PARAMEDIC SCIENCE

BACHELOR OF PARAMEDIC SCIENCE

Course length 3 years full-time or equivalent part-time.
Prerequisites None. No assumed knowledge.
SATAC Code 224321
2013 ATAR 91.15
Guaranteed entry ATAR NA
TAFElink NA
BONUS POINTS SEAS, RISAS

THIS COURSE...

› has been accredited by the Council of Ambulance Authorities;
› was developed in conjunction with the South Australian Ambulance Service;
› will give you the knowledge, skills and judgment to deliver pre-hospital emergency care in a professional manner;
› combines specific paramedic topics with broader studies in the health sciences;
› can be a stepping-stone to the graduate-entry medical program.

PARAMEDIC SCIENCE AT FLINDERS

The aim of the Bachelor of Paramedic Science is to ensure that all paramedics have the skills, knowledge and attitudes required to provide emergency pre-hospital care of a sophisticated nature and to ensure seamless care from site to hospital.

The Bachelor of Paramedic Science contains compulsory health sciences and paramedic core topics and has been developed to ensure the community receives optimum care in health emergencies from paramedics able to manage all situations in a manner consistent with best practice.

A key benefit of university-based paramedic training is continuity of standards. Flinders places significant emphasis on quality improvement, audit and review to ensure it meets industry expectations by teaching current best practice in pre-hospital healthcare delivery.

This course was developed in collaboration with the South Australian Ambulance Service (SAAS) and with input from practising, experienced paramedics.

FITNESS FOR CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

Paramedics need an average level of health, fitness and psychological resilience. To ensure their new employees are up to the job, the South Australian Ambulance Service and ambulance services in other Australian states require the successful completion of a range of pre-employment tests. This means you will be required to undertake a medical and a physical examination. To ensure you are able to meet the demands of being a paramedic, successful completion of these same tests is required prior to participating in compulsory clinical placements, which form a part of the assessment of all Paramedic specific topics. These tests also enable you to gauge your health and fitness, allowing you to make the required health adjustments, or consider alternative study options if health problems prevent your progress in the course. You will also participate in manual handling training that specifically focuses on the use of ambulance equipment.
STUDY PROGRAM

The study program comprises specialised paramedic topics as well as health sciences topics designed to provide the broad skill and knowledge base required by health care professionals.

The core topics are as follows:

**First year**

In first year you will take core topics that provide introductions to paramedic practice and traumatic emergencies plus studies in basic paramedic practice and an introduction to medical emergencies, human bioscience, integrated clinical physiology for paramedics, health practitioner practice, and contemporary approaches to lifestyle management.

**Second year**

In second year you will study core topics in pathophysiology, paramedic practice, mental health emergencies, epidemiology for the social determinants of health, and psychological perspectives on health.

**Third year**

Third year includes core topics in clinical assessment, applied pharmacology, emergency law and ethics, applied paramedic practice, leading change in pre-hospital care, and qualitative and quantitative methods in social health research.

ACCREDITATION

The Bachelor of Paramedic Science at Flinders has been accredited by the Council of Ambulance Authorities.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Prior to attending clinical placements all students are required to have current criminal history screening checks and mandated protection against infectious diseases through immunisation.

ENTRY PATHWAYS

Paramedic Science is available to school leavers, with applicants competing for entry on the basis of performance in SACE Stage 2 studies, the International Baccalaureate, or the interstate/overseas equivalent.

A conversion course is available to applicants who have completed the Diploma of Applied Science (Ambulance Studies) or Intensive Care Paramedic Certificate (South Australia) from South Australia or other Australian Registered Training Organisations. Students in the conversion course will be given credit towards the degree on the basis of their previous ambulance qualifications.

Second or third year undergraduate entry into the Bachelor of Paramedic Science is available via the flexible entry pathway for those studying a Bachelor of Health Sciences or Bachelor of Medical Science. For more information on flexible entry pathways, including places available and the application process, go to: flinders.edu.au/healthpathways

Graduate entry into the Bachelor of Paramedic Science is available to graduates with related degrees including health, medical sciences and nursing. Graduates with other degrees are also encouraged to apply, with eligibility for credit determined on an individual basis.

Industry-sponsored degree programs are also available through participating Australian Ambulance Services.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates of the Bachelor of Paramedic Science are eligible for employment as paramedics, communications officers and call-takers with SAAS and ambulance services in all other Australian states. There are also job opportunities in industrial and mining sites, particularly in rural and remote areas. Most positions offer competitive pay.

This program will equip you to apply for employment as a paramedic or communications officer with public and private ambulance services throughout Australia. Opportunities are also available in rural and remote settings (such as Indigenous communities, mining operations, oil rigs) and other situations requiring emergency health resources.

With further experience/training you may also seek employment as a clinical instructor, clinical support officer, intensive care paramedic, rescue or flight paramedic, or move into a management position.

“My grandfather was an ambulance officer in the 1940s and I remember his stories. I have always admired seeing paramedics working so I decided while at school to be one.

I’d done nursing somewhere else but Flinders was better in that it was smaller and closer-knit. A small group of lecturers and academic staff also helped improve the learning environment.

There was lots of hands-on work, practical sessions and examinations but the lecturers were happy for you to come and use the equipment in your own time. They’d come along when they didn’t have lectures or tutes and they’d guide you through it.

Communication was a focus of the Paramedic degree as well. The biggest diagnostic tool at your disposal is being able to communicate with people. Getting the patient’s history can be the biggest part to working out what’s going wrong.

I’m still getting used to being a qualified paramedic but I love it because there’s so much variety in the job. We can treat people for so many things and I’ve even delivered babies. It’s great to be able to make a real difference for people.”

Tristan Moyle

Flinders Paramedic graduate and paramedic with the SA Ambulance Service
# ENTRY PATHWAYS TO FLINDERS

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## SELECTION CRITERIA

### ATAR (from Year 12) results

### Grade Point Average (GPA) results

### Certificate 4, Diploma or Advanced Dip

### Foundation Studies Special Tertiary Admissions Test

## ALL APPLICATIONS through SA Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC)

satac.edu.au

## Admissions/Prospective Students Office

1300 657 671  
admissions@flinders.edu.au  
flinders.edu.au

International students should contact  
T: +61 8 8201 2727  F: +61 8 8201 3177  
flinders.edu.au/international

## Our mobile apps

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