

Undergraduate Programme Specification

Programme Name

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate where full advantage is taken of all learning opportunities offered. Further details on the learning, teaching and assessment approach for the programme and modules can be accessed on the University website and Virtual Learning Environment, GCU Learn. All programmes of the University are subject to the University's [Quality Assurance](#) processes.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION			
Programme Title	BSc Paramedic Science		
Final Award	Bachelor of Science in Paramedic Science		
Awarding Body	Glasgow Caledonian University		
School	School of Health and Life Sciences		
Department	Department of Physiotherapy and Paramedicine		
Mode of Study	Full-time		
Location of Delivery	Glasgow Campus		
UCAS Code	B950		
Accreditations (PSRB)	Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) College of Paramedic Endorsement		
Period of Approval	From:	September 2020	To: August 2026

2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF PROGRAMME
<p>The aim of the programme is to provide students with the necessary skills and competencies to deliver care, in a range of health settings, as a member of an integrated health and social care team. The programme will prepare students to be proficient to undertake the full scope of practice for a paramedic leading to eligibility for them to apply for registration with the HCPC.</p> <p>The programme aims to inspire paramedic students to participate in the profession within an environment based on inclusiveness, mental and physical wellbeing, creativity, confidence and responsibility. The programme will promote a culture of evidence and research-based practice in line with the College of Paramedics Strategy 2019 – 2024 (CoP, 2019).</p> <p>The BSc Paramedic Science programme is designed to facilitate the progressive development of attributes, knowledge, understanding and skills as students advance through their programme of study. On completion of the BSc Paramedic Science programme, the graduate should be able to display the characteristics outlined below from levels 7 to 9 of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF, 2012) as contextualised for Paramedic practice.</p> <p>Graduates of the BSc Paramedic Science Programme will be eligible to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). The programme includes an exit award after year 1 of Certificate of Higher Education Associate Ambulance Practitioner and year 2 of Diploma of Higher Education in Ambulance Studies. This does not confer eligibility for registration but may enable graduates to gain employment within the ambulance care sector or move into other education pathways.</p>

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

A: Knowledge and understanding;

- A1** Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology and sociology to enable diagnosis, treatment and management of a range of conditions across the lifespan, and at end of life
- A2** Knowledge and understanding of communication and clinical decision-making theories to ensure safe and effective practice in a paramedic context
- A3** Apply the principles of ethics, professionalism, law and values to the application of paramedic practice
- A4** Demonstrate the knowledge and understanding required for safe and effective paramedic practice in unscheduled care and emergency/ urgent care settings
- A5** Analyse and interpret research and other relevant data required to make clinical decisions in a range of settings
- A6** Be aware of, and sensitive to, cultural, political and social factors which

B: Practice: Applied knowledge, skills and understanding;

- B1** Demonstrate knowledge and skills to apply clinical practical skills required for paramedic practice
- B2** Demonstrate relevant practical skills and knowledge required for a range of non-invasive, invasive, and pharmacological clinical interventions
- B3** Apply problem-solving skills and innovative solutions to clinical challenges with, and for, patients, carers, colleagues, to ensure safe and effective care
- B4** Demonstrate and ensure accurate record keeping with regard to the legal recording of patient care encounters
- B5** Demonstrate organisational and leadership skills in mass casualty and major incident situations with regard to operational, local, and national policies
- B6** Apply knowledge and skills of clinical assessment, treatment, management, documentation and referral to ensure safety netting in the context of patients that are cared for locally, or at home, to reduce hospital admissions

C: Generic cognitive skills;

- C1** Be self-aware of own personal and professional strengths and limitations to ensure consistent high standard of safe and effective paramedic practice
- C2** Be able to assess risk to self and others in multiple complex situations to ensure safe standards of care for patients and the public
- C3** Consistently display professional conduct to ensure the profession is not brought into disrepute
- C4** Ensure application of non-judgmental, non-stigmatising values and behaviour to all service users and carers
- C5** Be confident and capable of advocating for patients in a range of settings and situations
- C6** Ensure confidentiality in the handling of patient information in accordance with professional, legal and ethical frameworks

