

Template for Curriculum Renewal: Analysis and Action Plan
Program Name: Paramedic Date: Dec 2011 / Jan 2012

Curriculum Renewal: Analysis and Action Plan Template

A. Analysis of Indicators

The following indicators are intended to guide the team in **thinking and reflecting** about the curriculum and the program. Data is **not** recorded in this section of the template.

1. Industry Trends

- 1.1 New or emergent *industry-related* issues and trends identified over the past year and their potential impact on the program
- November 2011 Emergency Health Services Branch implemented a new set of medical directives
The focus of the new directives is critical thinking and self direction. The criteria are more vague to allow the paramedic to interpret the patients illness and decide the best course of action. To ensure clinical competence and patient safety the following proposal for ERSV024 Advanced Paramedic Skills [end of document] are being proposed
- 1.2 Advisory Committee recommendations from the past year that will affect the positioning, nature, or scope of the program.
- Engage a more comprehensive preceptorship program
 - explore an accepted and evidence based lifting / patient movement program
 - Ability works, Sibley...
- 1.3 Faculty and staff professional development, engagement in sectoral and profession associations, and involvement in community and employer networks connected to the field.
- Part-time/partial load faculty are active working paramedics in differently clinical settings
 - promote professional development/continued learning in adult education concepts of facilitation and evaluation

2. Curriculum Development

- 2.1 Curriculum changes in the last year such as changes in program positioning, course content, course/program outcomes, and delivery mode.
- PMD has moved several program to more effectively ladder learning through the four semesters of the program
 - Ambulance operations moved to 1st semester in response to Paramedic Advisory and Industry recommendations of more exposure to driving
A driving journal started to capture hours of experience for portfolio
A driving course also provided with pylons for practice
 - Health Concepts for Paramedics [HLTH246] moved from 1st semester to 3rd semester to more actively engage the paramedic student in Paramedic research and practice concepts – more relevant as their program experience increases
The course will also be renamed 'Research, Profession and Practice
Recommendations from previous Curriculum Renewal – appended

- Patient Care Labs/Comprehensive Lab– under the direction/assistance of Pauline Smiley have engaged in a more structured format to provide the learner with skills stations, scenarios all prepared by faculty. To parallel faculty observation/input even when scenarios are not occurring in front of faculty. Lab activities/scenarios/skill stations are times to maximise exposure for students with faculty.

2.2 Recent or anticipated initiatives that promote student pathways including high school articulations, program laddering, and university transfer/articulations.

- Examine how the registrar assesses grades – students with IEPs [acquiring 83% are they at par with other students?]
- *perhaps some communication with guidance in high schools to indentify level of challenge with the paramedic program*
- Change to Advance Paramedic Skills Appendix A

2.3 New competitor programs.

2.4 New or changing provincial standards, accreditation, credentials, and/or industry certifications over the past year.

- See 1.1
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2.5 Progress made from latest curriculum renewal initiative.

- See 2.1
- With both Fitness courses RECR 63 and RECR64 moving to 1st and 2nd semester respectively – the student must make a real conscious effort to continue his/her level of fitness and practice lifting – **encourage this focus**

Update curriculum map and attach to this document. Appendix B

3. Student and Graduate Satisfaction

3.1 Key performance indicators # 4, 8, 9, and 11 (See Appendix C for a description of these).
[Completed March/April 2011]

- Change in Patient Care Labs – to maximize faculty input and feedback
 - faculty face time
- Student Lab positions for increased structured practice time will all tools/drugs available
- Ambulance available by sign out for additional practice time

4. Employment Trends

4.1 Any new employment trends in the industry.

4.2 Curriculum issues/strengths that have been identified by employers pertaining to graduate job readiness.

From employers

- preceptor fatigue – having students ride out 1st semester...the following change has occurred
- Fall 2012...A – FLFP 171 Ambulance Field Experience course for Field preparation incorporating orientation shifts and expectations from the college and the ambulance service
- our students are academically strong and they acknowledge that experience will come with time

- identified some weaknesses with interview skills: goal to increase exposure during 4th semester in both lunch and learn format and crisis for paramedics [seeking employment can be a very stressful process]
 - *Communications for Paramedics COMM 36 – perhaps look at strengthening the focus of 'interview' skills in this course – value adding /applied learning to this course -*

Appendix A

Proposed Curriculum changes for Fall 2012 based on the aforementioned trends, issues and challenges

Advanced Paramedic Skills ESRV 024

Format change:

- 2 hour lecture for entire group
 - providing of the didactic pieces of the directives , equipment and case studies
 - promotes consistent messaging
 - Medical Acts appended [see Advanced Life Support Patient Care Standards, Nov 2011]

Augmented with a

- 2 hour lab session [in sections]
 - hands on application of the directives, equipment
 - integrating the **applied learning principles** we espouse in the community college environment
 - Expanding the lab portion for this course will also incorporate the **DACUM** concepts and narrow the gap between what is typically taught in the classroom and what paramedics actually need to become competent practitioners
 - Due to current legislation and liability student paramedics during their consolidation cannot actually deliver any medications...they can establish that the directive is required but cannot actually deliver.
Because of this...affording them every opportunity to practice under the direction and supervision of paramedic faculty will enhance their ability to perform these skills

