

Course Title	Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing (V300P)
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)
Credit Structure ²	40 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	6 months
Intended Award	Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered with appropriate Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (GPhC/PSNI) • Have at least two years appropriate patient-orientated experience in a UK hospital, community or primary care setting following their preregistration year. • Entrants must have identified an area of clinical practice in which to develop their prescribing skills and have up-to-date clinical, pharmacological and pharmaceutical knowledge relevant to their intended area of prescribing practice • Entrants should demonstrate how they reflect on their own performance and take responsibility for own CPD • Identified Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) for 90 hours practice supervision • A first degree or proven ability to study at masters level • All employer responsibilities are met (see application form for details) • A current DBS check (within 3 years from the start of the programme).
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2023-24 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The V300P course enables Pharmacists to acquire the non-medical prescribing qualification in independent and supplementary prescribing.

On successful completion of the programme the registrants name will be put forward as appropriate for a recordable prescribing qualification with their specific Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB):

General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) *or*
Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI)

The V300P course is offered at masters Level (level 7) only for pharmacists and it is taught alongside the V300 a multi-professional non-medical prescribing course for nurses, midwives, physiotherapist, radiographers, podiatrists, dietitians and paramedics.

Students are required to attend the university campus for 26 academic days and will be in school or online approximately 1 day per week. A proportion of the 26 days are allocated as self-directed learning days, the nature of these will be explained at the start of the course and although you will not be required to attend campus on those particular days they are an integral part of the campus based learning so students do not go into work.

In addition, the equal practice theory split of this course means students are required to organise 90 hours of practice-based mentoring for the duration of the course. (GPhC requirement). This equates to 12 days or a half-day a week for the duration of the course. This support is essential to their development as a prescriber and must be provided by a suitably qualified registered active prescriber, known as the Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP). The GPhC set the standards for the educational requirements for pharmacist prescribers in training and this informs the curriculum. Although these requirements do not call for teaching on specific clinical areas, some specifics are included, but the overall focus is on applying the principles of prescribing to the students own specialist clinical area. It is expected therefore, that students will embrace a high degree of autonomy to apply these principles to the context of their current or future practice. In school a wide variety of key theoretical areas are timetabled, to re-iterate the emphasis is on the application of prescribing principles; the first half of the course largely looks at the developing foundation for prescribing so to give some examples: background legislation, standards and ethics, prescribing pressures, evidence based decisions, theories of consultation, and basic pharmacology principles.

The second half of the course looks more at the application of prescribing in some common clinical areas that most prescribers will come across regardless of their specialist areas of practice, so for example; cardiac, mental health, pain, reproductive health and special groups (i.e. children/elderly).

A variety of teaching methods are used, including lecture, enquiry-based learning, discussion, workshop, experiential learning and case study formats.

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

Throughout this programme there is a requirement by the GPhC that pharmacists exit the course having developed key clinical and diagnostic skills relevant to their area of practice

Some separate clinical skills teaching is therefore timetabled specifically for pharmacists.

Pharmacists are expected to attend all the scheduled sessions on clinical assessment /clinical skills but may choose to opt out of the sessions on pharmacology principles in the first semester.

The course has been designed to facilitate students in the acquisition of a comprehensive knowledge base on which to base critical decisions and clinical judgements in the application of prescribing practice. Students therefore require a high level of support within both the academic and practice setting in order to acquire mastery of prescribing practice that within their specialist area. The role of the Designated prescribing Practitioner (DPP) as supervisor within the students practice area is paramount to achieving success on the programme. The achievement of practice prescribing competencies is fundamental to this recordable qualification. Therefore, the academic team work in partnership with the DPP. The pharmacist is likely to require less support from the DPP with regard to pharmacology but more in respect of clinical assessment and diagnostic skills.

