



PBHL13002 Public Health Disaster Management

Term 2 - 2024

Profile information current as at 16/07/2025 06:39 am

All details in this unit profile for PBHL13002 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

Since the 1960s, the occurrence of disasters globally has more than tripled. Extreme weather events are predicted to become even more frequent as our environment continues to change and communities will need to become more resilient if they are to withstand and recover from the effects of disasters. Disaster risk reduction and resilience is based upon a combination of risk reduction strategies combined with increasing intra- and inter-personal resilience, including building on existing strengths and relational networks. Individuals and communities are the starting point to build disaster resilience, consistent with Australia's National Strategy for Disaster Resilience (2011) which underscores "shared responsibility" between governments and communities for disaster resilience. Connecting and working in partnership with the community is the aim in disaster risk reduction (DRR); building on existing networks, resources and strengths; identifying and supporting the development of community leaders; and empowering the community to exercise choice and take responsibility are some of the practical actions that can be undertaken to build a more resilient community. In this unit, you will review the historical aspects of disaster management, contrasting the traditional command and control method against the increasing involvement of the public/community in disaster management. You will examine the benefits and barriers to partnering with the broader community, identifying their level of commitment, making use of the community's emerging skill base, and access to largely underutilised resources. By learning from authentic examples of emergency services and community interaction, you will be able to explore the concepts of engagement, preparedness and resilience and be able to participate in contemporary public health disaster management practices.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 3*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 8

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Pre-Requisite of 96 credit points

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 2 - 2024

- Online

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

[Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

[Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Online Quiz(zes)**

Weighting: 20%

2. **Group Work**

Weighting: 40%

3. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 40%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from Personal reflection

Feedback

The one thing I continue to struggle with is engaging professionals working this field to speak with the students.

Recommendation

Every effort will be made to make contact with professionals working in the field of Public Health Disaster Management to speak with the students about their experiences.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Identify prominent public health issues during and after disasters
2. Analyse the history and focus of disaster management from a global and domestic perspective.
3. Compare and contrast traditional command and control concepts of disaster management with contemporary community based disaster management frameworks.
4. Evaluate and apply the community based disaster management framework as a means to build and maintain partnerships within the context of disaster management.
5. Collaborate to plan a response to a disaster scenario based on current and emerging evidence.
6. Communicate information relating to disaster management to a wide variety of audiences using both “air and ground” strategies, including through a variety of information technologies and engagement strategies, respectively.

This unit relates to the following underpinning skills and knowledge as specified in the Environmental Health Australia Course Accreditation Policy (2019) Table 1:

C1 Knowledge of written and verbal communication techniques and strategies suitable for diverse audiences, purposes and contexts,
C2 Knowledge of strategies to build collaboration, work in teams, mediate, educate, advocate, and influence outcomes and deal with difficult situations,
C3 Basic principles of reflective practice and self-development for effective communication,
E1 Understanding of the core principles, frameworks for and procedures involved in risk assessment for environmental health contexts,
E2 Critical evaluation of evidence underpinning environmental health risk assessment,
E3 Introduction to risk management principles and evaluation of risk management options,
L1 Introduction to legislative frameworks for environmental health,
L4 Knowledge of public and environmental health legislation,
L14 Overview of the jurisdiction and role of agencies relevant to environmental health in all tiers of government,
M1 Introduction to decision support tools (e.g. risk analysis, cost-benefit analysis, etc.),
M4 Introduction to key government protocols in the context of environmental health,
P2 Introduction to population/public health and health promotion principles, theories, strategies, frameworks and tools,
P4 Introduction to linkages between environment and health demonstrated through health policies and programs,
P9 Introduction to the impact of development on environmental health,
R5 Problem solving using systems thinking and critical judgement,
S12 Introduction to treatment and monitoring technologies e.g. wastewater treatment, air pollution control, etc,
S13 Introduction to hazardous materials used in construction (e.g. asbestos).

The unit also relates to the applied area of Emergency Management in the Policy (section 3.2.2).

3.2.2 Applied areas

Part 3 of the enHealth ‘Environmental Health Officer Skills and Knowledge Matrix’ describes the following nine applied work-related areas of skills and knowledge:

- safe and suitable food;
- prevention and control of notifiable and communicable conditions;
- water management;
- environmental management;
- land use management;
- built environment;
- Indigenous environmental health;
- sustainability and climate change; and
- emergency management.

