4.c	Use only accepted terminology in completing patient records.
4.4.d	Review, communicate, record and manage patient information accurately, consistent with protocols, procedures and legislative requirements for maintaining patient records.
4.1	Protect and enhance patient safety
4.2	Maintain safety of self and others in the work environment
4.4	Maintain records appropriately
5	Domain 5: The paramedicine practitioner
5.1.d	Understand the legal requirements that pertain to completing and maintaining health records.
5.1.e	Ensure correct verification and management of information and patient privacy.
5.2.a	Identify factors or conditions that may affect the patient behaviour and/or capacity to undergo the procedure.
5.2.e	Identify and respond to a patient deteriorating condition, or inability to undergo a procedure or treatment, consistent with duty of care and statutory requirements.
5.3.a	Understand the structure, function and pathophysiology of the human body, relevant to their practice, together with knowledge of health, human growth and development, disease, disorder and dysfunction.
5.3.b	Understand the principles and applications of scientific enquiry, including the evaluation of treatment efficacy and the research process.
5.3.d	Demonstrate an applied knowledge of human anatomy and physiology sufficient to understand the nature and effects of injury or illness and to conduct assessment and observation in order to establish patient management strategies.
5.3.e	Understand psychological and social factors, including intergenerational trauma that impact and influence an individual in health and illness.

CODE	COMPETENCY
5.3.f	Understand the clinical sciences underpinning paramedic practice, including physiological, pharmacological, behavioural and functional.
5.4.b	Practice safely and effectively across the full range of patient presentations and circumstances.
5.4.d	Position for safe and effective interventions.
5.1	Use patient information management systems appropriately
5.2	Assess and monitor the patient capacity to receive care
5.3	Understand the key concepts of the bodies of knowledge which are specifically relevant to paramedicine practice
5.4	Conduct appropriate diagnostic or monitoring procedures, treatment, therapy or other actions safely

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the UniSC Glossary of terms for definitions of "pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites".

5.1. Pre-requisites

PAR101 and PAR102 and enrolled in Program SC395 or SC306

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

5.5. Microcredential Information

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Limited Grading (PNP)

Pass (PU), Fail (UF). All assessment tasks are required to be passed for successful completion of the course.

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Formative feedback and summative assessment will be provided during the intensive components prior to placement. Formative feedback will be provided to the student by the clinical supervisor throughout clinical placement. Clinical supervisors will also submit summative feedback forms via Sonia (mid-placement and end-of-placement) which are assessed by the course coordinator. When additional support has been identified as required by a mentor, students must contact their course coordinator at the earliest opportunity to ensure support can be facilitated.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Portfolio	Individual	Refer to Canvas	Refer to Format	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check and in class
All	2	Written Piece	Individual	1000 words	Refer to Format	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Placement performance	Individual	Duration of placement	Refer to Format	SONIA

All - Assessment Task 1: In-class portfolio

GOAL:	A series of tasks will be completed to allow students to review and demonstrate the disciplinary knowledge, clinical application and professionalism required for, and prior to, the clinical placement. Performance throughout the course and on placement will be measured against the Paramedicine Board of Australia's 'Professional capabilities for registered paramedics', along with prescribed codes of conduct.
PRODUCT:	Portfolio
FORMAT:	In-class during intensive week
CRITERIA:	**No.** **Learning Outcome assessed**
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation

All - Assessment Task 2: Case reflection

GOAL:	Reflect on professional paramedic practice through the lens of National Safety and Quality in Health Service standards and the Paramedicine Board of Australia's 'Professional capabilities for registered paramedics'
PRODUCT:	Written Piece
FORMAT:	Online submission. Due dates provided on Canvas.
CRITERIA:	**No.** **Learning Outcome assessed**
	1 Critically reflect on elements of professional practice. 1 3
	2 Identify and evaluate the evidence to improve patient advocacy, patient safety and/or patient-centred care. 2 3
	3 Demonstrate professional communication. 1 2
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Information literacy

All - Assessment Task 3: In-Placement Portfolio

GOAL:	To provide evidence of, and reflect upon, professional behaviours in accordance with prescribed standards.
PRODUCT:	Placement performance
FORMAT:	Performance throughout the course and on placement will be measured against the Paramedicine Board of Australia's 'Professional capabilities for registered paramedics', along with prescribed codes of conduct. The course coordinator is responsible for determining if the student has satisfactorily achieved the learning outcomes. Unsatisfactory performance which puts patient/client safety at risk or practices that do not align with the professional capabilities or prescribed codes of conduct may result in removal of the student from the placement at any time and/or failure of the course. Due dates will be provided on Canvas.
CRITERIA:	**No.** — **Learning Outcome assessed** 1 — Adherence to prescribed scope of practice Demonstrated practices that align with the professional capabilities and prescribed codes of conduct Completion of the required hours — 2
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Organisation, Applying technologies

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. 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 Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

> There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Please refer to the Undergraduate Clinical Placement Information Kit on Sonia for specific placement requirements. A UniSC Student Paramedic uniform and safety equipment as outlined in Sonia is mandatory. Note, to be eligible for clinical placement a student must have successfully completed all prerequisite courses prior to commencement of the clinical intensive component of this course. If a student has any incomplete prerequisite courses the placement component of this course will be postponed until the prerequisite course is successfully completed. Clinical intensive attendance is a mandatory course requirement, including intensives scheduled during Orientation weeks. Session times are subject to change, therefore students need to maintain availability across entire Intensive weeks. Failure to attend will result in cancellation of scheduled placement.

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Risk assessments have been performed for all field activities and low to moderate levels of health and safety risk exists. Moderate risks may include working in an Australian bush setting, working with people, working outside normal office hours for example. 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 Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

This course will be graded as Pass in a Limited Grade Course (PU) or Fail in a Limited Grade Course (UF) as per clause 5.1.1.3 and 5.1.1.4 of the Grades and Grade Point Average (GPA) - Academic Policy.

In a course eligible to use Limited Grades, all assessment items in that course are marked on a Pass/Fail basis and all assessment tasks are required to be passed for a student to successfully complete the course. Supplementary assessment is not available in courses using Limited Grades.

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

You must contact your Course Coordinator and provide the required documentation if you require an extension or alternate assessment.

Refer to the Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs – Procedures.

10.4. 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
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching

10.5. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The Student Charter sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.6. General Enquiries

For course-specific questions, contact your teaching staff or Course Coordinator.

For other enquiries or to access support, please contact Student Central:

- UniSC Student Central
- UniSC Adelaide Student Central