

Common Placement Assessment Form (CPAF)

What is CPAF?

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) released CPAF with the aim of standardising the assessment process for physiotherapy students.

CPAF aims to transform practice-based learning by:

- Being applicable in a wide range of practice settings
- Making it easier to take students from more than one university
- Standardising placement assessment for students
- Empowering students to take ownership of their learning
- Actively promoting equity, diversity and belonging in placement settings

The CSP have released a [video explaining CPAF](#) in more detail.

How will we be using CPAF?

Our students will still have their Practice Learning Document (PLD), which can be accessed via PebblePad. The CPAF assessment will be embedded within the PLD in PebblePad. This means you will continue to use PebblePad and the PLD will not otherwise change.

As previously, assessment is “Pass” or “Fail”, and students will be assessed on and need to achieve 7 Professional Competencies and 10 Learning Domains.

Professional Competencies

These are professional behaviours expected from ALL students, and they remain the same for each placement.

The student:

1. Is fit to practise safely and effectively; with an awareness of scope of practice
2. Complies with standards of dress, appearance and hygiene
3. Promotes and protects the interests of others
4. Assesses and acts to minimise risks effectively
5. Reports reliably and raises concerns as appropriate
6. Respects confidentiality
7. Is punctual and has good time keeping

The professional competencies are assessed at the Intermediate and Final reviews.

The assessment outcomes for the Intermediate review are:

- Not achieved
- Progressing
- Achieved

The assessment outcomes for the Final review are:

- Achieved (Pass)
- Not achieved (Fail)

Learning Domains

The 10 learning domains are grouped into three categories: Professional Development, Interpersonal Skills, and Decision Making and Implementation.

Professional Development

1. Independent learning
2. Seeking, reflecting on and responding to feedback
3. Organisation and prioritisation

Interpersonal Skills

4. Communication
5. Working with others
6. Individuals, communities and populations

Decision Making and Implementation

7. Gathering and analysing information
8. Evidence-based practice
9. Reasoning and intervention
10. Recording information

Each learning domain is made up of three sub-sections, called learning outcomes.

For example:

1. Independent learning
 - 1.1. Ability to identify personalised learning needs and engage in a personalised development plan
 - 1.2. Ability to identify and use a variety of appropriate learning and development resources
 - 1.3. Ability to reflect on the learning process, resulting in suitable changes to practise

The same 10 learning domains are assessed at each placement. However, student performance expectations and the marking criteria increases for each placement level.

The table breaks down each course by year and shows what the equivalent level would be.

Course/Year	Level
BSc – Year 1	Level 4
BSc – Year 2	Level 5
BSc – Year 3	Level 6
MSc – Year 1	Level 5
MSc – Year 2	Level 6

Although our students are not officially graded, the CPAF document has marking criteria to allow for insight into the progression and achievements of each student, as well as identifying areas for development.

There are 5 assessment criteria at each level.

Assessment criteria – Level 4

- Outstanding: Consistently achieves without support (Excel)
- Excellent: Appropriately and proactively seeks support to achieve (Pass)
- Good: Requires support to achieve (Pass)
- Satisfactory: Requires significant support to achieve (Pass)
- Limited: Does not achieve despite feedback and support (Fail grade)

Assessment criteria – Level 5/6

- Outstanding: Consistently achieves without support and shows initiative (Excel)
- Excellent: Aware of own learning needs and shows initiative (Pass)
- Good: Demonstrates an ability with minimal support (Pass)
- Satisfactory: Needs moderate support (Pass)
- Limited: Needs significant support and promoting or fails to demonstrate (Fail grade)

Students are assessed on the learning domains at their Intermediate (Halfway) and Final reviews. Students must pass all 10 learning domains. Students must pass a minimum of two of the three learning outcomes within each domain to pass that learning domain.

A student can fail up to one of the three learning outcomes across different learning domains and still pass. However, if they fail four or more learning outcomes across the 10 learning domains they will fail the placement.

Remember, placement is pass or fail, but you are “grading” students within the assessment criteria to provide an insight into their placement achievements. Students

who achieve “Outstanding” within the assessment criteria should be awarded the Recognising Excellence award.

Students must show evidence to demonstrate how they have achieved each learning domain. Evidence to demonstrate each learning domain can be uploaded to the PebblePad PLD document.

Examples of evidence for students to upload can include:

- Critical reflections on what they have learnt and how they have developed
- Critical analysis of relevant research and how they have applied this to practise
- Mind-maps demonstrating structured learning and critical reasoning
- Case studies linking theory to practise
- Documentation such as anonymised record with annotation explaining what it means and how they have learnt and developed
- Links to CSP and HCPC standards of practise and Nice guidelines and how they have demonstrated their practise within these guidelines.

Students will also be required to upload their completed hours at the end of their placement via a system called ARC. Students must achieve 80% of their placement hours to pass their placement. However, please bear in mind that students need to aim to achieve their full allocated hours, to ensure they have enough hours to register with HCPC once they qualify (as they only have 20 hours of flexibility throughout the whole course).

There are some really useful CSP resources to further explain CPAF, with specific detail regarding each learning domain.

- [Download CPAF](#)
- [Read the guidance](#)
- [Watch the animation](#)

If you have any questions related to CPAF or placements please contact the Therapy Placement Team at therapyplacements@worc.ac.uk.

Remember, we have regular update training sessions available throughout the academic year.