Universities must demonstrate how they are preparing their graduates to apply the underpinning skills and knowledge in the applied areas.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes

 N/A Level	 Introductory Level	 Intermediate Level	 Graduate Level	 Professional Level	 Advanced Level
---	--	--	--	--	--

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 - Online Quiz(zes) - 20%	•	•				
2 - Group Work - 40%	•	•	•	•		•
3 - Written Assessment - 40%	•		•	•	•	•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 - Communication	•	•	•	•	•	•
2 - Problem Solving			•	•	•	•
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•	•	•	•	•
4 - Information Literacy	•	•	•		•	•
5 - Team Work				•	•	•
6 - Information Technology Competence					•	•
7 - Cross Cultural Competence					•	•
8 - Ethical practice	•	•			•	•
9 - Social Innovation						
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures						

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

There are no required textbooks.

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)
For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Dale Trott Unit Coordinator
d.trott@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - 08 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Approaches to Public Health Disaster Management		Tutorial (Zoom): Introduction to the unit & Introduction to Assessment 1

Week 2 - 15 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Legislative framework - Queensland & Australia		Assessment task 1- Online Quiz Opens: Week 2 Friday 11:45 pm AEST

Week 3 - 22 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Public Health Hazards		Tutorial (Zoom): Introduction to Assessment 2 Assessment task 1- Online Quiz Due: Week 3 Friday (26 July 2024) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 4 - 29 Jul 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Public Health Hazards cont'd		

Week 5 - 05 Aug 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Public Health Hazards cont'd		Working Tutorial (Zoom): Assessment 2 general help

Mid-term break - 12 Aug 2024

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
--------------	---------	------------------------------

Week 6 - 19 Aug 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Disaster Risk Reduction		
Week 7 - 26 Aug 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Building Community Resilience		Tutorial (Zoom): Introduction to Assessment 3
Week 8 - 02 Sep 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Partnering with communities in DRR		Working Tutorial (Zoom): Assessment 3 general help Group Work Due: Week 8 Friday (6 Sept 2024) 11:45 pm AEST
Week 9 - 09 Sep 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Planning a disaster response		
Week 10 - 16 Sep 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Recovery		Working Tutorial (Zoom): Assessment 3 general help
Week 11 - 23 Sep 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Community partnerships in recovery		
Week 12 - 30 Sep 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Communication strategies		Written Assessment Due: Week 12 Friday (4 Oct 2024) 11:45 pm AEST
Review/Exam Week - 07 Oct 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Exam Week - 14 Oct 2024		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Assessment Tasks

1 Assessment task 1- Online Quiz

Assessment Type

Online Quiz(zes)

Task Description

- The quiz will become available at 11:45pm on the Friday of Week 2 and remain open until Friday of Week 3.
- There is no time limit to complete the quiz and you can save your quiz and return to it later (while the quiz is available).
- You will get your final result from the quiz after the closing date showing which questions you got right or wrong. This will let you know what areas you need to study/revise.
- You should choose the most correct answer.
- There will be 12 quiz questions.

Number of Quizzes

1

Frequency of Quizzes**Assessment Due Date**

Week 3 Friday (26 July 2024) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

After the quiz has closed on Friday of Week 3.

Weighting

20%

Assessment Criteria

The quiz will assess the student's knowledge of introductory disaster management; the hallmarks of traditional and contemporary approaches; legislation relating to disaster management in Queensland and Australia; and the structure & content of disaster management plans.

Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Identify prominent public health issues during and after disasters
- Analyse the history and focus of disaster management from a global and domestic perspective.

2 Group Work

Assessment Type

Group Work

Task Description**Part A: Report (80% of the grade allocated to assessment task 2)**

A scenario of an extreme weather event impacting on the hypothetical community is provided on Moodle. As a team of public health professionals, you have been assigned the task of assisting to plan for the impending event.

Your task is to:

1. analyse the scenario and identify potential disaster hazards that may create a risk to public health during and after the event;
2. assess the risk posed by each disaster hazard;
3. identify actions that need to be taken to reduce the risk posed by these disaster hazards, prioritised according to the risk they present; and
4. write a report explaining the disaster hazards, prioritising them for action. Include with the report a Letter to Council succinctly summing up the findings of your report.

Remember that a disaster is when an event overwhelms a community's capacity to cope. In your report, you need to consider (among other things):

- vulnerable groups
- built environment
- community infrastructure
- available resources
- industry
- geography, climate & natural environment
- communication
- evacuation needs

As with any report, you should use appropriate evidence to support your findings. There is no prescribed format for this task, but your report should use relevant headings and subheadings to guide the reader. A Table of Contents and Executive Summary are not required.

Length: 3500 words (\pm 10% is acceptable).

