University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

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]	30 Credits
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]	Applicants must hold **current registration and good standing** with the GPhC. All applicants are required to hold a **current enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance**. Evidence of DBS status must be provided prior to enrolment. Applicants must demonstrate relevant post-registration clinical experience and an ability to recognise, understand and articulate the skills and attributes required by a prescriber to act as the foundation of your prescribing practice while training Applicants must demonstrate academic capability appropriate for study at **Level 7 (master's level)**. This usually includes an undergraduate degree or equivalent professional qualification, and evidence of recent academic study or professional learning, typically within the last three years, at Level 6 or above Applicants must submit a personal statement outlining a **clearly defined scope of practice** or intended area of prescribing, underlining how prescribing will be integrated into their current or imminent professional role. Applicants must demonstrate **sufficient competence and prior learning** in clinical assessment, diagnostics, clinical decision-making and care planning

[1] For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)
[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 and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the University's DBS webpage.

	Applicants must have an **identified Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP)** in place at the point of application. Applicants are required to provide: • The name and professional details of the DPP • Confirmation that the DPP meets PSRB requirements • Confirmation that the DPP can support prescribing practice within the applicant's defined scope of practice Applicants must provide written confirmation from their employer or line manager confirming support for the applicant to undertake the prescribing programme, including the provision of **protected learning time** to enable completion of academic and practice-based components of the programme. Applicants must undertake practice learning within a **suitable clinical environment** that supports safe and effective prescribing. The practice setting must be subject to appropriate regulatory inspection such as the Care Quality Commission (CQC) or GPhC) and provide evidence of inspection or audit where required. Applicants must declare any current or previous fitness to practise investigations or sanctions and meet ongoing **professional standards of behaviour** throughout the programme **This course is not open to visa sponsored students (those students sponsored by the University under the student route)**
Delivering Institution	**University of Suffolk**

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing V300P course. The information provided is accurate for students entering the course in the 2027-28 academic year[5].

Course Summary

This course enables eligible healthcare professionals to acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies required to practise safely and effectively as independent and/or supplementary prescribers. The programme is aligned to current PSRB standards and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Competency Framework for Prescribers (2021).

In accordance with GPhC standards for Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing programmes, students are required to complete a minimum of 90 hours of supervised practice-

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

based learning, equivalent to approximately 13 days, across the duration of the programme. This practice learning is undertaken within an approved practice environment and is supervised by a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) who is a suitably qualified, registered, and actively practising prescriber.

The role of the DPP is central to supporting students in meeting practice-based prescribing competencies, providing supervision, feedback, and assessment opportunities that enable the development of safe, effective, and professional prescribing practice. The programme team works in partnership with DPPs to ensure that practice learning experiences are structured, appropriate to the student's scope of practice, and aligned with regulatory expectations.

The curriculum is explicitly informed by GPhC educational standards for prescribing, which emphasise competence in prescribing principles rather than specialty-specific content. Consistent with these standards, the programme prioritises the application of legislative, ethical, professional, and pharmacological principles to the student's own area of clinical practice. Students are therefore expected to demonstrate professional autonomy and accountability in contextualising learning to their current or intended prescribing role.

The first phase of the programme focuses on establishing the foundational competencies required by the GPhC, including professional accountability, legal and ethical frameworks, consultation and clinical reasoning, evidence-based prescribing decisions, prescribing governance, and core pharmacological principles. The latter phase supports the application of prescribing competencies across commonly encountered clinical contexts, including cardiovascular care, mental health, pain management, reproductive health, and prescribing for special populations such as children and older adults, ensuring graduates are prepared for safe prescribing across diverse settings.

Learning and teaching strategies are designed to meet GPhC expectations for student-centred, practice-integrated education, and include virtual lectures, enquiry-based learning, group discussion, experiential learning, and case-based approaches. The achievement of prescribing competence is assessed through both academic and practice-based components, with successful completion of supervised practice and demonstration of competence being fundamental to eligibility for this recordable qualification.

Course Aims

1. Prepare healthcare professionals to meet the required regulatory standards to act as Independent and/ or Supplementary prescribers.
2. Extend opportunities for critical appraisal of their existing practice whilst achieving the RPS prescribing competencies in practice.
3. 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 V300P course will have been judged to have demonstrated 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)[6].

Learning outcomes V300 and V300P aligned with Royal Pharmaceutical Society Competency Framework 2021 https://www.rpharms.com/resources/frameworks/prescribing-competency-framework/competency-framework

1. Demonstrate advanced diagnostic reasoning by critically synthesising information from holistic history-taking, clinical assessment and investigations to generate, justify and prioritise evidence-based differential and definitive diagnoses that reflect the individual patient's physical and psychosocial needs.
2. Use critical appraisal of the evidence base to inform the identification, evaluation and justification of pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatment options, tailored to individual patient characteristics and aligned with relevant clinical guidelines.
3. Apply advanced, ethically informed communication skills to enable shared decision-making, adapting discussions of treatment options, risks and benefits to individual patient needs, respecting patient preferences, and ensuring valid informed consent.
4. Apply a systematic understanding of prescribing systems and governance to prescribe and deprescribe safely and effectively within formulary and care pathway frameworks, taking account of polypharmacy, adverse drug reactions and patient safety, and maintaining accurate, complete and legally compliant prescribing records.
5. Critically apply principles of patient-centred communication to tailor and deliver clear, accessible information and management plans about conditions and prescribed medicines, supporting informed medicine use, adherence, self-care and appropriate safety-netting.
6. Apply a systematic approach to construct and implement monitoring and follow-up plans that evaluate therapeutic effectiveness and safety, identify and respond to adverse outcomes, and modify management appropriately over time, including escalation or referral where indicated, in partnership with the patient.
7. Practise within professional scope with critical awareness of limitations of competence, and respond appropriately to prescribing errors, near misses and adverse events using relevant local and national governance and reporting systems.
8. Demonstrate accountable prescribing through systematic understanding and application of relevant legal, ethical, professional, and governance frameworks.
9. Critically evaluate personal prescribing competence through reflective practice and self-assessment, and apply quality-improvement principles, using relevant data, feedback, and the Continuing Professional Development cycle to identify opportunities to enhance professional practice.
10. Demonstrate critical understanding of multidisciplinary team roles in prescribing, collaborating effectively to integrate relevant professional input into management plans, and identifying referrals or consultations with other healthcare professionals as appropriate to support coordinated, holistic patient care.

[6] As set out in the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)

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Course Design

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

Royal Pharmaceutical Society Competency Framework 2021 https://www.rpharms.com/resources/frameworks/prescribing-competency-framework/competency-framework

- General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) Standards for the education and training of pharmacist independent prescribers 2022 available at Standards for the education and training of pharmacist independent prescribers
- QAA The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)

Course Structure

The Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing course comprises ONE module at level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type[7]
Level 7			
	Pharmacist Independent Prescribing V300P	30	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 University of Suffolk, Ipswich campus. The Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing is delivered part-time with students likely to have approximately 20 in-person taught days and 6 asynchronous days. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars and practical activity. In addition, students will be required to participate in 90 hours of work-based supervision.

Students should be prepared to undertake approximately up to half a day 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 to ensure safe prescribing practice at the point of qualification. The team support students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. Assessment on the course overall will

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

be majority coursework (including poster, practice assessment documents, case studies) as well as examinations and practical assessments.

Special Features

On successful completion of the Practice Certificate in Independent Prescribing V300P course students are eligible to apply for a prescribing annotation on the GPhC register.

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 Pharmacist Independent Prescribing will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Part-time UK	£1,710 per 30 credit module

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.