



DATE: April 16, 2020

TO: Educator Preparation Providers
P-12 School Districts

FROM: Matt Arthur

SUBJECT: Program Admission: Conditional Admittance and PAA Assessment Updates

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you very much for your continued collaboration and tenacity during this very challenging time due to COVID-19. We greatly appreciate your hard work, evident adaptability, and professional response to this crisis.

During this time, we have worked to be highly responsive to the needs of our educators, Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs), and P-12 Schools, providing flexibility where we can. To help guide our policy and guidance decisions, we continue to seek input from diverse and representative groups. This process is ongoing, and adjustments are made accordingly. Please be reminded that we update our COVID-19 guidance as needed, which is posted on our homepage at www.gapsc.com.

The purpose of this communication is two-fold: 1) to provide information about conditional program admittance, and 2) to announce availability of the GACE Program Admission Assessment (PAA) via remote proctoring, called *GACE PAA at Home*, in mid-May and reinforce the availability of new, free PAA resources.

Conditional Admittance

Just as we are providing an extra year to meet many certification requirements due to school and test site closures, as outlined [here](#), we are allowing the option of conditional admittance of candidates to state-approved programs. Below is specific information:

For EPPs with Traditional Programs:

- Candidates who are seeking enrollment in Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 yet have not passed the PAA and are not granted the PAA Limited Flexibility Exemption option, will be granted conditional admittance valid through June 30, 2021, if the EPP wishes to admit them.
- If conditionally admitted to a teaching field program, the Pre-Service certificate may be requested by the program provider if all other requirements have been met.
- Although conditionally admitted candidates will receive their Pre-Service Certificate, valid for five years, the expectation is that EPPs work with their conditionally admitted candidates to help them meet the PAA requirement by June 30, 2021.

For GaTAPP:

- Candidates who are seeking enrollment in GaTAPP in Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 yet have not passed the PAA and/or the GACE Content Assessment, and are not granted the PAA Limited Flexibility Exemption option, will be granted conditional admittance valid through June 30, 2021, if the EPP wishes to admit them.
- If conditionally admitted to an alternative program, the Provisional certificate may be requested by the LUA if all other requirements have been met.
- These conditionally admitted candidates will receive their Provisional certificate, valid for one year, with the expectation that the EPPs will work with their conditionally admitted candidates to help them meet the PAA requirement by June 30, 2021.

GaPSC plans to provide regular reports to the EPP to help them know which of these candidates still need to pass the PAA, as well as work with EPPs regarding structures of support available to EPPs and candidates.

Although the decision to allow conditionally admitted candidates to continue matriculating through the program is with the EPP, GaPSC will continue to hold collaborative discussions regarding possible actions should the conditionally admitted candidates not pass PAA by June 30, 2021.

Also, with input from EPPs, we are examining the current criteria for the Limited Flexibility Exemption option for EPPs as to any additional flexibility. This option allows for a limited number of potential candidates who cannot pass all three parts of the PAA to be admitted with the understanding that the EPP will provide these candidates with targeted support.

For questions regarding conditional admittance, please contact your GaPSC Program Approval Specialist. Please note that candidates with certification questions should use the web form available [here](#).

PAA Remote Proctoring Availability (*GACE PAA at Home*) and New Preparation Resources

We are very pleased to share that the GACE PAA will soon be available to take at home or at other secure locations while test centers are closed due to COVID-19. We anticipate that this solution, *GACE PAA at Home*, will be available mid-May 2020.

This remote proctored option for PAA is identical in content, format, and on-screen experience to those taken at a test center, at the same price, and uses the same scoring criteria, scoring process, and score scale.

The *GACE PAA at Home* test delivery method is different. Following is information you should know.

- Testing will take place through test takers' personal computers at home or at other secure locations.
- Test sessions will be monitored through the use of live human proctors and artificial intelligence technology.
- The entire test session will be video recorded.
- The PAA testing supplier, ETS, is employing multiple best-in-class security measures that use both real-time human monitoring and artificial intelligence technology to guard against any suspicious activity and intervene, if necessary.

Registration for the *GACE PAA at Home* will begin mid-May 2020, with actual testing to start shortly after registration begins. Please watch the GACE website at www.gace.ets.org for availability of this new testing option.

Regarding new preparation resources, the Kahn Academy, in collaboration with ETS, is offering free, in-depth instructional resources in reading, writing, and math to assist with PAA test preparation. This online resource includes diagnostic tests, instructional videos, authentic interactive practice tests, and study plans to help prepare for the GACE Program Admission Assessment.

In addition and as a response to COVID-19, ETS has reduced the price of all GACE Interactive Practice Tests by 30% and increased the time allowed to access the tests, including those for PAA.

Full information about GACE PAA Preparation Resources, including those of the Kahn Academy, is available at <https://gace.ets.org/prepare/materials/700>.

If you have questions about the GACE program, please email GACEsupport@ets.org.

As shared, please continue to look for updates from us as we continue to examine the impact of COVID-19. Again, thank you for your work, and please let us know how we can be of assistance.