D: Communication, numeracy and ICT skills

- D1** Develop the values, behaviours and communication skills to ensure person centred care and effective interactions with carers, healthcare teams, and other agencies are maintained
- D2** Ensure accuracy in the demonstration of numeracy skills in the assessment, interpretation, and deliver of patient care
- D3** Use a range of approaches to undertake patient monitoring, communication, ICT equipment, to ensure timely application of treatment, management and referral
- D4** Use written, electronic and verbal communication to ensure support for decision making is accurately conveyed to patients, carers and other healthcare practitioners/organisations
- D5** Ensure use of correct terminology to communicate with healthcare practitioners, other agencies, patients, carers, and third sector organisations

D6 Apply knowledge of clinical, social, psychological, cultural and spiritual awareness to paramedic practice and how this can influence peoples' response to, and the acceptance of care

E: Autonomy, accountability and working with others.

E1 Apply knowledge of the theories of learning for self and patients to ensure continued professional development, lifelong learning and teaching of patients and others

E2 Be confident in decision-making to ensure current evidence based clinical practice is applied by self and within interprofessional teams

E3 Ensure professional boundaries are maintained and justification for actions can be made to others

E4 Be accountable for own decisions and apply care within the scope of professional practice, which takes account of patient choice

E5 Ensure professional conduct, ethics and candour are applied to all areas of practice, upholding the standards of paramedicine

E6 Respect the contribution of the wider health and social care team, demonstrating knowledge and skills for effective team working

4. LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS

The programme provides a variety of learning and teaching methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the learning and teaching methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the learning and teaching methods and approaches may include the following:

- E-Learning through online lectures, discussion boards, podcasts, Wikis etc.
- Interactive and keynote lectures
- Learning portfolios
- Tutorials and seminars
- Practical workshops
- Case studies
- Work based learning
- Practice based learning
- Clinical simulation learning environments
- Simulated patient experiences
- Peer teaching
- Guest speakers, service users and service providers
- Group work

The above approaches may be delivered either in person or online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

5. ASSESSMENT METHODS

The programme provides a variety of formative and summative assessment methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the assessment methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the assessment methods may include the following:

- Written coursework (essays, reports, case studies, dissertations, literature reviews)
- Oral coursework (presentations, structured conversations)
- Practical Assessment (Placement, VIVA, laboratory work)
- Group work
- Blogs and Wikis
- Portfolio Presentations
- Formal Examinations and Class Tests

The above assessments may be delivered either in person and online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

6. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Specific entry requirements for this programme can be found on the prospectus and study pages on the GCU website at this location: www.gcu.ac.uk/study

The Course webpage specific to this programme is:

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate-paramedic-science-glasgow>

All students entering the programme are required to adhere to the [GCU Code of Student Conduct](#).

7. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND AVAILABLE AND FINAL EXIT AWARDS¹

The following modules are delivered as part of this programme:

Module Code	Module Title	Core or Optional	SCQF Level	Credit Size	Coursework %	Examination %	Practical %
M1B102521	Fundamentals of Human Physiology	Core	7	20		100	
M1B926429	Introduction to Clinical Practice for Paramedics: Clinical Skills	Core	7	20	100*		*Linked to PAD
M1B926427	Core Principles in Paramedic Science	Core	7	20	100		
M1B926428	Introduction to Clinical Practice for Paramedics: Assessment and Management	Core	7	20		100	
M1B926430	Practice Based Education: Ambulance Care Practice	Core	7	20	100*		*Linked to PAD
M2B926432	Developing Clinical Practice for Paramedics: Advancing Skills	Core	8	40	100*		*Linked to PAD
M2B725440	Understanding Evidence Based Practice	Core	8	20	100		
M2B926431	Developing Clinical Practice for Paramedics: Advancing Assessment	Core	8	40	40*	60	*Linked to PAD
M2B726433	Psychosocial Health in Paramedic Practice	Core	8	20	100		
M3B726434	Applying Evidence Based Practice	Core	9	20	100		
M3B926436	Leadership in Paramedic Practice	Core	9	20	100		
M3B926435	Consolidating Clinical Practice for Paramedics	Core	9	40	50*	50	*Linked to PAD
M3B926439	Preparation for Practice: Continuing Professional Development	Core	9	20	100		
M3B930324	Practice Based Education: Consolidating Practice	Core	9	20	50*	50	*Linked to PAD

¹ Periodically, programmes and modules may be subject to change or cancellation. Further information on this can be found on the GCU website here: www.gcu.ac.uk/currentstudents/essentials/policiesandprocedures/changesandcancellationtoprogrammes

Students undertaking the programme on a full-time basis commencing in September of each year will undertake the modules in the order presented above. This may be subject to variation for students commencing the programme at other times of year (e.g. January) and/or undertaking the programme on a part-time or distance learning mode of delivery.

