

PAR302 Paramedic Primary Healthcare: Substance Use and Toxicology

School: School of Health - Paramedicine

2026 | Session 5

Online

ONLINE

You can do this course without coming onto campus, unless your program has specified a mandatory onsite requirement.

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

Paramedic practice requires an understanding of the effect that substance use has on individuals and the community. You will investigate the social, ethical and legal aspects to substance use at an individual, family and community level. Harm minimisation strategies including detoxification will be studied, and an understanding of your role in caring for individuals with alterations in health due to toxicity or substance withdrawal will be developed. You will also investigate the assessment and care of poisoned patients, including cases of envenomation. This course contains mature content (drug use, violence, and adult themes).

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
ONLINE			
Online – 5 hours per week directed learning through Canvas	5hrs	Week 1	8 times

1.3. Course Topics

A whole person approach to assessment, diagnosis and management of:

- substance use in society,
- drug toxicity,
- poisoning, and
- envenomation.

1.4. Mature Content

Drug Use, Violence, Adult themes

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 MAPPING	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING *
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	Paramedicine Board of Australia
1 Investigate substance use and harm minimisation strategies in the community and health professions	Knowledgeable Ethical	1, 1.1.g, 1.1.j, 1.1.k, 1.4.a, 1.4, 3, 5.3.f, 5.4.e, 5.6.b, 5.3
2 Explore and present public health interventions to facilitate health behaviour change	Creative and critical thinker Ethical	1, 1.1.g, 1.1.j, 1.1.k, 1.4.a, 2, 2.2.b, 3, 5.3.f, 5.6.b, 5.3
3 Appraise evidence to assess and manage the physiological and social effects of substance use and envenomation	Knowledgeable	1, 3, 4.6.a, 5.3.f, 5.4.e, 5.6.b, 5.3

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
PARAMEDICINE BOARD OF AUSTRALIA	
1	Domain 1: The professional and ethical practitioner
1.1.g	Demonstrate understanding of the basic principles underpinning bio-ethics in paramedicine practice.
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.a	Demonstrate understanding of the principles of patient advocacy and their application to paramedicine practice.
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
2.2.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.
3	Domain 3: The evidence-based practitioner
4.6.a	Demonstrate the principles, application and need for quality control and quality assurance in paramedicine practice.
5.3.f	Understand the clinical sciences underpinning paramedic practice, including physiological, pharmacological, behavioural and functional.
5.4.e	Demonstrate an applied knowledge of the indications and contra-indications of using specific paramedic interventions including their modifications.
5.6.b	Demonstrate sensitivity to the factors which shape lifestyle that may impact on the individual's health and affect the interaction between the patient and registered paramedic.
5.3	Understand the key concepts of the bodies of knowledge which are specifically relevant to paramedicine practice

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

(HLT209 or BIM263) and HLT221 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

Standard Grading (GRD)

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

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Learning material includes self-assessed quizzes

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	Examination - not Centrally Scheduled	Individual	20%	Module 1	Week 3	Online Submission
All	2	Oral and Written Piece	Individual	45%	See format	Refer to Format	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check and in class
All	3	Examination - not Centrally Scheduled	Individual	35%	Modules 2 & 3	Week 8	Online Submission

All - Assessment Task 1: Examination

GOAL:	To assess your attainment of disciplinary knowledge and key knowledge areas of this course.		
PRODUCT:	Examination - not Centrally Scheduled		
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:			
FORMAT:	Examination		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	This task assesses your attainment of disciplinary knowledge and key knowledge areas of this course.	1 2 3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving		

All - Assessment Task 2: Portfolio

GOAL:	The aim of this task is to investigate a specific topic relating to substance use in the community and the management of overdose, exposure or envenomation. The task should inform the audience of contemporary evidence-based practice in the required area of investigation.		
PRODUCT:	Oral and Written Piece		
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:			
FORMAT:	Electronic format via Canvas and in-person via Zoom. Scheduled weeks for assessment components will be announced on the Canvas course site.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Investigate a specific topic relating to drug use in the community or the management of overdose, exposure or envenomation.	1 2 3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Information literacy		

All - Assessment Task 3: Examination

GOAL:	To assess your attainment of disciplinary knowledge and key knowledge areas of this course.		
PRODUCT:	Examination - not Centrally Scheduled		
AUTHORSHIP STATEMENT:			
FORMAT:	Examination		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	This task assesses your attainment of disciplinary knowledge and key knowledge areas of this course.	1 2 3
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration		

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

You need regular access to the resource(s) below. Many texts are available as ebooks through the [Library](#) at no additional cost.

REQUIRED?	AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	EDITION	PUBLISHER
Recommended	Kate Curtis,Clair Ramsden,Margaret Fry,Ramon Z. Shaban,Julie Considine	2019	Emergency and Trauma Care for Nurses and Paramedics	3rd	Elsevier

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 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

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

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

- (a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

- Less than 15 minutes: No penalty
- From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty
- More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

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](#)