

COURSE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Thank you for your enquiry about the *Certificate of Higher Education in Emergency Medical Care*. We hope the information contained in this Information Sheet will help you to determine whether it is the right course for you. For general enquires such as availability, fees and enrolment, please contact the Centre for Continuing Education. If you have any other queries about the course, please contact Mr Simon Butler, Course Director (email: s.butler@uea.ac.uk) or Louise Staffell, Course Manager (phone 01603-424255 ext. 5166 or email: louise.staffell@eastamb.nhs.uk);

CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

(2008-2010)

A part-time course - two years normally

Aims & Objectives

The principal aim of the Certificate of Higher Education in Emergency Medical Care course is to provide the level of training and education necessary for modern emergency medical care providers to become confident and effective practitioners. Historically, training in this specialty has been didactic and skills based, involving short and intensive courses with little opportunity for consolidation and reflection. Evidence-based medicine is not embraced in these traditional courses and much of what is taught is anecdotal. This course aims to redress these issues, a key focus of which is the application of a sound theoretical base to enhance the student's clinical decision-making abilities and to develop sound techniques of patient assessment and clinical care. The course is of two-year duration and combines modern teaching methods with currency of information through part-time and supported distance learning to enhance the student's learning experience. All tutors are health care professionals or subject specialists. As well as Paramedics, the course may be of interest to others, such as voluntary aid volunteers, nursing staff and military personnel. Many of the units are suitable for members of the public who have an interest in medicine. Non-student paramedics can take the 60-credit exit award of The Certificate of Continuing Education in Emergency Medical Care. The course also serves as a foundation for further academic and/or professional study. ***It is likely that this or a similar course will be offered until 2011.***

Personal use of a computer with internet access and email is essential for students studying this course. All course materials and resources will be available to students on line using the 'Backboard', University's virtual learning environment. The University will provide you with a logon, password and UEA email account. A reliable email account is essential. You will need the following software or emulation software in order to read the course materials, submit your assignments and read feedback from your tutor: Microsoft Word and Excel (2003 or 2007); Adobe Reader (free download). If you do not wish to purchase Microsoft products, contact the Course Director for details of free word-processing and spreadsheet software. Some NHS employees are entitled to copies of Microsoft Office for under £20. It is worth exploring this with your IT department to see if your employer subscribes to this scheme.

Objectives:

- The exploration within a multi- and inter-disciplinary framework, the interacting components associated with pre-hospital emergency medical care.
- An introduction to the disciplines and techniques employed in the study of out-of-hospital and unscheduled medical care.
- Providing students with opportunities to strengthen their knowledge in medical sciences, health studies, law, ethics and health organisation.
- Providing opportunities for students to combine and integrate their learning within the context of their professional development and practice.
- To introduce students to the processes underlying injury and disease through the study of medical physics, biosciences, pathophysiology and trauma.
- The acquisition of a sound theoretical base and improved patient assessment skills leading to enhanced diagnostic and clinical decision making abilities.
- The application of a scientific and evidence-based approach to patient care through the development of research skills including within clinical practice.
- Through the work-based component, the application of theory to clinical practice
- To develop reflective practice in the workplace.
- A commitment to study at university level.
- Independent thought and study.
- Analytical and critical ability in the use of evidence.
- Core skills including the ability to find, present, communicate and discuss ideas and concepts clearly, concisely and logically, both orally and in writing.
- An ability to demonstrate an understanding of the mechanics of scholarship.
- A flexible and coherent program of study at University level one and to provide a progression route to level two study.
- Interaction with others in a way that is conducive to maintaining or enhancing professional relationships, including team-working.
- The ability to work to a schedule and meet deadlines.

Structure

The course comprises a number of modules at Level 1 (equivalent to first year undergraduate level) and is normally studied over two years. Students may also enrol on the Certificate in Continuing Education which is studied over one year or individual modules of interest.

Module 1: Introduction to Practice	(10 credits)
Module 2: Clinical Theory I	(10 credits)
Module 3: Clinical Theory II	(10 credits)
Module 4: Clinical Theory III	(10 credits)
Module 5: Clinical Theory IV	(10 credits)
Module 6: Work-based learning & reflective practice I	(20 credits)
Module 7: Paramedic skills phase	(40 credits)
Module 8: Work-based learning & reflective practice II	(10 credits)

Modules 6 to 8 (i.e. the full Cert HE) are **only** available to those who meet paramedic selection criteria. Modules 1 to 5 can be studied by anyone who has an interest in the subject matter. To gain the Certificate in Continuing Education: Emergency Medical Care those not enrolled on the full

Cert HE need to choose another 10 credit course from the Centre for Continuing Education prospectus.

