



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

Updated 3-19-20

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.

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 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 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.
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- Should traditional (college/university) candidates' abilities to complete the edTPA and GACE Content Assessment requirements be affected by extended school or 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. Those who are issued the one year, Non-Renewable Induction Certificate will have until June 30, 2021, to complete certification requirements.** EPPs will need to continue to provide support or arrange for support of their candidates, as needed, to complete assessment requirements.
 - Should non-traditional (GaTAPP) candidates' abilities to complete the edTPA and GACE Content Assessment requirements be affected by extended school or testing site closures, **additional time will be given. GaPSC will extend the IN4 (Provisional) Certificate to GaTAPP candidates scheduled to complete their initial teacher 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 Certificate will have until June 30, 2021, to complete certification requirements.**

- 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.

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.
 - For Non-traditional (GaTAPP and Alternative Preparation for Leaders) programs:
 - Julie Beck – julie.beck@gapsc.com
 - Enjolia Farrington – enjolia.farrington@gapsc.com
 - For Traditional programs (colleges/universities):
 - Shelly Boardman – shelly.boardman@gapsc.com
 - Bobbi Ford – bobbi.ford@gapsc.com
 - Flavia Gordon-Gunter – flavia.gordon-gunter@gapsc.com
 - Paquita Morgan – paquita.morgan@gapsc.com
- 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?*