Currently assessments and evaluations due to student/faculty ratio and time restrictions are completed using a written format. This additional lab time will afford the opportunity to incorporate additional valid and reliable assessments of skills which previously attempted to fit into the concurrent Patient Care 3 Lab. This will address several shortcomings and improve our ability to consistently evaluate and ensure clinical competency. It is widely accepted and well researched that using multiple standardized stations [OSCE – Objective Structured Clinical Evaluation] can reduce the issue of content specificity and therefore improve reliability of assessments.

As identified in the Curriculum Renewal July 2008

- For faculty the change in time is neutral – it still translates to 6 student contact hours
 - 2 lecture hours, 2-2 lab hours –decision with consultation from Dean is to have one two hour lab, not two per week. Change made effective Fall 2012

- the additional hour for the student could come from the movement of Health concepts back to 1st semester

Concepts in Health

Fall 2012: Return Health Care Concepts [HLTH65] to 1st semester. This is a general introductory course for all health care professions. Covered in all other courses in 1st semester-as per Dean, deferred for further discussion.

Curriculum Map Appendix B

Semester I

Course Name	Change request	Length of Course	Weekly Breakdown
Communications for CD&HW COMM79		45 hrs	1+1+1
Intro to Computers COMP345		45 hrs	1 hr lab +2 SDL
Fitness 1 RECR5		30 hrs	2 hr lab
Anatomy and Physiology 1 for PM SCIE10		60 hrs	2 hr lec/2 hr lab
SOCI 36 Introduction to Psychology		45 hrs	3 hr lec
Patient Care I ESRV29		75 hrs	2 hr lec/3 hr lec
Patient Care I Labs ESRV33		60 hrs	2/2 hr lab
ESRV 26 Ambulance Operations and Driving Skills		30	2 hr sem
Concepts in HC HLTH65 If this course is mandatory	2012 Move to sem 1	15	1 lec - 1 st semester with all other programs – the specific paramedic piece – Now Research, Profession and Practice...HLTH246 in 3 rd semester- decision deferred for future discussion
Semester Totals		405 hrs	Add 15 hours

Semester II

Course Name		Length of Course	Weekly Breakdown
Comm for PM COMM36	Discussion around using and teaching APA format	45 hrs	1 hr lec/2 hr seminar
Anatomy and Physiology 2 for PM SCIE11		60 hrs	2 hr lec/ 2 hr lab
Pharmacology SCIE28		45 hrs	3 hr lec
Patient Care II ERSV30		75 hrs	2 hr lec/ 3 hr lec
Patient Care II Labs ESRV34		60 hrs	2 /2 hr labs
Human Growth & Dev SOCI25		45 hrs	1 hr lec/2 hr seminar
Clinical 1 ESRV2		60 hrs	1 day per week – 1 of 4 sites
RECR 64 Fitness II		30	2 hr lab
Semester Totals		420 hrs	

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Semester III

Course Name	Length of Course	Weekly Breakdown
Advanced Paramedic Skills ESRV24	Proposed Change 60 hrs Add 15 hrs	For Fall 2012 2 hr lec/2 hr lab
Legal & Ethical issues LAWS52	45 hrs	3 hr lec
Patient Care III ESRV31	75 hrs	2 hr lec/ 3 hr lec
Patient Care III Labs ESRV35	60 hrs	2/2 hr lab
Clinical 2 ESRV1	60 hrs	1 day per week- 1 of 4 sites
HLTH 246 Healthcare Concepts for Paramedics	30 hrs	2 hr lec
HLTH65 Health Care Concepts	15hr – propose move to Semester 1-leave here for now.	1 hr lec
FLFP 171 Ambulance Field Experience	45 hrs New 2012	Front 7 – 1 hr lec 38 hr field orientation
Semester Totals	375 hours [without the 15 for HSTH65]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add 15 hours for APS • Less 15 hours HLTH65 health care concepts

Semester IV

Course Name	Length of Course	Weekly Breakdown
Crisis Management SOC114	30 hrs	2 hr lec
Gen. Ed. – elective	45 hrs	Online
Comprehensive Review ESRV32	60 hrs	2 hr lec/2 hr lec
Comprehensive Lab Review ESRV36	60 hrs	2/2 hr lab
Paramedic Consolidation ESRV3	360	Wed-Sunday Weekly
Semester Totals	555 hours	

Overall Summary of Change Requests for next few years:

Advanced Patient Skills ESRV 024

- 2 hour lecture and 2 hour lab

Health Care Concepts HLTH65

- Return 1 hour piece to semester 1 where all other programs take it

Communication for Paramedics COMM 36

- Re-examine content to look at more applied pieces
- Real interview practice
- Writing APA format