



Georgia Professional Standards Commission Guidance for Addressing Educator Preparation Program Disruptions Caused by COVID-19

Updated 5-1-20

Additions are in bold font.

As there are many unknowns regarding the impact of COVID-19, including how long P-12 schools will be closed, this guidance may be updated as new information emerges.

Student Teaching/Internships

Due to school closures, GaPSC staff understand that candidates participating in student teaching or internships may not be able to complete **on-site clinical practice requirements**. Our stance is that candidates should not be penalized for these unavoidable circumstances.

In the event of extended school closures, EPPs should take the following steps:

- To the extent possible based on P-12 capacity, coordinate opportunities for student teachers/interns to participate in online **experiences** with cooperating teachers, **school or district faculty and staff**, and P-12 students.
- Work with partner schools and districts to adjust placements to allow for completion of **performance-based assessments such as the PASL or the GACE Teacher Leadership Assessment**.
- If more than half of the student teaching/internship is disrupted, develop alternate methods for determining candidate readiness for program completion. Examples might include additional in-person or virtual seminars allowing candidates opportunities to complete **applicable** peer exercises assessed by faculty and one another.

GaPSC will accept the recommendation of a GaPSC-approved EPP that a candidate has met student teaching or internship requirements and program completion requirements. In TPMS, EPPs will enter the actual number of hours candidates spend in student teaching **or** internship whether those hours are on-site or in a virtual environment, and enter all other data as usual. GaTAPP EPPs will enter data in NTRS as usual.

Assessments

- Should traditional (college/university) candidates' abilities to complete GACE Content Assessment requirements be affected by testing site closures, additional time will be given. GaPSC will issue a one year, Non-Renewable Induction Certificate to candidates scheduled to complete their initial teacher preparation programs in Spring 2020, who are not able to meet certification assessment requirements, provided their educator preparation providers (EPPs) enter a Spring 2020 date (e.g. 5/10/2020) in the Program Completion Date field in TPMS. **Instructions for completing in TPMS or NTRS candidates who have not met all testing requirements are available [here](#).**
- Should non-traditional (GaTAPP **and Alternative Preparation for Leaders**) candidates' abilities to

complete the GACE Content Assessment requirements be affected by extended testing site closures, additional time will be given. GaPSC will extend the IN4 (Provisional) **or NL** Certificate to candidates scheduled to complete their initial teacher **or leader** preparation programs in Spring 2020, who are not able to meet certification assessment requirements and whose current certificates expire June 30, 2020. Those who are issued the extended Provisional **or NL** Certificate will have until June 30, 2021, to complete certification requirements.

- **For guidance related to Program Admissions Assessment testing disruptions and conditional admissions, see the document titled [COVID-19: Conditional Admittance and GACE PAA and GaPSC Guidance for EPPs Conditionally Admitting Candidates](#).**

A helpful Certification Guidance document, covering specific scenarios and situations, is available at: https://www.gapsc.com/Certification/Downloads/COVID-19_Certification_Guidance.pdf.

For Assistance:

- For EPPs, please contact your GaPSC education specialist with any questions or additional concerns.
- Certification questions should be directed to the Certification Division using the email form available [here](#), selecting the following subject: *How Will COVID-19 Affect my Certification?*