

Graduate Certificate of Pharmacist Prescribing – 2027 Key Dates and FAQs

The following document summarises some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Graduate Certificate of Pharmacist Prescribing.

The Graduate Certificate of Pharmacist Prescribing Learner Guide details the full terms and conditions of our program which can be requested by emailing pharmacy.prescribing@monash.edu

For details about enrollment please contact pharmacy.postgrad@monash.edu

A copy of this guide is also made available during the enrolment process. We request that all learners access and read this guide before completing the enrolment process.

Disclaimer

This course is designed to support pharmacists make safe prescribing decisions and patient assessments. The units included in 'Part A. Core prescribing skills' studies are accredited with conditions by the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC). Other components cover the diagnosis and management of specific primary care conditions.

The scope of pharmacist practice in Australia is constantly changing and is subject to national as well as state/territory legislation. We therefore do not guarantee that this course will allow you to meet the requirements to work within an expanded scope in your local jurisdiction. It is your responsibility to confirm the training requirements that must be met in order for you to engage in expanded prescribing activities as a pharmacist in your state/territory of practice.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to enrol in this program?

The Graduate Certificate of Pharmacist Prescribing will be offered to generally registered pharmacists (no conditions) with Ahpra. You will be required to submit proof of current Ahpra registration on application to the course.

Are pharmacy students or interns eligible to enrol in this program?

No. The course is only available to generally registered pharmacists with Ahpra (no conditions).

How is the course structured?

The course comprises of four individual components:

Two microcredentials

Pharmacist Prescribing: Clinical Conditions 1 (PMC5005)	Pharmacist Prescribing: Clinical Conditions 2 (PMC5006)
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Microcredentials are essentially short, assessed programs of study that can be credited towards a university qualification. The two microcredentials in this course each comprise of approximately 100 hours of learning, and each contribute 6 credit points to the Graduate Certificate of Pharmacist Prescribing. They can be completed in any order. These microcredentials are hosted on an online Learning Management System called the Monash PDE Platform.

Two traditional units of study

Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 1 (PGC5301)	Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 2 (PGC5302)
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Traditional units of study are delivered over a 12-week University teaching period. Each unit comprises approximately 144 hours of learning. These units can be completed prior to or after the completion of the microcredentials. Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 1 is a prerequisite of Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 2. These units are hosted on the Monash online Learning Management System called Moodle.

How do I apply to enrol in the course and the units/microcredentials?

You can lodge an application for the Graduate Certificate of Pharmacist Prescribing [here](#).

If successful, you will receive an offer of a place in the course. You must accept your offer and enrol into the units Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 1 (PGC5301) and Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 2 (PGC5302) by the offer lapse date. Upon successful enrolment, you will also be provided further instructions about how to apply for the Pharmacist Prescribing: Clinical Conditions 1 (PMC5005) and Pharmacist Prescribing: Clinical Conditions 2 (PMC5006) microcredentials.

How long does the program take?

The course can be completed in one year part-time or completed across two years.

How is the course taught?

We use an active learning style approach to teaching within this course. You will be required to complete a series of self-directed online learning modules prior to applying your learning to the management of fictitious cases in facilitated hands-on online workshops. Where we need to teach physical examination skills this will be taught during in-person workshops at a Melbourne based Monash University campus.

The Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 2 unit requires you to complete workplace-based assessments under supervision of a prescriber in a work-integrated learning environment.

How will I be assessed in this course?

We ultimately want to ensure that you are competent to prescribe medications within your personal and professional scope of practice as a pharmacist prescribing. We use a series of assessments using fictitious and real cases. This includes Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), a type of oral examination whereby you are assessed on your ability to conduct a patient consultation and make prescribing decisions for fictitious cases.

You will be assessed using the competency grading scheme (Pass/Fail grade). All assessments are hurdles; you must successfully complete all assessments to pass the units and progress within the course. You will be provided at least TWO attempts at each assessment and will be provided feedback after each assessment. You will also be offered remediation help from the teaching team in the event that you do not pass an assessment on your first attempt. Further details about each assessment can be found in our Learner Guide or in the individual Unit handbooks/microcredential summaries.

