



## **Guidance for Field Experience Pupil Personnel Services Credential Programs March 25, 2020**

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) is closely monitoring the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the impact of school and university closures on candidates enrolled in educator preparation programs. We are particularly concerned about candidates' ability to complete clinical practice and requirements during this academic year, and are looking for ways to mitigate this situation. This document focuses on flexibility considerations within Pupil Personnel Services Programs (PPS) clinical practice settings.

Field experience and clinical practice in preparation programs are required by the Commission to ensure that all candidates complete field-based practical learning experiences prior to recommendation for the credential. Commission-approved programs must work with their partner local education agencies to meet the clinical practice requirements. While the Commission acknowledges the need for additional flexibility, we also encourage programs to think broadly and creatively about ways to provide opportunities to candidates for clinical practice given the current challenges.

### **Field Experience and Clinical Practice**

*Q1. Clinical practice takes place in an educational setting. If the schools are not open, what other options are possible?*

A1. In order to provide flexibility for candidates during this time, clinical practice can take place through online, remote, or at alternate settings or as part of an extended school year or school day. Virtual reality or simulation services can also qualify for a limited portion of a candidate's clinical practice if the program determines the activities to be appropriate and aligned with standards. Video or other examples of effective practices in PPS can be viewed, analyzed and discussed with experienced practitioners as part of a candidate's clinical practice. The program should make note of exceptions in the candidate's file that occur and how the exception was addressed for each candidate.

*Q2. What criteria must be met for the alternative clinical practice settings?*

A2. Clinical practice must be under the supervision of an experienced supervisor. PPS candidates should be practicing the knowledge and skills identified in the specific set of program standards under the supervision and guidance of one or more experienced supervisors.

*Q3. What happens if a candidate cannot meet their required clinical practice hours even with the use of alternative settings?*

A3. When a requirement is in statute, neither the Commission staff nor the Commission can “waive” or ignore that requirement. Only an Executive Order or a new statute can change these requirements. When a requirement is in regulations, the Commission does have the ability to change a regulation as long as the language of the regulation is not also in statute. Many of the PPS clinical practice requirements exist in statute and therefore cannot be changed by Commission action alone.

The Commission is currently exploring ways to provide flexibility to programs to help current candidates who were expected to complete their program this academic year. In particular, the Commission is working on flexibility options that would allow candidates to be employed in fall 2020 if they have made satisfactory progress in their preparation program, but due to COVID-19 were not able to complete all clinical hours to earn the credential recommendation. These flexibilities would allow the candidate more time to complete the program, including clinical hours, while employed. Staff is currently working on the details of this option for Commission consideration.

More information will be available on the [Commission meeting agenda](#) webpage for its April 2020 meeting in the coming weeks.

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