Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh
Regulating Health + Social Care Professionals

Bord Clárúcháin na nOibrithe Cúraim Shóisialaigh
Social Care Workers Registration Board

Assessment of Professional Competence – Applicant Guidance Notes

Background

The Assessment of Professional Competence (AoPC) assesses the competency of practitioners who applied during the grandparenting period and have the required practice but do not hold a qualification that is:

- An approved qualification,
- 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) 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).
- You will receive a unique student number and will be auto enrolled on a learning platform (Moodle).

2. Resources Available on Moodle:

- AoPC Guidance Document: Step-by-step explanations of the assessment.
- Standards of Proficiency E-books: Relevant reference materials.
- Assessment sample Questions and Answers.
- PowerPoint Presentation on using Moodle.

3. Online support:

- Three one-hour online support sessions will be provided as part of the preparation for the AoPC:
    - An induction session – learning to navigate Moodle, introduction to the material and assessments.

- A mid-way session to provide further support and assistance with any questions.
- A revision session before the AoPC.

4. 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.
- Attend the online support sessions for assistance.
- Contact <AoPC@tus.ie> for additional queries.

The AoPC Format

The AoPC for Social Care Work has two assessment sections.

1) 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

2) 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 complete the AoPC in one sitting, that is complete both the morning and afternoon session on the same date.
- Morning session times: Section One: 11am to 1pm
- Afternoon session times: Section Two: 2pm to 2:45pm
- 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 2026 dates for the delivery of the AoPC and will confirm the exact location of each assessment venue in due course.

Date	Assessment Session	Location
Thursday 25th June	Morning Session 11am-1pm	Dublin Thurles Athlone
	Afternoon Session 2pm-2:45pm	
Thursday 27th August	Morning Session 11am-1pm	TBA
	Afternoon Session 2pm-2:45pm	
Wednesday 28th October	Morning Session 11am-1pm	TBA
	Afternoon Session 2pm-2:45pm	
Tuesday 1st December	Morning Session 11am-1pm	TBA
	Afternoon Session 2pm-2:45pm	