

## Professional Practice and Ethics

### Content

This module aims to introduce the student to the origins of ethics and how the understanding of ethics, values, rights, equality and social justice should support best practice decisions, and how these principles have to be balanced against professional decisions like the duty of care. In addition the module explores the development of the social care profession and how registration and the development of a clear professional identity should support a workable professional code of conduct.

### Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module the student will be able to:

- Outline the origins of ethics
- Explain the meaning of values and principles
- Explain the concepts of quality of life and best practice, and describe their role in supporting the service user to reach their vision of a good quality of life
- Outline how ethical considerations form part of making best practice decisions
- Explain why behaving according to particular values and principles is beneficial for service users
- Appreciate human rights as a force for social and political change
- Outline how human rights are supported by natural law theory and duty theory
- Assess the value of rights in driving change for equality
- Apply human rights considerations to duty of care issues
- Explain the basis of the greatest happiness principle and how this relates to equality
- Use the principle as a guide in delivering best practice
- Explain the concept of relativism and how this concept relates to the acceptance of difference
- Distinguish between Hobbes and Rousseau's contract and discuss how they relate to the term social contract ethics
- Assess how social contract ethics relates to their practice
- Relate social justice to social care policy decisions
- Discuss the role of the social care practitioner, as defined by the Irish Association of Social Care Educators
- Explain how the role's professional identity has developed, how legislation underpins the role and outline the planned roll out of registration for social care professionals
- Identify the key issues in their social care practice that deserves ethical consideration
- Outline the value of a professional code of conduct

**Assessment:** This module is assessed through the development of an e-portfolio.

**Accreditation:** This CPD Module is accredited by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC). Click [www.hetac.ie](http://www.hetac.ie)

It is a Minor Award placed at Level 6 on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications. Click [www.nfq.ie](http://www.nfq.ie)

**Credits:** 15 Credits

### Delivery and Supports

The student will learn through open learning materials, online library, practical assignments and workshops/seminars/online discussions.

The student is supported by a tutorial system (telephone/email), group tutorials online, feedback on your progress (both summative and formative), various online supports (including a study skills module, assignment writing course, news forum, my virtual classroom) and a College helpdesk.

Prior to commencing a course, each student completes a one-week, tutor-led online course that will help to boost student confidence and fine tune online skills when using the OTC virtual learning environment, MyOTC.

**CPD Application Forms are available online or by contacting the OTC. Tel: (01)2988544**

### Entry Requirements

*All applicants must:*

- Be age 23 years at time of application OR have successfully completed the Leaving Certificate/FETAC Level 5 Certificate.

*and,*

- Be employed in a service for people with disabilities for at least 10 hours per week and have held such employment for at least one year prior to application. (In specific circumstances applications will be considered from those working in a similar voluntary capacity)

**Cost:** €695 (€645 for any subsequent Social Studies CPD modules studied).

CPD students can avail of reimbursements should they choose to further their studies through the full degree course in Applied Social Studies (Disability).