



## **Candidate Guidelines for the Assessment of Professional Competence (AoPC)**

### **Background**

The Assessment of Professional Competence (AoPC) is the means by which practitioners, who applied during the grandparenting period of a Register opening, have the required practice but do not hold a qualification that is sufficiently relevant to the qualifications listed under Schedule 3 for Social Care Workers or an Employer Opinion of Competence. In this instance the applicant may be directed by the Registration Board to complete an AoPC to demonstrate their professional competence. If passed successfully you will be eligible to be progressed for registration as a Social Care Worker.

The AoPC is a formal evaluation designed to assess your knowledge and application of the Standards of Proficiency (SoP) and the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Social Care Workers. It evaluates your ability to demonstrate these competencies through case-based scenarios and multiple-choice questions. This assessment is a requirement under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act, 2005 as amended.

### **Preparation for the AoPC**

#### **1. Registration and Access:**

- Upon CORU application approval, you will be registered as a student with the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS). This means applicants must first submit an “Existing Practitioner” application for registration as a Social Care Worker and evidence that they are engaged in the practice of the profession for a minimum period of 2 years out of the previous 5 years. The application can be completed on the applicant portal [here](#)
- You will receive a unique student number, enabling access to a learning platform (Moodle).

#### **2. Resources Available on Moodle:**

- **AoPC Guidance Document and Video:** Step-by-step explanations of the assessment.
- **Pre-recorded Lectures:** Covering the CORU Standards of Proficiency and the Social Care Workers Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics.
- **Standards of Proficiency E-books:** Relevant reference materials.
- **Assessment sample Questions and Answers.**
- **Handbook and FAQs:** Answers to common queries about the AoPC.
- Candidates' Moodle access may be referenced in the case of an appeal.

#### **3. Candidates are advised to:**

- Review all resources, particularly the case study examples and sample answers.
- Familiarise yourself with the format and timing of each paper.
- Clarify any doubts through available FAQs or contact CORU directly

## The AoPC Format

The AoPC for Social Care Work has two assessment sections.

### Assessment Section One:

- Focus: Standards of Proficiency (Domains 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5).
- Format: Written paper, to be taken in-person
- Content: Case studies and competency-based questions on professional practice, especially the 'Professional Knowledge and Skills' of Domain 5.
- Length of Assessment: 2 hours

### Assessment Section Two:

- Focus: Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics – Categories 1, 2 and 3 and also Section 27, the 'Responsibilities specific to Social Care Workers'.
- Format: Written paper, to be taken in-person
- Content: Multiple-choice questions.
- Length of Assessment: 45 minutes

### The AoPC Schedule:

- Candidates will be offered a number of assessment venues and dates. Candidates can choose the venue and date most convenient to them.
- Candidates must select either a morning or afternoon session to complete the AoPC in one sitting. Candidates can choose the session time that is most convenient to them.
- Morning session times: Section One: 9:30am to 11:30am and Section Two: 12:00pm to 12:45pm
- Afternoon session times: Section One: 2pm to 4pm and Section Two: 4.30pm to 5.15pm
- Breaks: Ensure you use the interval to rest and prepare for the second assessment paper.

Confirmed dates for the AoPC.

We can confirm the following dates for the delivery of the AoPC and will confirm the exact location of each assessment venue in due course.

Date	Assessment Session	Location
Tuesday 16 December 2025	Morning Session: 9.30am – 12.45pm	To be decided
	Afternoon Session: 2.00pm – 5.15pm	
Thursday 18 December 2025	Morning Session: 9.30am – 12.45pm	To be decided
	Afternoon Session: 2.00pm – 5.15pm	
Tuesday 17 February 2026	Morning Session: 9.30am – 12.45pm	To be decided
	Afternoon Session: 2.00pm – 5.15pm	
Thursday 19 February 2026	Morning Session: 9.30am – 12.45pm	To be decided
	Afternoon Session: 2.00pm – 5.15pm	
Tuesday 31 March 2026	Morning Session: 9.30am – 12.45pm	To be decided
	Afternoon Session: 2.00pm – 5.15pm	
Thursday 02 April 2026	Morning Session: 9.30am – 12.45pm	To be decided
	Afternoon Session: 2.00pm – 5.15pm	
Tuesday 12 May 2026	Morning Session: 9.30am – 12.45pm	To be decided
	Afternoon Session: 2.00pm – 5.15pm	
Thursday 14 May 2026	Morning Session: 9.30am – 12.45pm	To be decided
	Afternoon Session: 2.00pm – 5.15pm	

## Assessment Session Protocols

Candidates **must**:

- Be at the venue not less than 15 minutes before assessments commence
- Present an approved form of photographic identification (e.g., passport or driver's license)
- Sign the attendance sheet at the venue.
- Use your unique TUS student number on all answer books/scripts – personal identifying information (e.g., name) must not appear on your scripts.
- Written copies of Standards of Proficiency and Code of Conduct will be available at each AoPC which Candidates can reference.

## Assessment Process

- A Pass/Fail grading system is applied. A Pass grade is 40%
- If unsuccessful, one additional attempt is allowed within 6 months of the first attempt. Access to the Moodle learning platform continues during the preparation for your second attempt.

## Result Notification:

- CORU will notify all candidates of their result.
  - All successful candidates will receive a TUS “Certificate in Social Care Work Registration” at Level 7.
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### Key Tips for Success

- Thoroughly review the Standards of Proficiency and the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Social Care Workers.
- Carefully consider the knowledge and skills that you have gained, in the context of regulated professional practice.
- Practice with sample questions to familiarise yourself with case-study formats and multiple-choice questions.
- Use the AoPC Moodle learning platform to actively to enhance your preparation.
- Manage your time effectively during the assessments to address all questions.

### Next Steps

- The Assessment Fee is €300 and must be paid to CORU.
- Contact [socialcareworkers@coru.ie](mailto:socialcareworkers@coru.ie) to register and to be enabled with access to the TUS student learning platform Moodle.