What are the work-integrated learning (WIL) supervised practice requirements for this course?

In the Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 2 unit, you are required to be supervised by an Ahpra registered health professional who is currently a prescriber and has at least 12 months experience as a prescriber in an area of practice relevant to your learning needs as a prescriber in training. At this stage, this Designated Prescriber (DP) cannot be a pharmacist prescriber as they are unlikely to have sufficient experience to supervise you in a manner that will best support your development. Examples of eligible DPs include nurse-practitioners and medical practitioners.

Your DP must formally agree to provide supervision, mentorship and assess your prescribing competency in a WIL environment. In this agreement form, you will explain how the DP selected will support your learning needs for the WIL component of this course. You are required to arrange the DP to support your learning needs.

We strongly encourage that you start arranging your DP as soon as you enrol in the Graduate Certificate of Pharmacist Prescribing. Submission of a signed agreement from your DP must be completed by **the end of week 1** within the Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 2 unit. This is considered a component of the WIL Prescribing Portfolio assessment hurdle for this unit. This is to ensure that you are prepared for the WIL components of this unit.

You will be required to submit the following so that a DP can be approved by the teaching team:

- A copy of the DPs Ahpra registration
- An up-to-date CV for the DP confirming their experience as a prescriber (12 months experience as a prescriber)
- A signed copy of the Pharmacist Prescribing WIL agreement form. In this form:
 - You will explain how the DP will support your learning needs
 - You and your DP will indicate any perceived or actual conflicts of interest (e.g. personal relationship)

The teaching team must review and approve all DPs.

Further detail about the WIL components of the course are included in the Learner Guide (available on request). As a summary, there are three milestones within the Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 2 unit. By each milestone, you are required to have completed a series of workplace-based assessments under the supervision of your DP. This allows the DP to assess your ability to demonstrate key prescribing processes. Progression at each milestone will depend on your demonstrated competency. We anticipate that this will require at least six days of direct observation spaced evenly across a 12-week semester (2 days prior to each milestone) but may require longer depending on your demonstrated competency. You may incur additional travel costs related to completing work-integrated learning components under the supervision of your DP.

DPs will be provided with instructional material and standardised marking rubrics for all WIL assessments and will be trained by the teaching team so that they are prepared to provide effective clinical supervision, workplace-based assessment, and feedback.

Is this course accredited by the Australian Pharmacy Council?

The traditional units of this course (Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 1 and 2) are accredited with conditions by the Australian Pharmacy Council. The assessments in these units are mapped to the performance outcomes framework for Pharmacist Prescribing Education Programs of the Australian Pharmacy Council.

Is there a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) pathway for this course?

Given the unique structure of this course, it is unlikely that learners will be eligible for RPL. Learner applications for RPL will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Can pharmacists that do not reside in Victoria apply for and enrol into the course?

Yes. However, learners need to be mindful that there are compulsory in-person workshops and assessments in this course that are only delivered at Monash University campuses in Melbourne.

Can I pay in instalments/is there a payment plan option?

Eligible learners may apply for [FEE-HELP](#) for traditional units of study only. There is no payment plan or loan option for the microcredential components of the course.

What funding is available to support completion of this course?

We are aware of some subsidies for our program being offered by pharmacy professional bodies and employers and encourage you to check with your member bodies and/or employers on what financial assistance they may be able to provide.

What is the refund policy?

There is a separate refund policy for microcredentials and traditional units.

For the microcredentials:

If a learner does not abide by the conditions of the microcredential, the team reserves the right to cancel the participant's registration at any time and without a full refund of fees.

If the team decides to cancel the microcredential, learners are entitled to a full refund of fees

Learners can apply in writing to withdraw from a microcredential and obtain a refund:

- A full refund (100%) will be provided if you apply to withdraw at least 28 calendar days prior to the commencement date.
- A 50% refund will be provided if you apply to withdraw at least 14 calendar days prior to the commencement date.
- No refund will be provided if you apply to withdraw later than 14 calendar days prior to the commencement date.
- Note: in the event of late withdrawal, you may credit your registration fee to another date (same course) within two years of your original registration.

