

Fitness to Practise

As part of their University programme, some students are required to undertake placement and training that involve dealing directly with patients, clients or service users. Since it is of over-riding importance to protect members of the public from harm and to maintain the trust and confidence of the general public in the professions and the University, it is vital that students are deemed fit to practise while on placement. To describe an individual as 'Fit to Practise' in the context of certain professions is to say that he/she possesses the attributes considered necessary in an individual to allow on-going practice as an independent practitioner in the relevant profession. A copy of the *UCC Student Garda Vetting Policy* is available here:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/studyatucc/undergrads/downloadabledocumentssection/UCStudentVettingPolicyandProcedure.pdf>

Fitness to practise policies and procedures have been implemented to ensure that, in addition to having achieved the required academic standard, individuals also

1. Have the capacity to perform key skills and tasks (Core competencies) so as to be able to practise in their profession;
2. Are healthy of body and mind so as to be able to practise in their profession;
3. Conduct and behave themselves so as not to harm their patients, clients, or service users or put them at risk of harm;
4. Conduct and behave themselves in a manner likely not to harm the reputation of their profession.

All students commencing the first year of certain programmes in UCC (including the MSW / PGDSWS) will be required to comply with the Fitness to Practise Policy and meet the relevant

Fitness to Practise standards in order to progress to the next year of their programme. The programmes in question are ones which involve interaction with patients/clients **and** that lead to registration with a professional body. A full list of the programmes subject to this Fitness to Practise requirement is available **on the link at the end of this page**. Students registering on these programmes are required to read and accept the Fitness to Practice requirements at registration and annually at re-registration.

Details of the core competencies, conduct and behaviour standards and health matters relating to Fitness to Practise for named individual programmes are available in the next section. A copy of the University Fitness to Practise Policy and Procedures are available in the next section.

Further information

The UCC Fitness to Practice policy and procedures; core competencies, disclosure forms and FAQs can all be located on this link and should be consulted by candidates as part of their application process to the MSW / PGDSWS:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/academicsecretariat/fitnesstopractise/>

The *Conduct and Behaviour Standards*, College of Arts, Celtic Studies, and Social Science can be accessed here:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/support/academicsecretariat/ftp/ConductandBehaviourStandardsCACSSS.pdf>

Disclosure of health issues and criminal convictions

Successful candidates taking up a place on the MSW / PGDSWS, as part of the Fitness to Practise policy, will be obliged to disclose any health issues and/or criminal convictions that may impact on their suitability for social work training. Successful candidates will also have to successfully complete a Garda Vetting process prior to placement.