Hello,

We understand that you have many concerns about how the COVID-19 situation will affect your ability to graduate on time and complete certification requirements. We are still awaiting guidance from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) about certification requirements and will let you know when we finally receive their guidance. In the meantime, we have made the decision that regardless of what TEA decides, you will receive course credit for EDST if you meet the modified EDST course requirements listed below. If EDST is a requirement in your degree plan, this means you should be able to graduate on time if you meet all other degree requirements.

EDST Modified Course Completion Requirements:

- Student teachers continue to participate in planning and remote teaching and learning under the mentorship of your Cooperating Teacher—you will complete a log of these activities and submit to your Student Teaching Faculty at the end of the semester.
- Interns continue working as a teacher of record according to district COVID-19 plans for instruction.
- Continued regular communication with Student Teaching Faculty and participation in remote meetings or other requirements as assigned.
- Written assignments (to be determined).
- Final Evaluation ratings (using the Danielson Framework for Teaching), as determined jointly by Student Teaching Faculty and Cooperating/Mentor Teacher, that take into consideration:
  - The Formal Observations and Midpoint Evaluation ratings
  - Participation and professionalism
- NOTE: If you are currently on a Growth Plan, your requirements will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

A more detailed plan for the criteria listed above will be shared by your Student Teaching/Internship Faculty within the next week. For now, please continue to follow the earlier guidance given by the Office of Educator Preparation and your Student Teaching Faculty.

IMPORTANT: Successful completion of the EDST course is NOT the same as completing the clinical practicum requirements set forth in Texas Administrative Code for certification. As we receive more
information from TEA, we will communicate decisions made regarding any additional steps that must be taken to complete these requirements.

Please review the following terms related to course credit, graduation, and certification.

**Passing** - receiving credit (CR) for successful completion of EDST course requirements.

**Graduation** - the fulfillment of all your program-specific degree requirements and application for graduation. (NOT the same as commencement – see below)

**Commencement** - the time-honored tradition of donning the cap and gown in a ceremony.

**Certification Requirements** - required standards for initial teacher certification as noted in the Texas Administrative Code and the Texas Education Agency. The certification requirements must be fulfilled in order to be recommended for certification.

- The standard certification requirement fulfilled in EDST is currently 70 days of clinical practice in the field.
- The Texas Education Agency is currently reviewing the required standards considering school closures and will be providing guidance on certification requirements.

Thank you and take care,

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