Traditional units

In relation to the traditional units, learners should refer to the Monash University information about census dates and withdrawal - <https://www.monash.edu/students/admin/enrolments/dates/census>

What post-nominals can I use after successfully completing this course?

After successfully completing all components of this course you will be awarded the post-nominals GradCertPharmPresc by Monash University.

What will I be allowed to prescribe following the completion of this course?

This course focuses on core prescribing principles and processes to ensure you meet the prescribing performance outcomes of APC. It will also teach you about the diagnosis and management of specific primary care conditions.

The scope of pharmacist practice in Australia is constantly changing and is subject to national as well as state/territory legislation. We therefore do not guarantee that this course will allow you to meet the requirements to work within an expanded scope in your local jurisdiction. It is your responsibility to confirm the training requirements that must be met in order for you to engage in expanded prescribing activities as a pharmacist in your state/territory of practice.

Can I access the Monash University library and other student resources?

If you enrol in the Graduate Certificate of Pharmacist Prescribing and are enrolled in a traditional unit of study you will be considered a Monash University student and therefore can access a range of resources including the Monash University library.

It is important to note that if you are enrolled in a microcredential alone, you are not considered a student at Monash University and do not have student access to facilities and services, including Monash ID, Monash IT account, Library or learning resources that are licensed for enrolled students only.

What equipment do I need for this course?

To engage in the physical examinations workshops of Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 1, learners will be required to purchase the following equipment:

- A penlight torch (Approximately \$3)
- A Littmann Classic III stethoscope (Approximately \$170)
- An otoscope (Approximately \$160)

What are the in-person requirements of this course?

Learners are required to attend the following in-person workshops/assessments at one of the Monash University Melbourne campuses (exact location to be confirmed):

- A five-day intensive series of physical examination skill workshops and assessments including OSCEs (relevant to Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 1)
- A half-day morning oral health risk assessment workshop (relevant to Pharmacist Prescribing: Clinical Conditions 1)
- A half-day afternoon wound care/musculoskeletal assessment workshop (relevant to Pharmacist Prescribing: Clinical Conditions 2)
- An in-person practice and actual OSCE assessment (relevant to Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 2) – learners will be provided assessment time slot options (practice OSCEs and actual OSCEs require a half-day attendance on two separate days)

Further information can be found in the key dates section of this document

Cost of travel and other associated expenses for attendance at compulsory in-person workshops and assessments will vary depending on personal circumstances and requirements.

Where can I find out more?

If you have any questions about enrolment, please contact pharmacy.postgrad@monash.edu

If you have any questions about the coursework structure, please contact pharmacy.prescribing@monash.edu

The following table summarise information about the content covered, structure, workload, enrolment process/dates and approximate cost for each component of the course:

