Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education

End-point assessment plan for Paramedic fully integrated degree apprenticeship standard

Apprenticeship standard number	Level of this end-point assessment (EPA)	Integrated
ST0567	6	Fully integrated degree

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Introduction and overview

Paramedics are subject to statutory regulation by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). The HCPC sets the standards of proficiency required for entry to the professional register and these are the occupational standards for registered paramedics. The HCPC also has the statutory duty to set requirements of programmes necessary to support the achievement of the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) set out in the standards of proficiency and the KSBs in the occupational standard. The apprenticeship standard and the delivery of the apprentices training must be aligned to all relevant HCPC standards to ensure that apprentices are eligible for entry to the HCPC register on completion. It is against the law for anyone to work as a paramedic without being registered with the HCPC. The end-point **a**ssessment (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 paramedic fully integrated degree apprenticeship standard. It is for the end-point **a**ssessment organisations (EPAO), that must be an HCPC Approved Education Provider, who need to know how EPA for this apprenticeship must operate. It will also be of interest to apprentices, their employers and HCPC Approved Education Provider.

Apprentices will typically spend 36 months on-programme working towards the occupational standard.

The EPA period should only start, and the EPA be arranged, once the employer and HCPC Approved Education Provider are satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard and all the pre-requisite gateway requirements for EPA have been met. It is expected that the gateway will be reached on completion of the final module and before the Approved Education Provider'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 fully integrated EPA. The EPA will use the assessment arrangements in use for other entry routes into this occupation and will be completed simultaneously, as outlined in this EPA 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 fully integrated EPA meets the requirements of an apprenticeship

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EPA summary table

On-programme (typically 36 months)	Training to develop the occupation standards knowledge, skills and behaviours (aligned to the HCPC standards of proficiency for Paramedics 2014)
End-point assessment gateway	• Apprentice has met the knowledge, skills and behaviours • Employer and HCPC Approved Education Provider are satisfied the apprentice has consistently demonstrated they meet the KSBs of the occupational standard • Achieved Level 3 Certificate in Emergency Response Ambulance Driving Course. This is an Ofqual qualification and is the only mandated qualification that meets regulatory requirements. Individuals would have to complete the Level 3 Certificate in Emergency Response Ambulance Driving Course unless they have already passed either the legacy Institute of Health Care Development (IHCD) Driver training programme or Chief Ambulance Officer approved internal programmes with high speed driving component where candidates can demonstrate current and relevant driving experience. Previous driver training programmes must meet the criteria set out by the Department for Transport for high speed driving in the Road Safety Act • Apprentices must have achieved English and mathematics at Level 2 • Achieved all required modules, taking into account any recognition of prior learning (RPL) of the Paramedic degree but before the Approved Education 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)	The EPA starts with the examination board and finishes when the Approved Education Provider submits the required documentation to HCPC. The apprentice is not required to carry out any additional assessments • Consideration by the examination board and notice of the decision of pass/fail to HCPC

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	• Apprentice separately applies for registration once awarded the pass
Professional recognition	Registration with: Health and Care Professions Council

Gateway

The EPA period should only start once the employer and the HCPC Approved Education Provider 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 Approved Education Provider:

- makes a decision on pass and fail
- emails secure pass list to HCPC which includes required personal details of apprentices who have received a pass

The apprentice separately applies for registration once they have achieved a pass.

HCPC use the pass list to verify successful completion of the apprenticeship programme. The apprentice must have completed and achieved the following gateway requirements prior to beginning EPA:

- Achieved Level 3 Certificate in Emergency Response Ambulance Driving Course. This is an Ofqual qualification and is the only mandated qualification that meets regulatory requirements. Individuals would have to complete the Level 3 Certificate in Emergency Response Ambulance Driving Course unless they have already passed either the legacy Institute of Health Care Development (IHCD) Driver training programme or Chief Ambulance Officer approved internal programmes with high speed driving component where candidates can demonstrate current and relevant driving experience. Previous driver training programmes must meet the criteria set out by the Department for Transport for high speed driving in the Road Safety Act.
- Achieved 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.

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

- Paramedic 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 is:

Examination Board

The examination board will be constituted in line with the HCPC Approved Education Provider's academic assessment regulations and must have an external examiner present when considering achievement of the Paramedic degree.

Independence of the EPA will be 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 HCPC.
- the end-point assessment organisation (HCPC Approved Education Provider) will conduct the EPA.

Grading

Name of grade	Grade descriptor
Pass	Has met the HCPC standards for proficiency for Paramedics (2014)
Fail	Does not meet the HCPC standards for proficiency for Paramedics (2014)

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Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Apprentice	As a minimum, the apprentice should: • 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: • 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 HCPC Approved Education Provider
The EPAO (HCPC Approved Education Provider)	As a minimum the EPAO (HCPC Approved Education Provider) should: • be a HCPC Approved Education Provider for the paramedic 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 • submits required documentation to the HCPC • conform to the requirements of the nominated external quality assurance body • conduct standardisation events and activities in accordance with HCPC and external quality assurance (EQA) providers requirements

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	• have, and operate, an appeals process • arrange for apprenticeship certification
External examiner	As a minimum an external examiner should: • understand the standard and assessment plan • be a registered paramedic • comply to the requirements of the EPAO (HCPC Approved Education Provider) • be independent of the apprentice, the EPAO (HCPC Approved Education Provider) or employing organisation who are involved in delivering the apprenticeship
Programme External Assessor	As a minimum an external examiner should: • understand the occupational standard and on programme assessments • be a registered paramedic • comply to the requirements of an HCPC Approved Education Provider

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 EQA provider's recommendations for external examiners
    - meet the Approved Education Provider's requirements as set out in their 'Assessment, Progression and Awarding' or similar guidance

Re-sits and re-takes

In line with the EPAO's (HCPC Approved Education Provider) procedures.

Professional body recognition

This apprenticeship is aligned to the Health and Care Professions Council standards of proficiency and education programme standards for paramedics. This means that those who successfully complete the apprenticeship will be eligible to apply for registration with the HCPC.

Reasonable adjustments

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The EPAO (HCPC Approved Education Provider) 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. The adjustments must maintain the validity, reliability and integrity of the assessment decisions outlined in this EPA plan.

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