

Guide

STUDY GROUPS

Structured Assessment using Multiple Patient Scenarios (StAMPS)

Purpose

The Structured Assessment using Multiple Patient Scenarios (StAMPS) is a blend of the Objective Structured Clinical Assessment (OSCE) and the traditional viva voce (Viva) assessment. StAMPS aims to assess higher order functions in a highly contextualised framework, where candidates have opportunity to explain what they do and demonstrate their clinical reasoning, rather than simply providing evidence of knowledge, listing facts or recalling protocols. The assessors also ask the candidates how they would deal with system or patient factors that prevent a 'standardised' approach being applied. StAMPS is used as an assessment modality for Core Generalist Training (CGT) and several of the Advanced Specialised Training (AST) programs. For more information in relation to the StAMPS assessment, please visit the [Handbook for Fellowship Assessment](#).

StAMPS Study Groups

Purpose

The StAMPS study groups are an assessment preparation activity designed to support participants preparing for their upcoming Fellowship assessments through facilitated peer discussion, case-based learning, and structured preparation activities.

The study groups provide:

- Familiarisation with assessment processes and expectations
- A supportive learning environment
- Peer-to-peer learning and collaboration
- Guidance from experienced facilitators
- Opportunities to practice clinical reasoning activities.

Participants

Study group participants may include the following:

- registrars who are progressing through the ACRRM Rural Generalist Fellowship program on the:
 - Commonwealth funded Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) pathway
 - self-funded Independent Pathway
 - New Zealand registrars.
- clinicians undertaking an Advanced Specialised Training (AST) outside of training.

Study Groups as Part of Your Assessment Preparation

The StAMPS Study Group is intended to complement, not replace, the broader preparation activities that participants undertake in readiness for their assessment. Participation in the study group should be viewed as one component of a comprehensive preparation strategy that may include:

- regular preparation sessions with Medical Educators
- individual study and revision
- participation in informal peer study groups
- practice with clinical reasoning and case discussions
- [Introduction to StAMPS](#) eLearning module
- familiarisation with the [Assessment Management System](#) (AMS) and assessment processes.

The study group provides structured opportunities for discussion, reflection and learning with peers and facilitators; however, it is not designed to be the sole source of preparation for the StAMPS assessment.

Once a participant has completed a study group, enrolment in additional study groups is not intended as substitutes for continuing individual preparation, engagement with Medical Educators, or participation in other learning activities. Participants are expected to continue their preparation through a range of activities appropriate to their learning needs and assessment readiness.

Study Group Enrolment Fees

Participants who are progressing through the ACRRM Rural Generalist Fellowship program on the Commonwealth funded Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) pathway are funded to complete one Core Generalist Training (CGT) and one Advanced Specialised Training (AST) study group during their progression through the Fellowship program. Any additional enrolments attract the full enrolment fee. The attendance requirement of each study group is detailed further in this guide.

Participants who are progressing through the ACRRM Rural Generalist Fellowship program on the self-funded Independent Pathway are required to self-fund their enrolments to all study groups.

Focused Assessment Support Program

Participants who are referred to receive additional support through the nationally provided Focused Assessment Support Program (FASP) may be identified to attend additional study groups as part of their tailored assessment preparation learning plan.

Participants who are progressing through the ACRRM Rural Generalist Fellowship program on the AGPT pathway will be funded to attend these identified additional study groups as part of their assessment preparation learning plan.

Participants who are progressing through the ACRRM Rural Generalist Fellowship program on the self-funded Independent Pathway are required to self-fund their enrolments to all additional study groups including as part of their assessment preparation learning plan.

Program Overview

Core Generalist Training (CGT)

The CGT study group are:

- delivered over 8 weeks
- conducted weekly
- 90-minute facilitated sessions
- delivered online through Canvas and Collaborate Ultra
- interactive and discussion-based.

Attendance Requirements

Participants must attend a minimum of five (5) out of the total eight (8) sessions to successfully complete the study group.

Advanced Specialised Training (AST)

Study groups are available for the following ASTs in preparation for the respective StAMPS assessments:

- Emergency Management
- Adult Internal Medicine
- Mental Health
- Paediatrics
- Surgery.

The **EM AST StAMPS** study groups are:

- delivered over 8 weeks
- conducted weekly
- 90-minute facilitated sessions
- delivered online through Canvas and Collaborate Ultra
- interactive and discussion-based.

Attendance Requirements

Participants must attend a minimum of five (5) out of the total eight (8) sessions to successfully complete the study group.

The **Adult Internal Medicine, Mental Health, Paediatrics and Surgery** AST study groups are:

- delivered over 4 weeks
- conducted weekly
- delivered online through Canvas and Collaborate Ultra
- facilitated by experienced clinicians.

Attendance Requirement

Participants are to attend all sessions and this will be reiterated in the Registrars Information email and in the study group introductory meeting.

Before Enrolment

Participants should ensure they:

- meet all eligibility requirements for the relevant assessment
- can attend their allocated study group times
- have access to:
 - a computer or laptop
 - reliable internet connection
 - webcam
 - headphones or speakers.
- read the Registrar Information email which will be sent out prior to the Study Group which includes information on:
 - the ACRRM MyCollege portal
 - the Canvas learning management system
 - the [Assessment Management System](#) (AMS).

