



Course Outline

Code: PAR222

Title: Legal & Ethical Practice in EMS

School:	Nursing, Midwifery & Paramedicine
Teaching Session:	Semester 2
Year:	2019
Course Coordinator:	Matthew Warren-James Email: mlane@usc.edu.au
Course Moderator:	Lisa Bowerman

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

In this course you will examine the complex array of legal and ethical issues associated with paramedic clinical practice and the implications the law and ethics have on your clinical practice as a contemporary paramedic. The law and bioethical principles impact upon every part of your clinical practice and your employment as a paramedic, with your decisions regarding the provision of clinical care increasingly subjected to public scrutiny. Contemporary legal and bioethical issues will be examined in order for you to critically appraise the decisions you make as a paramedic.

1.2 Course topics

Bioethics and Bioethical Approaches to Paramedic Care

The sources of law

Paramedic Practice and its Interface with the Law

Negligence

Consent

Refusal of health care in special circumstances

Mental Health Law

Death and Dying

Administrative and Industrial Law for Paramedics

The role of the courts

2. What level is this course?

200 level Developing - Applying broad and/or deep knowledge and skills to new contexts. May require pre-requisites and introductory level knowledge/skills. Normally undertaken in the 2nd or 3rd 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?

Specific Learning Outcomes On successful completion of this course you should be able to:	Assessment Tasks You will be assessed on the learning outcome in task/s:	Graduate Qualities or Professional Standards mapping Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming:
Describe the criteria that constitute ethical professional practice.	Task 1 Task 2	Ethical.
Apply the major ethical and moral theories to select healthcare situations.	Task 1 Task 2	Ethical.
Describe ethical and legal principles and requirements as they relate to professional health practice.	Task 1 Task 2 Task 3	Ethical.
Describe the features of the Australian legal system and statutory bodies.	Task 3	Knowledgeable.
Apply legislation and case law to the practice of health professionals.	Task 2 Task 3	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 Enrolment restrictions

Students must be enrolled in SC395 or UU301 or XU301

5.2 Pre-requisites

PAR101 and PAR103

5.3 Co-requisites

Nil

5.4 Anti-requisites

NUR222

5.5 Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Nil

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1 Grading scale

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

6.2 Details of early feedback on progress

Students will be provided with informal opportunities for feedback in each of their workshops. Formalised feedback will be provided after each summative task via Bb+.

6.3 Assessment tasks

Task No.	Assessment Tasks	Individual or Group	Weighting %	What is the duration / length?	When should I submit?	Where should I submit it?
1	Bioethics presentation	Group	30%	1000 words (equivalent)	Week 4	Blackboard (SafeAssign)
2	Ambulance Documentation Exercise	Individual	20%	45-minute workshop exercise	Week 9	In class
3	Legal Analysis	Individual	50%	2500 words	Week 13	Blackboard (SafeAssign)
			100%			

Assessment Task 1: Bioethics Presentation

Goal:	The aim of the bioethics presentation is to enable you to identify and discuss the key bioethical issues in paramedic practice.
Product:	Poster or webpage
Format:	A poster or webpage. In a group of 3-5 participants you will need to collaboratively decide on a bioethical issue in paramedic practice and present the issues in a creative form.
Criteria:	Explains the relevant bioethical principles underpinning paramedic practice Application of bioethical principles to paramedic practice Use of Technology to convey meaning Use of referencing style Presentation and Grammatical Conventions

Assessment Task 2: Ambulance Documentation Exercise

Goal:	The aim of the ambulance documentation exercise is to allow you to demonstrate an understanding of the legal and ethical principles underpinning the completion of documentation required for paramedics to submit following patient care.
Product:	Completed Ambulance Report Form and Emergency Examination Order.
Format:	The Ambulance Documentation Exercise will take place within the allocated tutorial. You will be required to complete an Ambulance Report Form and an Emergency Examination Order, based on a supplied scenario, within a 45-minute timeframe.
Criteria:	Demonstrates an understanding of the conventions of drafting an eARF Application of legal and ethical issues to an eARF Demonstrates an understanding of the conventions of drafting an EEO Application of legal and ethical issues to an EEO

Assessment Task 3: Legal Analysis

Goal:	The aim of the legal analysis is to allow you to demonstrate an understanding of the legal aspects associated with the provision of paramedic care.
Product:	Legal Analysis based on scenario
Format:	Written document
Criteria:	Explains the relevant legal and ethical concepts and fundamental principles underpinning paramedic practice Application of legal issues to paramedic practice Reaches an arguable conclusion on legal issues Use of referencing style Presentation and Grammatical Conventions

7. What are the course activities?

7.1 Directed study hours

The directed study hours listed here are a portion of the workload for this course. 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.

Location: Specific Campus(es) or online:	Directed study hours for location:
USC Sunshine Coast	Online delivery: Self-directed study equivalent of 10 hours per week throughout semester. Workshop: 2 hours per week in Weeks 1-10 and 13 (24 hours).

7.2 Course content

Week # / Module #	What key concepts/content will I learn?
1	Regulation of the Australian Health Service
2	Introduction to Ethical Theory and Decision Making
3	Introduction to the Law
4	Ethical and Legal Record Keeping - eARF
5	Mental Health Law – EEA
6	Consent - Fundamentals
7	Consent – Impaired Capacity (child / older person)
8	Death and Dying – ROLE; AHCD
9	Consent – Statutory Health Attorneys
10	Negligence
11	No lecture or Workshop
12	Administrative and industrial law related to paramedic practice
13	Summative Task 3

Please note that the course activities may be subject to variation.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note that 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)

Please note that you need to have regular access to the resource(s) listed below as they are required:

Author	Year	Title	Publisher
Dominique Moritz	2019	Paramedic Law and Regulation in Australia	Thomson Reuters

8.2 Specific requirements

Nil

9. Risk management

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low.

It is your responsibility as a student 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. It is also your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online Health Safety and Wellbeing training module 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

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%
- b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale
- c) You have not failed an assessment task in the course due to academic misconduct

10.3 Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submission of assessment tasks will 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 and supply the required documentation to negotiate an outcome.

10.4 Study help

In the first instance, you should contact your tutor, then the Course Coordinator. Additional assistance is provided to all students through Academic Skills Advisers. To book an appointment or find a drop-in session go to [Student Hub](#). Contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au

10.5 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>

10.6 General Enquiries

In person:

- **USC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **USC South Bank** - 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