

# HLTH 2009 MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 401095

**Coordinator** Paul Simpson ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Paul Simpson/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Paul%20Simpson/))

**Description** This unit introduces students to mental health and behavioural presentations, and emergencies arising from legal and illegal substance use. Students will explore the epidemiology, pathophysiology, manifestation, recognition, assessment and management of common mental health problems, behavioural presentations, and cases involving legal and illegal drug use in the context of paramedicine. Students will practice techniques for managing these presentations from an interpersonal communication perspective and a clinical management perspective. Acute and sub-acute presentations will be discussed, with specific attention given to the role of the paramedic regarding risk assessment, counselling, and health promotion. Legalities associated with management of behaviourally disturbed or cognitively impaired patients will be discussed, and issues relating to multi-agency care, collaboration and co-operation will be examined.

**School** Health Sciences

**Discipline** Paramedical Studies

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 2 10cp

Check your HECS Band contribution amount via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Undergraduate Level 2 subject

**Pre-requisite(s)** HLTH 1009

**Co-requisite(s)** HLTH 2017

**Restrictions** Students must be enrolled in 4669 Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedicine).

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Discuss the role of paramedics with regard to health promotion and injury prevention for patients with mental health, drug or alcohol related presentations
2. Describe techniques for undertaking mental health and behavioural assessment and management in the prehospital environment
3. Describe the clinical presentations associated with commonly encountered substances
4. Apply patient assessment and clinical skills to cases involving mental health or substance affected patients
5. Discuss the role of paramedics in the inter-professional care of mental health patients
6. Discuss the professional, ethical and legal considerations surrounding management of a patient with a mental health or substance affected presentation

## Subject Content

Mental health and behavioural (MH&B)

1. Epidemiology of MH and behavioural presentations and structure of MH care systems in Australia
2. Legal, cultural and social considerations associated with MH&B presentations
3. Communication with, and assessment of, MH&B patients
4. Anxiety Disorders, Mood Disorders, Psychotic Disorders, Personality Disorders, Dementia, delirium and confusion
5. Drug & substance use/abuse
1. Epidemiology of alcohol and drug use in Australia
2. Assessment, diagnosis and management of acute drug or substance use
3. Alcohol intoxication and alcoholism
4. Common illicit substances
5. Prescription and non-prescription medication abuse presentations
6. Mental health and drug use ? patients with dual presentations
7. Role of paramedic in health promotion and injury prevention

## Special Requirements

Legislative pre-requisites

### Special Requirements - NSW Health Legislative Prerequisites

#### Student Compliance Information for all Health-Related Placements

**Prior to enrolling in this subject, students must have submitted a Student Undertaking Form and undertake to apply for a National Police Check, which is required to be submitted before placement, and a Working with Children Check Student Declaration. Use the link to the Special Requirements webpage below for more information.**

To be eligible to enrol in this subject and complete any required health-related placements or experiences, students must meet Western Sydney University program requirements as well as any special, legislated, or policy-mandated requirements.

### Western Program Requirements

Visit the Special Requirements webpage for details about your program.

Special Requirements ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/enrolment/special\\_requirements/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/enrolment/special_requirements/))

### Mandatory NSW Health student placement policy requirements

To be able to undertake placement in any NSW Health facility you must be assessed as compliant with NSW Health student placement policy in the first year of your program, regardless of when you expect to go on your first placement. Access and read the NSW Student Compliance Information Booklet.

NSW Student Compliance Information Booklet ([https://issuu.com/uwspublications/docs/wsu\\_student\\_compliance\\_booklet\\_2020\\_v6/](https://issuu.com/uwspublications/docs/wsu_student_compliance_booklet_2020_v6/))

Please ensure that you

1. Find your existing National Police Check or apply for one
2. Gather documentary evidence of your vaccination history
3. Print and complete all relevant NSW Health forms relevant to the campus you are enrolled at or online enrolment requirements
4. Follow booklet instructions on how to have your compliance documents assessed by NSW health staff.

International students have additional requirements; the link to the booklet will inform you of these requirements.

## School Requirements

Contact your School for further details regarding your School's requirements, if any, such as

- If you live outside of NSW or Australia and need to meet your state, territory or country's compliance requirements
- If you need to meet different state, territory or country compliance requirements.
- NSW Working with Children Check (WWCC) or other state equivalent, valid for your entire program.
- Current approved first aid certificate valid for your entire program  
- approved program providers can be found at the Government Training website
- <http://training.gov.au> (<http://training.gov.au/>)
- Other non-health related requirements.

Student Compliance Resources are also available on the Placements Hub web page (NSW students only)

[https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/learning\\_futures/home/placements\\_hub/placements\\_hub/student\\_compliance](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/learning_futures/home/placements_hub/placements_hub/student_compliance) ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/learning\\_futures/home/placements\\_hub/placements\\_hub/student\\_compliance/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/learning_futures/home/placements_hub/placements_hub/student_compliance/))

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Item	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task
Quiz	Up to 30 questions in 30 minutes	10	N	Individual
Case Study	1,500 words	30	N	Individual
Simulation	30 minutes	40	Y	Individual
Quiz	Up to 60 questions in 60 minutes	20	N	Individual

Teaching Periods

## 1st Half

### Campbelltown

#### Day

**Subject Contact** Paul Simpson ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Paul Simpson/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Paul%20Simpson/))

View timetable ([https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject\\_code=HLTH2009\\_22-1H\\_CA\\_D#subjects](https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/even/timetable/?subject_code=HLTH2009_22-1H_CA_D#subjects))