

**Title: Preparing Students for Professional Practice using PebblePad**

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The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland regulates the professional practice of pharmacists, pharmaceutical assistants and pharmacies and they accredit pharmacy education and training programmes. In the process of setting standards for pharmacy education and training, the PSI identified 178 behaviors that all pharmacy students and practicing pharmacists must show specific levels of competency in on a regular basis. The head of the School of Pharmacy waved a magic wand in May 2015 and indicated he wanted a way of recording and assessing these behaviours in a progressive fashion over the whole of the five year integrated MPharm programme beginning in September 2015. Initial reactions were enthusiastic but anxious – how were we going to do it? Many questions arose: How? When? Where? and Who? should measure the behaviours. We attended a brainstorming event organised by the Office of the vice president for teaching and learning in UCC and met colleagues from nursing and medicine with similar questions relating to better preparing our graduates for their role in the real world. Subsequently we formed a group called ePrePP – electronic preparation for professional practice, our project received funding from the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education under the transitions theme.

This allowed us to conduct a pilot study using PebblePad which has given us options to

1. Document, monitor and assess competencies, in labs, across modules, outside of the degree programme, in community placements
2. Reflect on learning by providing evidence
3. Reflect for learning by identifying learning needs/knowledge gaps
4. Mimic the IOP reflection cycle and CCSAT (mimic real expectations of professionals)
5. Conduct collaborative, team based project work.

Overall to mimic much of what is expected of professional practitioners and therefore better prepare our students for real life as independent learners.