



COVID-19 Guidance: Iowa Educator Preparation Programs

Student Teaching Requirements

Students currently student teaching may have difficulty meeting the requirement for 14 weeks of student teaching. The governor's proclamation on March 16th suspended code (Iowa Code § 256.16(1)(a)(2)(d)), which requires 14 weeks of student teaching. At the same time, she suspended rule (281—IAC 79.14(7)(a)), which additionally requires the 14 weeks of student teaching to be consecutive. This suspension allows the program to use existing data, considered holistically, to determine if each individual candidate is ready to be recommended for a license, even if less than 14 weeks of student teaching have been completed.

Pre-Student Teaching Clinical Experience Hours Requirement

The governor's proclamation on March 16th suspended code (Iowa Code § 256.16(1)(a)(2)(d)), which requires 50 hours of pre-student teaching clinical experiences. At the same time, she suspended rule (281—IAC 79.14(5)), which requires a total of 80 hours. This means programs do not need to ensure candidates complete either 50 or 80 hours before student teaching. This also includes the 10 hours of pre-admission clinical experience.

Administrator Preparation Clinical Experience Hours Requirement

The governor's proclamation on March 16th suspended code (Iowa Code § 256.16(1)(a)(2)(d)), which requires all practitioner preparation programs to provide clinical experiences as a component of preparation. 281—IAC 79.16(4)(a) additionally requires that administrator preparation candidates complete 400 hours of clinical experiences. This section of rule was suspended by the governor on March 22nd. These suspensions mean programs do not need to ensure administrator preparation candidates in their final semester complete 400 hours in order to complete the program.

Other Preparation Program Clinical Experience Hours Requirement

For programs such as school guidance counselor, school audiologist, school psychologist, school social worker, speech-language pathologist, or supervisor of special education, there is no specific number of hours required in Iowa Code or rule. Programs may adjust their own policies to meet current needs as necessary.

Changing Tests Used for Program Completion

If programs use edTPA or PPAT tests for program completion and candidates are unable to submit in a timely manner, programs may adjust their policies to allow candidates use of ETS Praxis test(s).

Use of Letter Grades Compared to Pass/Fail

Neither Iowa Code nor Iowa Administrative Code have any requirement for letter grades and/or pass/fail. The only requirement is that candidates provide evidence of meeting standards. Programs may adjust their own policies to meet current needs as necessary.

Questions

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Larry Bice at larry.bice@iowa.gov.

Iowa Department of Education guidance should be viewed as advisory unless it's specifically authorized by state statute, according to Iowa Code section 256.9A as enacted by Senate File 475. This does not apply to administrative rules, declaratory orders, or materials required by federal law or courts.