Unit/Microcredential	Content covered	Structure	Workload	Enrolment process	Cost (approx)#
PMC5005: Pharmacist Prescribing: Clinical Conditions 1 microcredential (6 credit point)	Preventative health conditions such as contraception, travel health, smoking cessation, and oral health risk assessment	Online learning material, 4 x online Zoom workshops, 1 x half-day in-person oral health risk assessment workshop, simulated assessments (including an online OSCE)	100 hours	Online application and payment is required via the Guroo learning platform (links to microcredential application provided on successful enrolment in the course)	\$2100
PMC5006: Pharmacist Prescribing: Clinical Conditions 2 microcredential (6 credit point)	Dermatological/musculoskeletal conditions such as impetigo, shingles; acne, dermatitis, psoriasis; acute wound management; acute musculoskeletal pain.	Online learning material, 3 x online Zoom workshops, 1 x half-day in-person wound care/musculoskeletal pain management assessment workshop, simulated assessments (including an online OSCE)	100 hours	Online application and payment is required via the Guroo learning platform (links to microcredential application provided on successful enrolment in the course)	\$2100
PGC5301: Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 1 Unit (6 credit point)	Core prescribing principles and processes that are reinforced by teaching clinical conditions requiring expanded scope physical examination skills (i.e. Otitis media/externa, allergic rhinitis; asthma, COPD; GORD, acute nausea/vomiting associated with gastroenteritis).	Online learning material, 4 x online Zoom workshops, simulated assessments and a five-day series of in-person physical examination skill workshops/assessments (including an in-person OSCE)	144 hours	Monash University Enrolment (WES) system (information provided by Monash University admissions team on successful enrolment in the course)	\$4,000*
PGC5302: Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 2 Unit (6 credit point)	Assessing prescribing competence in a work-integrated learning (WIL) environment under the supervision of an approved prescriber. This unit will also cover hypertension, dyslipidaemia, weight management; type 2 diabetes mellitus.	Online learning material, 3 x online Zoom workshops, simulated assessments, supervised practice assessments with a Designated Prescriber, and a final in-person practice and actual OSCE assessment	144 hours	Monash University Enrolment (WES) system (information provided by Monash University admissions team on successful enrolment in the course) Note: Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 1 must be completed as a prerequisite of entry into Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 2	\$4,000*

Approximate costs are provided and are subject to annual changes

*Costs associated with traditional units of study are determined annually by Monash University and can be paid via FEE-HELP loan schemes. Find out more about unit costs -

<https://www.monash.edu/study/courses/find-a-course>

2027 Key Dates –

The following outlines the planned future offerings for course components from November 2026 to November 2027. Please note that the following is a draft of key dates only, offerings of course components are subject to demand.

Component	Teaching weeks
Micro-credential period - Nov 2026	
PMC5005: Pharmacist Prescribing: Clinical Conditions 1 microcredential	Applications open 5th October 2026 Microcredential commences 2nd November 2026 Online tutorials are planned for 7-9pm on the following dates: Tuesday 12th January, Monday 25th January, Tuesday 9th February and Monday 1st March 2027 Learners can preference morning or afternoon online OSCEs on 22nd, 23rd or 24th of Feb Learners can preference in-person workshop attendance on: 27th Feb 2027 OR 12th June OR 19th June 2027
Semester 1, 2027	
PGC5301: Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 1 Unit	Commences 1st March 2027 Online tutorials are planned for Tuesday 7-9pm on the following dates: 9th March, 23rd March, 13th April and 4th May 2027 In-person workshop (including OSCE)- Learner can preference 7th – 11th June 2027 OR 14th – 18th June 2027
PGC5302: Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 2 Unit	Commences 1st March 2027 Online tutorials are planned for Tuesday 7-9pm on the following dates: 2nd March, 16th March and 20th April 2027 In-person practice and actual OSCEs – learner can preference week commencing 17th May 2027 OR week commencing 24th May 2027
Micro-credential period	
PMC5006: Pharmacist Prescribing: Clinical Conditions 2 microcredential	Commences 3rd May 2027 Online tutorials are planned for Tuesday 7-9pm on the following dates: 18th May, 22nd June and 6th July 2027 Learners can preference in-person workshop attendance on: Saturday 12th June 2027 OR 19th June 2027 Learners can preference morning or afternoon online OSCEs on 26th, 27th or 28th July 2027
Semester 2, 2027	
PGC5301: Pharmacist Prescribing Skills 1 Unit	Commences 26th July 2027 Online tutorials are planned for Tuesday 7-9pm on the following dates: 3rd August, 17th August, 7th September and 5th October 2027 In-person workshop (including OSCE)- Learner can preference 1st – 5th November 2027 OR 8th -12th November 2027

PGC5302: Pharmacist Prescribing
Skills 2 Unit

Commences 26th July 2027

Online tutorials are planned for Tuesday 7-9pm on the following dates: 27th July, 10th August and 14th September 2027

In-person practice and actual OSCEs – learner can preference week commencing 11th October 2027 OR week commencing 18th October 2027

All timing is based on local Victorian time (AEDT/AEST).