



## **Clinical Practice and COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions March 20, 2020**

This document provides answers to frequently asked questions related to clinical practice for all credential preparation programs during the COVID-19 emergency. This document will be updated regularly as more information becomes available.

### ***Preliminary Multiple and Single Subject Minimum Hours Requirements***

- Q. If a teacher candidate participates in teaching (under the direction of a supervisor OR mentor teacher) in an online environment, could the hours be counted towards the fulfillment of their 600 clinical hours?
- A. **Candidates must be supervised and guided for the hours of interaction to be included in the 600 hours. If the candidates continue to work with EITHER program OR district employed supervisors in an online teaching environment, the hours of teaching/interacting online may be counted toward the 600 hours. This could be appropriate for both secondary and elementary settings.**
- Q. If schools close but teachers are still required to work, can candidates still attend their placement and engage in the professional development (PD), continued lesson planning, etc. and have those hours count towards the 600 hours?
- A. **YES. It is a local program decision as to when candidates do or do not remain in their placements. Candidates must be engaged with experienced teachers, focused on planning instruction, delivering instruction, reflecting on instruction, analyzing student work or these types of activities to have the hours included in the 600 hours. If the PD that the teachers and candidates are attending meets these criteria, then the time may be included in the 600 hours.**

- Q. Do the 600 hours of clinical practice need to be completed in one semester, or is there flexibility?
- A. **Currently, a candidate must complete 600 hours of clinical practice in total. The Commission does not require any specific number of hours in any one grading period. The decision to count the hours from a prior grading period can be made by the program after reviewing the time spent in the classroom to determine if it meets the guidelines for either appropriate fieldwork or clinical practice.**

### ***Speech Language Pathology Minimum Hours Requirements***

- Q. For Speech Language Pathology Programs, can clinical clock hours be counted toward the credential if they are obtained by telepractice? The master clinician would be in the room with the child, and the graduate student would be doing therapy with the child in the room from another location via computer.
- A. **As long as the candidates are supervised and guided during the telepractice it can be counted towards the clinical practice hours. The master clinician could also be at another location and participating via distance.**
- Q. The national accrediting body of Speech Language Pathologists, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, allows speech-language pathology graduate students to obtain 75 clinical clock hours through technological simulation software (e.g., Simucase). Can our students use this software to help fulfill this 100-hour requirement under these exceptional circumstances?
- A. **The hours a candidate has accrued through the use of a simulation technological software, such as Simucase or other similar program, allowed by ASHA may be counted towards the required 100 clinical practice hours.**

### ***School Psychologists Minimum Hours Requirements***

- Q. The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has taken the following position to reduce the required 1,200 hours of field supervised experience.
- “The NASP Program Accreditation Board and National School Psychology Certification Board have agreed to waive the 1,200 hour requirement for all programs and graduate students on internship during this period. Given the time of year, we will require a minimum of 800 hours in direct, field-based supervised experiences, with a minimum of 400 hours in a school setting. Programs may employ flexibility on the remainder of hours.”

Is the Commission planning to join NASP in changing the hours requirement?

- A. This type of change needs Commission action to implement. Staff is preparing an agenda item for the April Commission meeting requesting this type of flexibility for this year's candidates.**

***For More Information***

The Commission is committed to supporting institutions, programs, and candidates. Staff will continue to be responsive to programs and facilitate ways to enable all candidates to complete their induction programs and earn their clear credentials. Please continue to monitor the [Commission's COVID-19 website](#) for updates and direct specific questions to appropriate staff.

Additional questions? Email [ClinicalQuestions@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:ClinicalQuestions@ctc.ca.gov)