

Postgraduate Certificate in EMS Leadership and Management



Why study EMS leadership and management?

The study of EMS leadership and management provides opportunities for EMS managers and paramedics to enhance their knowledge, skills and understanding of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and their prospects for advancement within the profession.

Charles Sturt University (CSU), a leading Australian university in paramedic education, offers this innovative Postgraduate Certificate in EMS Leadership and Management, which is designed for practicing and aspiring EMS managers who seek formal qualifications to complement their paramedic experience and qualifications.

What is CSU's EMS leadership and management program?

Studied by distance education, CSU's Postgraduate Certificate in EMS Leadership and Management will be offered from early 2011.

To ensure the needs of both students and industry are met, the program was developed in consultation with EMS leaders in Australia, Canada, and USA.

The program provides an international perspective and focuses on EMS systems, leadership, professional identity and evidence-based management. It seeks to provide students with a fundamental understanding of major aspects of the leadership and management role as it applies to the delivery of pre-hospital medical care.

The program aims to develop managerial competencies by equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to facilitate effective and efficient practice at personal, professional and organisational levels.

Entry into this program will be open to paramedics and EMS managers with considerable managerial work experience who may not necessarily hold an undergraduate degree qualification.

Dedicated teaching staff

The program is delivered by a team of academics who are highly qualified in a range of disciplines and committed to management development through established educational principles and practices.

The advantages of studying EMS leadership and management at CSU

- the program provides an academic pathway into EMS leadership and management careers
- students gain an international perspective
- our specialist academics have extensive EMS leadership and management experience
- studies are applied to your own work context and experiences ensuring learning is always relevant
- subjects are offered by distance education and there are no residential schools



What will I learn?

The Postgraduate Certificate in EMS Leadership and Management consists of four 8 point subjects: Evidence Based Practice, EMS Systems, Paramedicine as a Discipline, and Health Services Development.

On completion of the program, graduates will be able to:

- analyse the context of EMS within the healthcare and public safety systems
- identify and evaluate major international reforms and policy directions for EMS systems
- compare and contrast alternative theoretical conceptual frameworks of EMS and their usefulness in understanding the needs of communities
- differentiate the concepts of need and demand in the provision of EMS
- examine EMS issues and a range of leadership and managerial practices involved in service provision
- examine the nature of management functions, roles and the evolution of management theory from behavioural, political and symbolic dimensions in relation to leading and managing EMS
- examine the principle demographic, social and epidemiological characteristics of communities and gain an understanding of the principles of customer focus and service development as they are applied to EMS.

Note: course structure is subject to approval.

Studying by distance education

A distinct feature of the program is its online support including discussion forums, direct email to teaching staff, access to subject materials and library resources, and electronic assignment submission.

The online discussion forums allow students to raise issues of interest, explore contemporary topics within each subject area and enable students from a diverse range of backgrounds to share ideas and experiences.

Study materials include printed packages containing a course outline, study guide and selected readings. Additional electronic resources are updated frequently, often within the session of study, to complement the study resources already provided.

Further study

Postgraduate Certificate in EMS Leadership and Management graduates may elect to undertake additional studies to Master degree level to further develop their knowledge and skills in leadership and management. Two articulation options are available into either CSU's Master of Health Services Management or Master of Health Science which require the completion of an additional 64 points.



Need for EMS leadership and management development

"Paramedic qualifications do not, of themselves, fit a person to be the CEO of a significant public sector organisation ... Executive management experience, leadership skills across a diverse range of stakeholders, the ability to influence planning (health, workforce and financial) at a state level are essential for the role of CEO." (Department of Premier Performance Review of the ASNSW, 2008, p.93)

"... a graduate degree with a specialisation in leadership, business, commerce, public administration, or health care should be a goal that EMS leaders could aspire to and are supported organisationally and professionally to achieve." (EMS manager, Joe Acker, 2009, Canada)

The EMSCC (2006) white paper suggested, "The development of graduate-level education programs specialized in the field of health care will assist in the development of future EMS leadership." (p.38)

"Ensuring there are enough appropriately experienced, trained and educated EMS officers for the future will be a collective journey for EMS in America. It will continue to evolve as steps are taken. It will not be an easy process. It will demand input, openness and compromise from every sector of the EMS community." National EMS Management Association (2008). *Management and leadership development in America: An agenda for the future.* (p.38)

www.csu.edu.au

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