



The State University
of New York

Office of General Counsel

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TO: Shadi Sandvik, Provost-in-Charge
FROM: Sandra Casey, Deputy General Counsel *SMC*
SUBJECT: Internships During COVID-19 - RETRACTION OF PRIOR GUIDANCE
DATE: July 20, 2021

On May 26, 2020 and January 6, 2021, the SUNY Office of General Counsel provided guidance to campuses by way of memoranda to the Provost's Office regarding applied learning experiences for students during the COVID-19 pandemic. This guidance included a sample affiliation agreement related to an affiliate's compliance with health and safety protocols and a waiver form for students to sign acknowledging they understood and accepted the risks of COVID, among others.

This memorandum is to advise you that such COVID-19 related guidance is no longer in effect and those prior memoranda are hereby rescinded. Campuses may consider utilizing some of the suggested language regarding health and safety protocols, if desired, but students are now well aware of the COVID-19 pandemic and the possibility of exposure if they choose to engage in these types of in-person applied learning programs.

Campuses should be reminded that the New York State Education Department has issued new guidelines for certain applied learning experiences for the upcoming academic year. Such new guidelines are attached.

Specific inquiries that campuses may have regarding this document should be directed to their assigned campus counsel.

Enclosure

cc: Office of General Counsel Attorneys and Staff
Office of SUNY System Applied Learning



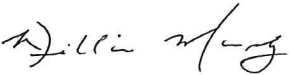
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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June 25, 2021

To: Deans/Directors of NYS Institutions Offering Educator Preparation Programs

From: William P. Murphy 

Subject: Educator Preparation Program Clinical Experience Flexibilities for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

The New York State Education Department recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic created significant challenges for registered educator preparation programs (EPPs) during the past academic year and will present new and recurring issues for programs in the upcoming academic year, particularly around clinical experiences. In response, several flexibilities are continuing into the upcoming academic year, such as having the edTPA safety net through the 2021-2022 academic year and allowing the DASA training to be offered entirely online through December 31, 2021.

In addition, the Department will continue permitting some flexibility regarding the use of alternative models of clinical experiences for EPPs during the 2021-2022 academic year, as described below. The alternative models of clinical experiences for the 2020-2021 academic year were described in the Department's higher education reopening guidance and are applicable through the Summer 2021 term. **Please read the following guidance in its entirety as there are some revisions to the prior clinical experience flexibilities beginning in Fall 2021.**

Alternative Models of Clinical Experiences

- "Clinical experiences" as discussed in this memorandum includes student teaching, residences, practica, field experiences prior to student teaching, Transitional B and C mentored in-service component, leadership experiences, and school counseling and school psychology supervised internship hours.
- Beginning with the Fall 2021 term and extending through the Summer 2022 term, the Department will continue to permit the use of alternative models of clinical experiences as follows:

- **Candidates enrolled in registered programs leading to teaching or pupil personnel services certificates:** Clinical experiences other than field experience hours prior to student teaching, including those leading to an additional certificate, must include **direct interaction** with cooperating teachers/mentors/supervisors and P-12 students, either in-person or remotely. These clinical experiences may be supplemented with alternative methods such as simulations, video case studies and other academic exercises, if necessary. These clinical experiences **may not** be completed entirely through alternative methods. **Field experience hours** prior to student teaching may continue to be completed entirely through alternative methods, if necessary.
- **Candidates enrolled in registered programs leading to educational leadership certificates:** Clinical experiences must include **direct interaction** with P-12 administrators, faculty, staff and/or students, either in person or remotely. These clinical experiences may be supplemented with alternative methods such as simulations, video case studies and other academic exercises focused on school or district leadership, if necessary.
- All clinical experiences must meet the minimum number of hours/days required in the Commissioner's Regulations.

Please note that this latest guidance does not require filing alternative model plans with the Office of College and University Evaluation. Questions about this guidance can be sent to ocueinfo@nysed.gov.

Date: July 7, 2021
To: Chief Executive Officers of Institutions, BOCES, and Entities Offering Licensure-
Qualifying Programs in New York State
From: Sarah S. Benson, Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Professions
Subject: Guidelines for Licensure-Qualifying Programs

Thank you for supporting student success during the pandemic. To allow flexibility for licensure-qualifying programs, alternative methods for clinical experience were reviewed and approved for a limited period of time. The programs that were approved to use alternative methods assured the Department that, through combined methods, students would achieve clinical competencies.

Starting in fall 2021, the Department expects that licensure-qualifying programs would meet clinical experience requirements specified in Education Law and Commissioner's Regulations. Alternative methods will only be considered for the clinical hours exceeding the minimal hour requirement of the clinical experience. Each individual student must meet program completion requirements, including clinical hours. Any exceptions must meet licensure requirement and follow established policies at the institution.

The Department will continue to monitor the situation and will provide further guidelines if necessary. If you have any questions, please contact opprogs@nysed.gov.