



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

Due to COVID-19 and resulting school closures, GaPSC staff understand that candidates participating in student teaching/internships this semester may not be able to complete a full semester (15 weeks) of on-site clinical practice in a P-12 setting. Our stance is that candidates should not be penalized for these unavoidable circumstances.

In the event of 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 teaching with cooperating teachers and P-12 students.
- Work with partner schools and districts to adjust placements to allow for completion of the edTPA.
- 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 peer teaching exercises assessed by faculty and one another.
- Should traditional (college/university) candidates' abilities to complete the edTPA and GACE Content Assessment requirements be affected by extended school or testing site closures, GaPSC, in consultation with the EPP, may allow special considerations to complete these assessment requirements, including but not limited to additional time for test attempts or submissions after graduation or program completion. In these cases, EPPs will need to continue to provide support or arrange for support, as needed, of their candidates to complete assessment requirements. If necessary, please consult with your GaPSC education specialist for additional instructions related to this scenario.
- Should nontraditional (GaTAPP) candidates' abilities to complete the edTPA and GACE Content Assessment requirements be affected by extended school or testing site closures, GaPSC, in consultation with the EPP, may allow candidates extended time to satisfy all GaTAPP program completion requirements. If necessary, please consult with your GaPSC education specialist for additional instructions related to this scenario.

GaPSC will accept the recommendation of a GaPSC-approved EPP that a candidate has met student teaching/internship requirements and program completion requirements. In TPMS, traditional EPPs will enter the actual number of hours candidates spend in student teaching/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.

Please direct questions to your GaPSC Education Specialist.