Enrolment and Group Allocation

Enrolments

Study group enrolments open at various times of the year to align with the delivery of the delivery of the StAMPS assessments.

Enrolment periods will be detailed at [Upcoming Assessments and Study Groups](#) and registering for enrolment occurs on this webpage as well.

Study Group Allocation

- Allocations are confirmed after the enrolment period closes.
- Changes are only considered under special circumstances.
- Requests for changes should be submitted to the training team as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to review the change, consequences on other study groups and approve if possible.

Late Enrolments

- Late enrolments may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Acceptance of late enrolments depends on:
 - availability of places
 - program requirements
 - session progression.

Session Expectations

Study Groups are:

- live and interactive
- facilitator led by experienced clinicians
- discussion-based
- designed for active engagement

Participants are expected to:

- attend scheduled study groups
- be prepared
- respect the facilitator and other participants
- contribute to discussions
- maintain professionalism.

Preparing for Sessions

Prior to each session, participants should:

- review Canvas announcements
- read any pre-session materials
- complete any requested preparation activities
- familiarise themselves with platform tools

Facilitators guide learning and discussion but do not provide examination answers or model assessment responses.

Attendance and Absences

Unable to Attend?

Participants should notify the training team as soon as possible through training@acrrm.org.au.

Missed Sessions

- Participants should attend their allocated group only.
- Attendance at alternative groups is not permitted without prior approval by contacting the training team through training@acrrm.org.au.
- Recordings may be available for review but do not count towards attendance requirements.

Illness or Exceptional Circumstances

Participants experiencing illness or unforeseen circumstances should contact the training team promptly through training@acrrm.org.au.

Recordings and Learning Resources

Session recordings may be available after each session.

If a session has been missed, recordings may be available for review but do not count towards attendance requirements.

Withdrawal from a Study Group

If a participant:

- becomes ineligible to sit the assessment
- no longer wishes to participate.

They should withdraw immediately by emailing training@acrrm.org.au.

Vacated places may then be offered to participants on the waitlist.

Study group places cannot be transferred between participants.

Appendices

Accessing Your Study Group

Canvas Access

Participants will receive access to their online study group in the Canvas online platform before commencement.

To access your study group:

- Log in to MyCollege.
- Navigate to **My Online Learning**.
- Select your Study Group course.
- Review:
 - Orientation
 - Modules
 - Tools
- Access weekly sessions through the **Sessions** area.

Technology Requirements

Participants should use:

- Chrome
- Microsoft Edge
- Firefox

(updated versions recommended)

Recommended Equipment

- Computer or laptop
- Webcam
- Headset or speakers
- Reliable internet connection

Webcam Requirement

Participants are expected to:

- Have a functioning webcam
- Keep their camera on throughout sessions. It's important to have your camera on and functioning during the sessions as this helps create a more engaging and effective experience.
- Participate actively in discussions

Technical Support

Problems Accessing Canvas

If participants:

- Cannot enter the course
- Cannot access session links
- Experience technical issues

They should:

- Refresh their browser.
- Confirm they are using a supported browser.
- Contact their Virtual Learning Assistant (VLA) through Canvas Discussions.
- Contact the Training Team if required.

To locate recordings:

- Open Collaborate Ultra.
- Select the menu icon.
- Choose Recordings.
- Change the filter to:
 - Sessions in Range
- Adjust the date range if required.

Participants should not rely solely on recordings in place of live attendance.

Assessment Management System (AMS)

Participants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Assessment Management System before their assessment.

AMS supports:

- Secure assessment delivery
- Candidate management
- Assessment preparation activities
- Participants experiencing AMS access issues should contact the national training team through training@acrrm.org.au.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I move to another study group?

Study group allocations are confirmed once the enrolment period closes. Changes are only considered under special circumstances although requests in extenuating circumstances can be made to training@acrrm.org.au.

Can I attend another group if I miss my session?

Participants must attend their allocated group unless a change has been requested to the training team through training@acrrm.org.au and approved.

Does watching a recording count as attendance?

Attendance is based on participation in the live session. Reviewing a recording is possible if a session is missed, however as study groups are facilitator led peer to peer learning sessions, this does not contribute to the attendance requirements.

What happens if I attend fewer than the required sessions?

If you attend less than the number of required sessions, you will not satisfy the completion requirements for the study group.

What should I do if my webinar link does not open?

Refresh your browser and try again. If issues continue, contact your VLA through the Discussions area in Canvas.

Can I join by mobile phone or tablet?

A computer or laptop is strongly recommended to ensure full access to all learning features.

What happens if I lose internet connection?

Rejoin as soon as possible and if you cannot reconnect, notify the VLA immediately and training team as soon as possible.

If I have already completed a study group, can I enrol again as part of my assessment preparation?

Although enrolment in additional study groups is possible, once a participant has completed a study group, enrolment in subsequent study groups is not intended as substitutes for continuing individual preparation, engagement with Medical Educators, or participation in other learning activities. Participants are expected to continue their preparation through a range of activities appropriate to their learning needs and assessment readiness.

Do I need to pass my MCQ Assessment to be eligible to sit the CGT Assessment and attend the study groups?

Yes. As outlined in **Section 4.1.3.2** of the [Assessment Eligibility policy](#), you must successfully pass the MCQ Assessment to be eligible to sit the CGT Assessment and attend the associated study groups.