The following final and early Exit Awards are available from this programme²:

Certificate of Higher Education in Associate Ambulance Practitioner - *achieved upon successful completion of 120 credits*

Diploma of Higher Education in Ambulance Studies- *achieved upon successful completion of 240 credits*

Bachelor of Science in Paramedic Science- *achieved upon successful completion of 360 credits*

8. ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Students should expect to complete their programme of study under the GCU Assessment Regulations that were in place at the commencement of their studies on that programme, unless proposed changes to University Regulations are advantageous to students. These can be found at:

www.gcu.ac.uk/aboutgcu/supportservices/qualityassuranceandenhancement/regulationsandpolicies

In addition to the GCU Assessment Regulations noted above, this programme is subject to Programme Specific Regulations in line with the following approved Exceptions:

Case No: 209

Due to theoretical, clinical, professional and regulatory body requirements which contribute to ensuring patient safety and fitness for practice, the programme requires a number of programme exceptions to assessment regulations. These have been approved by the Exceptions Committee. Many exceptions required for this programme are also currently in place for other healthcare programmes and modules. Additionally, research of other UK HEIs delivering Paramedic Science and feedback from our external examiners indicate the exceptions to be in line with others delivering a paramedic programmes.

² Please refer to the [GCU Qualifications Framework](#) for the minimum credits required for each level of award and the Programme Handbook for requirements on any specified or prohibited module combinations for each award.

Rationale for Exceptions under Section 13.1: Awarding Credit

All Modules with Two Assessment Elements:

For all modules with 2 pieces of assessment both elements must be achieved with a minimum of 40%.

M1B926429 INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL PRACTICE FOR PARAMEDICS: CLINICAL SKILLS

M1B726428 INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL PRACTICE FOR PARAMEDICS: ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT

These modules are assessed by 1 element of assessment each. Students are required to achieve a pass mark of 75% due to the clinical nature of the assessments leading to assurances for patient and service user safety in the practice environment. Deemed as appropriate for the year 1 level of practice.

M2B926431 DEVELOPING CLINICAL PRACTICE FOR PARAMEDICS: ADVANCING SKILLS

This module has 1 element of assessment as indicated above. The pass mark is 80%, which must be passed to achieve a pass for the module. This is required due to the advancing clinical skills being developed and the requirement for assessment leading to assurances for patient and service user safety. The higher threshold than year one accounts for the advanced clinical nature of the skills and associated risks.

M2B726428 DEVELOPING CLINICAL PRACTICE FOR PARAMEDICS: ADVANCING ASSESSMENT

This module has two elements of assessment as indicated above. The pass mark is 80% for both, which must be passed to achieve a pass for the module. This is required due to the advancing clinical skills being developed and the requirement for assessment leading to assurances for patient and service user safety. The higher threshold than year one accounts for the advanced clinical nature of the skills and associated risks.

Each component assesses specific learning outcomes and require to be passed to assess safe and effective practice.

In both of these cases the marks will be normalised to 40% in assessing the overall performance.

The formula used will be that already approved for use for normalisation purposes:

New Mark = (Score – Old Passmark) x (100 – New Passmark) + New Passmark (100 – Old Passmark)

IELTS Level 7, no element below 6.

VERSION CONTROL (to be completed in line with AQPP processes)**Any changes to the PSP must be recorded below by the programme team to ensure accuracy of the programme of study being offered.**

<i>Version Number</i>	<i>Changes/Updates</i>	<i>Date Changes/Updates made</i>	<i>Date Effective From</i>
1.0	Review period extension to align with department and school reviews	18/09/2023	18/09/2023
2.0	Updated module code and assessment per changes approved by programme board.	01/09/2024	09/09/2024