Bachelor of Clinical Practice (Paramedic)

What is CSU’s Bachelor of Clinical Practice (Paramedic)?
The Bachelor of Clinical Practice (Paramedic) at Charles Sturt University (CSU) offers you a rewarding, fast-paced, ever-changing career that makes a difference to people's lives. You will acquire the knowledge and skills to apply to work as a paramedic in any state of Australia.

The degree has been developed in consultation with ambulance industry representatives from New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and other states and territories.

Where will this course take me?
Graduates work professionally in paramedic occupations in both the public and private sector.

Paramedics can gain employment on mine sites, oil rigs and with private agencies attending sporting venues, music festivals and private functions. Increasingly, paramedics are becoming more involved in the primary health care system by working in remote clinics and hospitals as well as fulfilling mobile extended care paramedic roles.

Graduates of this course may also choose to complete postgraduate study to enhance their skills. CSU offers a Postgraduate Certificate in Paramedic Service Leadership and Management, Postgraduate Certificate in Intensive Care Paramedic Studies, Master of Medical Science with specialisations and Master of Health Services Management.

What will I learn?
The Bachelor of Clinical Practice (Paramedic) comprises 24 subjects including anatomy and physiology, paramedic clinical studies, law and ethics, advanced pharmacology and pathophysiology, health service management, major incident management and research.

Students develop skills in clinical procedures such as advanced cardiac life support, basic and advanced airway management, the assessment and management of trauma patients, childbirth and neonatal resuscitation, and advanced life support for paediatric patients.

Students learn the principles of major incident management, emergency preparedness, health promotion and injury prevention, epidemiology and medical research, as well as ethics and the social sciences.

Industry recognition
This course is supported by the Ambulance Service of NSW (ASNSW) and is accredited across Australia by the Council of Ambulance Authorities.

Some reasons for studying Clinical Practice (Paramedic) at CSU:
- graduates will be able to pursue a rewarding and fast-paced career in emergency health care
- the course is available on campus at Bathurst and Port Macquarie campuses, or by distance education for students with existing qualifications
- students will learn practical skills using state-of-the-art equipment and simulation facilities on campus.
Facilities
This course involves extensive practical experience to ensure graduates are confident when they start working. On campus facilities for this course include fully equipped laboratories, modern tutorial rooms, interactive lecture rooms and state-of-the-art pre-hospital care equipment. A Simulation Centre, opened in November 2011, provides paramedics exposure to high fidelity patient simulators and the opportunity to work in interprofessional teams with nurses and other health professionals.

CSU provides teaching materials that are relevant, up-to-date and meet the standards set by accrediting bodies. Students also have access to qualified and experienced teaching staff.

Workplace learning
You will complete approximately 400 hours of clinical placement in appropriate healthcare settings during this course. You will be responsible for any travel and accommodation costs relating to workplace learning experiences.

Scholarships
A range of scholarships for undergraduate students is available through CSU. For more information, visit: www.csu.edu.au/scholarships

Credit
Credit will be considered where it can be demonstrated that previous study matches specified subjects in the program. Credit will be assessed on an individual basis.

Qualified paramedics or medics serving in a full-time capacity in the Australian Defence Forces who enter the distance education offering of the course will receive credit for prior learning and current competencies on entry to the course.

Registered nurses seeking a transition to paramedic practice are encouraged to apply for entry to the Graduate Diploma of Clinical Practice (Paramedic).

Study by distance education
Students already employed as qualified paramedics or medics in the Australian Defence Forces can choose to study this course by distance education.

CSU provides an excellent range of support tools for distance education students, with course materials designed to engage and promote active thinking and participation.

Materials include pre-prepared week-long schedules, study modules containing activities designed to encourage participants to apply ideas to their workplace, assignments designed to test the mastery and application of course materials, resource materials containing interesting, practical or contentious views, and online education packages.

Lecturers are committed to ensuring they are readily available to assist students by direct telephone and email contact. Online forums are a key part of all subjects, enabling direct and instant contact with staff and other students.

Jordan Emery
Bachelor of Clinical Practice (Paramedic)
“I never wanted an office job. I am a practical person and I learn better hands-on. I wanted to do something where I was active in an industry that is constantly changing.

“The degree gives us exposure to exactly what we are going to see in the field.

“The skills you learn far exceed what you learn in other university degrees. They are life skills that can have a practical application to real-life situations.”

Alan Morrison
Education Manager,
Ambulance Service of NSW
“It is important that paramedics are well equipped and educated to provide high quality patient care to the community.

“Completing the CSU Bachelor of Clinical Practice (Paramedic) degree provides an excellent foundation for meeting the challenges of being a paramedic, and we are keen to see graduates from the course join us.”