

End-point assessment plan for registered nurse integrated Degree apprenticeship standard

Apprenticeship standard number	Level of this end point assessment (EPA)	Integrated
ST0781	6	Integrated

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Introduction and overview

Registered nurses are subject to statutory regulation by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). The NMC sets the standards of proficiency required for entry to the professional register and these are the occupational standards for registered nurses. The NMC also has the statutory duty to set requirements of programmes necessary to support the achievement of the occupational standard. The apprenticeship standard and the delivery of the apprentices training must be aligned to all relevant NMC standards to ensure that apprentices are eligible for entry to the NMC register on completion. It is against the law for anyone to work as a registered nurse without being registered with the NMC. The End Point Assessment (EPA) assesses whether apprentices have also passed the apprenticeship, and is based on the same professional knowledge, skills and behaviours as the occupational standard.

This document sets out the requirements for EPA for the registered nurse integrated degree apprenticeship standard. It is for the End Point Assessment Organisations (EPAO), that must be an NMC approved education institution, who need to know how EPA for this apprenticeship must operate. It will also be of interest to apprentices, their employers and NMC approved education institution

Apprentices will typically spend 48 months on-programme working towards the occupational standard,. Apprentices undertaking the registered nurse integrated degree apprenticeship are supernumerary for the duration of their apprenticeship.

The EPA period should only start, and the EPA be arranged, once the employer and NMC Approved Education Institution (AEI) is satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard and all of the pre-requisite gateway requirements for EPA have been met. It is expected that the gateway will be reached on completion of the final degree module and before the AEI's examination board.

For level 3 apprenticeships and above apprentices without English and mathematics at level 2 must achieve level 2 prior to taking their EPA.

The EPA period is expected to last a maximum of 1 month beginning when the apprentice has passed the EPA gateway.

The EPA will determine the overall apprenticeship standard and grades of:

- Fail
- Pass

This apprenticeship has a synchronised integrated EPA. The EPA will employ the assessment arrangements in use for other entry routes into this occupation and will be completed simultaneously, as outlined in this assessment plan. Alignment of the integrated EPA is permitted because the following criteria are met:

1. Parliament has prescribed that the occupation (profession) must be regulated and a statutory regulator has undisputed control of access to the occupation
2. The aligned integrated EPA meets the requirements of an apprenticeship

EPA summary table

On-programme (typically 48 months)	Training to develop the occupation standards knowledge, skills and behaviours
End-point Assessment Gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer and NMC approved educational institution (AEI) is satisfied the apprentice is consistently working at the level of the occupational standard. • English/mathematics Level 2 • Completion of all required modules, taking into account any RPL, of the Degree in Nursing or L7 qualification approved by the NMC where the apprentice already holds a Level 6 degree but before the training provider's examination board • Practice Assessment Document (PAD) completed and signed-off by their practice and academic assessor
End Point Assessment (which would typically take place with 1 month)	<p>The EPA starts with the examination board and finishes when the training provider submits the required documentations to the NMC.</p> <p>The EPA consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of degree • Training provider submits required documentation to the NMC • Completion of required program hours
Professional recognition	<p>Registration with:</p> <p>Nursing and Midwifery Council</p>

Gateway

The EPA period should only start once the employer and the NMC Approved Education Provider (AEI) are satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard.

The EPA starts with the examination board and finishes when the AEI:

- uploads the apprentice's course and personal details to the NMC database
- sends the NMC a declaration of the apprentice's good health and character

The apprentice must have completed and achieved the following gateway requirements prior to beginning EPA:

- English and mathematics at level 2

For those with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement the apprenticeship's English and mathematics minimum requirement is Entry Level 3. British Sign Language qualifications are an alternative to English qualifications for whom this is their primary language.

Apprentices must complete all required modules, taking into account any recognised prior learning, of the following approved qualification, as mandated in the standard:

- Degree in Nursing or L7 qualification approved by the NMC (where the apprentice already holds a Level 6 degree)

The apprentice will also have successfully completed a Practice Assessment Document (PAD) and this will have been signed-off by their practice and academic assessor

EPA

The EPA will consist of:

The examination board

The examination board will be constituted in line with the NMC approved education provider's Academic Assessment Regulations and must have an external examiner present when considering achievement of the Degree in Nursing or L7 qualification.

Independence of the EPA will assured through:

The examination board, which will include the external examiner, being responsible for the final decision on the award of the qualification that confirms the apprentice has met the education outcomes required for registration with the NMC.

The end-point assessment organisation (NMC Approved Education Institution) will conduct the EPA.

Grading

Name of grade	Grade descriptor
Pass	Has met the NMC Standards for proficiency for registered nurse (2018) and the requirements for the declaration of good health and character
Fail	Does not meet the NMC Standards for proficiency for registered nurse (2018) and/or the requirements for the declaration of good health and character

Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Apprentice	As a minimum, the apprentice should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete the constituent parts of the programme successfully • meet all apprenticeship gateway requirements • understand the structure and requirements of the apprenticeship
Employer	As a minimum, the employer should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the apprentice to achieve the KSBs outlined in the occupational standard • determine when the apprentice is working at or above the level of occupational competence outlined in the occupational standard and has met all apprenticeship gateway requirements, taking account of the advice of the NMC Approved Education Institution
The EPAO (NMC approved education institution)	As a minimum the EPAO (NMC Approved Education Institution) should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be an NMC approved education institution for the registered nurse apprenticeship • be on the Register of End Point Assessment Organisations (RoEPAO) • work with the employer to ensure that the apprentice is given the opportunities to develop the KSBs outlined in the standard and monitor their progress during the on-programme period • confirm to the employer that gateway requirements have been met • appoint an external examiner • use appropriate recording documentation to ensure a clear and auditable mechanism for recording the decision of the examination board • maintain robust internal quality assurance (IQA) procedures and processes, and conduct these on a regular basis • conform to the requirements of the nominated external quality assurance body • conduct standardisation events and activities in accordance with NMC and OfS requirements • have, and operate, an appeals process • arrange for apprenticeship certification • conform to the requirements of EQA
External examiner	As a minimum an external examiner should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand the standard and assessment plan • be a registered nurse • comply to the requirements of the EPAO (NMC approved education institution) • be independent of the apprentice, the EPAO (NMC approved education institution) or employing organisation who are involved in delivering the apprenticeship

Internal Quality Assurance (IQA)

Internal quality assurance refers to the requirements that EPA organisations must have in place to ensure consistent (reliable) and accurate (valid) assessment decisions. EPA organisations for this EPA must:

- appoint external examiners who:
 - Meet the QAA recommendations for external examiners
 - Meet the approved education institution's requirements as set out in their 'Assessment, Progression and Awarding' or similar guidance

External Quality Assurance (EQA)

The external quality assurance provider for this assessment plan is the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education

Re-sits and re-takes

In line with the EPAO's (NMC approved education institution) procedures.

Professional body recognition

This apprenticeship is based on the Nursing and Midwifery Council's standards of proficiency and education programme standards. This means that those who successfully complete the apprenticeship will be eligible to apply for registration with the NMC.

Reasonable adjustments

The EPAO (NMC approved education institution) must have in place clear and fair arrangements for making reasonable adjustments for this apprenticeship standard. This should include how an apprentice qualifies for reasonable adjustment and what reasonable adjustments will be made.