Course Aims

- Prepare Pharmacists to meet the required regulatory standards in order to act as Independent and Supplementary prescribers
- Extend opportunities for critical appraisal of their existing practice whilst achieving prescribing competencies in the workplace
- Enable students to engage in comprehensive enquiry with specific identified aspects of their prescribing practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

1. Critically evaluate the consultation focusing on key concepts involved in undertaking a systematic patient centred assessment to enable appropriate decision making including diagnosis informed by appraisal of the relevant assessment skills, pathophysiology and evidence base.
2. Critically appraise the management options in a range of clinical scenarios including consideration of risk versus benefit to individuals and to public health whilst demonstrating the application of knowledge related to applied pharmacology

3. Evidence a commitment to partnership and collaborative working with a range of service users supporting person centred care in a concordant approach respecting individuals diversity
4. Evidence the ability to prescribe safely effectively and within the boundaries of the political context, relevant legislation and guidelines including supplementary prescribing
5. Critically reflect on the requirements to provide comprehensive, relevant and accessible information to patients/carers to support prescribing decisions
6. Evaluate the prescriber's responsibilities in relation to, monitoring and review processes including action in recognition of any adverse effects/reactions
7. Critically evaluate the role of the prescriber in relation to managing risk and maintaining safe practice and governance to minimise errors in the prescribing process.
8. Critically apply the legal, regulatory and ethical frameworks to prescribing practice and recognise the influences and pressures on prescribing including cost and public health
9. Demonstrate critical self awareness of own prescribing practice and a commitment to the on-going improvement of all prescribing practice
10. Demonstrate collaborative and interprofessional working to support and inform prescribing practice

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following Professional Standards and Competency Frameworks:

- Standards for the education and training of pharmacist independent prescribers (GPhC 2019) at:
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacist-independent-prescriber>
- In practice: Guidance for pharmacist prescribers (GPhC, 2019) at:
<http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/education/pharmacist-independent-prescriber>
- Royal Pharmaceutical Society, (2016): A Competency Framework for all Prescribers

Course Structure

The Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing comprises ONE double module at level 7. Module Specifications are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

Module	Credits	Module Type ⁶
Level 7		
The Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing (v300P)	40	M

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded the Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing are likely to have approximately 150 contact hours.

The contact hours will be a mix of lecture, seminar, practical activity, and students will be required to participate in 90 hours of work-based supervision. Students should be prepared to undertake approximately 5 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments are used on the course as required by the professional regulators. The assessment methods used are appropriate to assess the intended learning outcomes in order to ensure safe prescribing practice at the point of qualification. The team support students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles.

Summative assessment

There are two parts to summative (marked) assessment; practice and theory. Both are equally important to achieving the aims and outcomes for this course.

Practice summative assessment requirements

- A reflective practice log demonstrating the required supervision hours and practice learning relative to the RPS framework (2016)
- Assessment by DPP of student competency against the RPS framework (2016)
- Completion of a Clinical Management Plan (CMP) appropriate to the students area of practice supported by a 500 word discussion to demonstrate understanding of supplementary prescribing.
- Completion of a longer reflection comparing (750 words) 2 observed consultations of other prescribers
- Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)
- Service user feedback on a student consultation
- Completion of an FP10 /hospital script demonstrating accurate prescription writing.

Theoretical assessment

- An unseen calculation examination with a pass mark of 100%.
- An unseen examination assessing pharmacology with a pass mark of 80%

⁶ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#)

- A critical case study in essay format including the assessment, clinical reasoning including differential diagnosis of an **Independent Prescribing Episode**, 2500 words
- A critical incident analysis using a reflective model to present an untoward prescribing incident, this may be an actual or potential (near miss) error that has been observed during the duration of the course, 2000 words

Component number	Form of assessment	Assessment size	Weighting (%)	Learning outcomes assessed	Late Sub ⁿ	Core or noncore
1	Practice i.e. Reflective learning Log, 2 longer reflections. RPS Competency sign off. CMP and analysis Prescription OSCE	90 hours	0%	1-10	no	Core
	SU feedback					
2	Theory 1. Case study 2. Critical incident	2500 words 2000 words	100%	1-10	yes	Core
3	Exam Drug Calculations	5 calculations 30 minutes	0%	5	no	Core
4	Exam Pharmacology	20 questions 2 hours	0%	2	no	Core

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute and are registered with the appropriate professional body (i.e. NMC HCPC, GPHC).

Course Costs

Students undertaking Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	Not applicable
Part-time UK	£1,944 for the 40 credit module
Full-time EU/International	Not applicable
Part-time EU/International	Not applicable

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).