Importance: High

Clinical Teaching Update 3/26/20

Dear All,

We received additional information last night from TEA, and it is REALLY GOOD NEWS! Governor Abbot has granted waivers for many of the current requirements so that most, if not all, of our student teachers will be able to complete their clinical days in placement with very few issues.

Please note - Completing the clinical teaching requirement for certification is not the same as earning credit for the EDST course itself. While many of the components intersect, the clinical teaching requirements need to be satisfied in order to apply for and earn the teaching credential itself. Again, it is all related, but students must continue to follow and meet the criteria set forth in the previously sent Revised Course Credit Guidelines in order to earn course credit for this semester.

The following information applies to Student Teachers only.

Clinical Teaching:
In accordance with Governor Abbott’s waiver, candidates completing clinical teaching during spring 2020 who meet the following criteria will be considered to have successfully met requirements for clinical teaching:

1) Completed at least half of the required days of clinical teaching,
   a. 35 days for full-day assignments or
   b. 70 days for half-day assignments
2) Demonstrated proficiency in each of the educator standards for their assignments (to be determined by the preparation program), and
3) Received a recommendation from their field supervisor and cooperating teacher that the candidate should be recommended for a standard certificate.

Candidates Completing Clinical Teaching in a Non-Traditional Setting:
In accordance with Governor Abbott’s waiver, the requirements for candidates’ clinical teaching experiences to be completed in an actual school setting are also waived. This means that these candidates may complete any additional requirement by supporting their cooperating teacher through non-traditional means and may demonstrate proficiency based on alternative arrangements established by the preparation program, such as but not limited to simulated, remote, virtual, or video classroom experiences and reflection.

What does this all mean for our student teachers?

● Student teachers must have evidence of at least 35 days in placement total.
   ○ For students that have completed 35 days prior to school closures, their continued participation is still required as outlined in the Revised Course Credit Guidelines in order to earn course credit for this semester.
   ○ For students who have NOT already satisfied this 35 day requirement prior to school closures, this will be a combination of the full days spent in the classrooms of their Cooperating Teachers prior to the school closures plus the number of “days” spent in the non-traditional setting.
      ■ The “non-traditional” means the remote, online, or extended learning engagement we have described in the current guidelines communicated to faculty and students about the required continued participation under the mentorship of the Cooperating Teacher.
The activity that contributes to “days” in this non-traditional setting is defined as any participation and/or activity added to the **Attendance and Activity Log** that supports the Cooperating Teacher and in their continued effort to plan, teach, and help students learn.

For each of the additional days needed, student teachers will need the equivalent of 4 hours of activity logged on the **Attendance and Activity Log**. This means that 4 hours of time logged will equal 1 day.

- Student Teaching Faculty will be asked to complete and submit an **Attendance Verification Form** at the end of the semester for each student-teacher as the required evidence of attendance.

- **Student teachers must demonstrate proficiency in each of the educator standards for their assignment.** We have a variety of ways we measure this throughout the semester (when it is a normal semester), and we use the **Final Evaluation** to measure and provide evidence of proficiency. This is still in place. *We will revise the process and the documentation a bit to accommodate the current context, but this will remain basically the same.*

- **Student teachers must receive a recommendation from their field supervisor and cooperating teacher that the candidate should be recommended for a standard certificate.** We have this in place already as a part of the **Final Evaluation**, and the process and documentation will remain the same.

- **Student teachers must meet the criteria set forth in the Revised Course Credit Guidelines in order to earn course credit for this semester.** This means that student teachers must
  
  - Continue to participate in planning and remote teaching and learning under the mentorship of the Cooperating Teacher until the end of the semester. **The final day for this placement remains as May 5, 2020.** Any students who need an extension to meet the 35 day requirement should discuss this with their supervisors. These cases will be individually addressed.
  
  - Continue to communicate regularly with Student Teaching Faculty supervisor, and participate in remote meetings or other requirements as assigned.
  
  - Complete and submit all required written assignments, including a professional resume and a final reflection assignment.
  
  - Receive passing ratings on the Final Evaluation and participate in the evaluation conference at the end of the semester.
  
  - Satisfy the requirements of the Growth Plan, if one is in place

Please continue to be actively engaged with your placement given the circumstances. Also, communication with your faculty supervisor is critical at this time. Faculty supervisors will be discussing this information with you at your next check in virtual meeting.

As always, take care and be safe.

Bests,

Patricia Rocha, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Educator Preparation
Texas State University
512-245-9740