Entry Requirements

As this course is offered by the UEAs Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), there are no formal academic entry requirements; however, you will be expected to complete a personal statement as part of your application, which will allow the course team to assess your suitability. Please note that this course makes similar intellectual demands of any other at higher education level. If you have not studied recently to at least 'A' level standard you are strongly advised to complete the Online Study Skills course offered by the CCE before commencing the Certificate in Emergency Medical Care. Upon successful completion of the Study Skills course you will be awarded 10 credits at level one, which you can use towards the Certificate of Continuing Education.

Teaching and Learning

This course will be taught by a team of professional associate tutors employed on a part-time basis by the University of East Anglia. Teaching will take place principally online with regular distance or face-to-face tutorials, study days and practical sessions supported by distance learning materials and private study. A range of teaching materials will be employed including slides, overhead projector transparencies, hand-outs, videos, PowerPoint presentations and specimens. Modules (1 to 5) are supported by study guides and workbooks supplemented by core and recommended reading from a variety of publications **which you need to acquire prior to starting the course**. Students will be expected to undertake preparatory reading in advance of lectures, tutorials and practical sessions and in relation to coursework. If additional help is needed, this may be arranged between the individual student and the tutor.

Coursework & Assessment

Roughly speaking, for a 10 credit course unit or the equivalent, you will be required to submit work totalling about 2,000 words. The nature and length of individual assignments will vary between modules. There is a timed, unseen examination which students must pass prior to progressing to Module 7 and at the end of Module 8. Your Course Director and tutors will give you advice and guidance on what is expected.

Other assessment methods include: practice portfolios, observed structured clinical examinations (OSCE) for skills and scenarios, assessment of team working skills, oral examinations (*viva voce*), a scientific poster presentation, in-class tests.

Award of the Certificate

The Certificate of Higher Education in Emergency Medical Care carries 120 credits at undergraduate Level 1.

It is also possible to register for the Certificate in Continuing Education: Emergency Medical Care for 60 credits at undergraduate Level 1

Applicants for the full Certificate of Higher Education must have occupational competence and/or qualification that would allow them to, upon completion of this course, secure registration as a paramedic with the Health Professions Council (HPC). See the HPC website for details on the criteria for registration.

Essential Study (Reading List)

From 2008 the texts listed below, together with a study guide and workbook for each module, constitute the largest component of the teaching and learning of the course. Evidence of study of these books is required before a module can be successfully completed (such evidence is submitted as part of the assignments). You must purchase your own copy of these books or make arrangement for their long-term loan.

- Caroline, N. L. (2007) *Emergency Care in the Streets (International Edition)*, Sixth Edition, Jones & Bartlett Publishers International, London.
- Tortora, G., Derrickson, B. (2006) *Principles of Anatomy & Physiology (International Edition)*, Eleventh Edition, Wiley International, London.
- Neal, M. J. (2005) *Medical Pharmacology at a Glance*, Fifth Edition, Blackwell Publishing Ltd, Oxford.
- Houghton, A. R., Gray, D. (2003) *Making Sense of the ECG: A Hands-On Guide*, Second Edition, Arnold Publishers, London.
- Komaromy, C (ed) 2001 *Dilemmas in UK Health Care* Open University, Milton Keynes. ISBN 0335 20841X
- Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee (JRCALC) *UK Ambulance Service Clinical Practice Guidelines (2006)* (eds. Fisher, J. D., Brown, S. N., Cooke, M. W.). ISBN 1-84690-060-3. This is available as a free internet download.

All of these publications are available new or second-hand from Amazon.co.uk and the maximum cost is £130. ***It is important to include this cost, together with course fees and study day travel, when you are considering the course costs.***

Further Reading

A further reading list and recommended web resources and sites are given in the study guide for each module. Study of these additional materials and resources is not compulsory. They are included as guidance for those who wish to extend and enhance the learning of subjects or themes that are of particular interest to individual students. Obviously the study guides, workbooks and recommended reading are compulsory components of the course.

Fees

Fees are determined by the University and charged per unit. Current costs can be found on the Centre for Continuing Education website or by contacting the Centre by telephone.