

Brochure for :
Standards of Education and Training

Introduction

The Health Professions Council (HPC) is the new regulator whose duty is to safeguard the health and well-being of anyone using or needing the services of the 12 health care professions it regulates.

HPC, through its Education and Training Committee (ETC), is, therefore, the regulatory body for educational provision which qualifies those completing it for entry on the Register. HPC's most important activity here is to set standards.

Purpose

The " Standards of Education and Training " (SET) are guidance to education institutions and other partner bodies on the preparation of students for the award of a qualification leading to eligibility for inclusion on the Register.

Their core purpose is to ensure that education and training provision can ensure that those successfully completing it can meet the requirements of the Health Professions Order, and specifically the Standards of Proficiency for safe and effective practice. The Standards of Proficiency as embedded in curricula must enable the student successfully completing the course to enjoy full scope of autonomous practice prospectively.

To achieve this the scope of the SETs must be wide and include :

- the suitability of the institution(s) (including any sites for placement education) to deliver the course and make the award,
- the adequate number of appropriately qualified staff and the institution's staff development procedures,
- the adequacy of learning and teaching support and of support to students more generally, and
- the appropriateness of the content of the curriculum.

This latter category is not just the topics taught but includes :

- integration of academic and clinical components,
- teaching and learning ethos and strategy,
- the teaching of core and transferable skills and knowledge,
- interprofessionalism,
- the context of practice.

It would not be safe either for the practitioner or for the public for a 21 year old graduate to embark on a professional career in ignorance of other professions, of the relevant law, and in ignorance of the context of their professional practice.

The Standards of Proficiency are published separately by HPC and are embedded within the Standards of Education and Training.

Outcome Standards from Approved Courses

The HPO directs that HPC can specify the outcomes to be expected from approved courses as part of the SETs. HPC has decided to adopt the Quality Assurance Agency's Subject Benchmarks for this purpose supported by relevant curriculum development / framework papers for each Part of the Register. The Subject Benchmarks are a multi-professional exercise prepared collaboratively between the former Boards at the Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine, the professional bodies, and higher education. They exist for nine of the twelve Parts of the Register with a tenth in preparation. Equivalent documentation exists for the remaining two professions.

The Subject Benchmarks are available from HPC or can be found on the QAA's web site at <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/crntwork/benchmark/nhs/benchmarking.htm>.