Part B: Team participation (20% of the grade allocated to assessment task 2)

1. Complete a Group Member Evaluation (GME) task evaluating the quality of participation from each of your team members and an assessment of your own contribution. This activity will contribute 10% of the grade allocated to Assessment Task 2.
2. Complete a short reflection (no more than 500 words) on the way in which the team environment contributed to the

problem-solving process and ways in which your own participation could have made work more effective. This activity will contribute 10% of the grade allocated to Assessment Task 2.

Assessment Due Date

Week 8 Friday (6 Sept 2024) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Week 10 Friday (20 Sept 2024)

Weighting

40%

Assessment Criteria

Your submission will be graded according to the following criteria:

Part A: (80% of the assessment grade)**Relevance (30%)**

- summarises relevant disaster hazards information from credible and reputable sources
- report is relevant to the topics covered in the scenario
- makes appropriate connections between evidence, opinion and recommendations
- appropriately uses relevant tools to consider risks

Validity (40%)

- depth and extent of discussion of the evidence presented
- accuracy of the application of evidence to opinion and recommendations
- opinion and recommendations have been based on critical thought, analysis of the evidence and synthesis of new ideas
- depth and range of evidence provided in report

Organisation (20%)

- quality of consideration of the required components- attention paid to relevant standards and/or legislation, identified hazards, controls, and corrective actions, etc., opinion is clearly expressed, recommendations are reasonable
- structure and flow of information
coherence and clarity of expression (spelling, grammar, syntax)

Presentation (10%)

- style and formatting of report
- typographical matters (types, font, etc.)
- referencing is consistent and in accordance with Harvard style
- length (3500 words \pm 20%)

Part B: (20% of the assessment grade)

- Reliability
- Time management
- Group dynamics
- Depth of reflection

Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

Submission

Online Group

Submission Instructions

The report will be submitted by the group. The self and peer assessment and reflection will be submitted individually.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Identify prominent public health issues during and after disasters
- Analyse the history and focus of disaster management from a global and domestic perspective.
- Compare and contrast traditional command and control concepts of disaster management with contemporary community based disaster management frameworks.

- Evaluate and apply the community based disaster management framework as a means to build and maintain partnerships within the context of disaster management.
- Communicate information relating to disaster management to a wide variety of audiences using both “air and ground” strategies, including through a variety of information technologies and engagement strategies, respectively.

3 Written Assessment

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

Using the community profile identified in Moodle, as your case study, write a discussion paper investigating how community participation and partnerships could enhance community disaster resilience, i.e. discuss this community's participation and partnerships as they could be perceived to enhance community disaster resilience. You should consider preparation, disaster risk reduction, and recovery contexts. Use current evidence from the scholarly literature and relevant humanitarian resources to support your arguments. The format of your discussion paper should be as a publication to a relevant journal. An exemplar will be provided on Moodle as a guide. Word limit: 3000 words (\pm 20% is acceptable).

Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Friday (4 Oct 2024) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Grade will be returned following certification of grades.

Weighting

40%

Minimum mark or grade

You must achieve a passing grade for this item and an overall composite grade of 50% to be eligible to pass the unit.

Assessment Criteria

Your submission will be graded according to the following criteria:

Relevance (30%)

- summarises relevant information from credible and reputable sources
- article is relevant to the issue under investigation
- response activities to the reduction of risk factors
- response activities are appropriate
- response activities are thoroughly explained
- effectiveness of the response activities is evaluated

Validity (50%)

- depth and extent of discussion
- discussion is thorough and logically presented
- accuracy of the statements proposed
- recommendations for future community participation and partnerships have been based on critical thought, analysis of the evidence and synthesis of new ideas
- creativity in integrating existing evidence to propose solutions
- depth and range of research

Organisation (10%)

- structure and flow of information
- coherence and clarity of expression (spelling, grammar, syntax)
- all sources attributed

Presentation (10%)

- style and formatting
- typographical matters (types, font, headings etc)
- referencing is consistent and in accordance with Harvard style
- length (3000 words \pm 20%)

Referencing Style

- [Harvard \(author-date\)](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Identify prominent public health issues during and after disasters
- Compare and contrast traditional command and control concepts of disaster management with contemporary community based disaster management frameworks.
- Evaluate and apply the community based disaster management framework as a means to build and maintain partnerships within the context of disaster management.
- Collaborate to plan a response to a disaster scenario based on current and emerging evidence.
- Communicate information relating to disaster management to a wide variety of audiences using both “air and ground” strategies, including through a variety of information technologies and engagement strategies, respectively.

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others’ work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity’s policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity’s expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?

**Be Honest**

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own

**Seek Help**

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)

**Produce Original Work**

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem